

## **Sunday, February 25, 2018**

**Scripture: Luke 5:1-10** One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God's word. Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, "Throw out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I'll drop the nets." So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I'm a sinner!" Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. James and John, Zebedee's sons, were Simon's partners and they were amazed too. Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people." As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

**Morning Prayer:** God, as I welcome this new day, help me to see many opportunities to experience the gift of friendships. Help me be a friend who offers kindness and compassion to all, remembering that this is my truest nature as created in your image. Remind me to express my gratitude to my friends, letting them know how important they are in my life. Amen.

**Noontime Sacred Pause:** Keep an open heart to welcome all opportunities to be a friend to others, and allow others to show friendship to you. These are expressions of God's love.

**Evening Prayer:** As I lay down to sleep, may my mind be filled with thoughts of Your endless love for me and others. May those thoughts lead me to a peaceful night's rest.

## **Monday, February 26, 2018**

**Scripture: Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

**Morning Prayer:** God, I need the encouragement of others to help me face the challenges of each day. May I draw strength and purpose from the closest relationships in my life. Help me to be humble and have the courage to reach out to others in moments when I need help. Remind me not to draw into myself, separating myself from the loving community that is available to me. May I see you in the faces of everyone I meet today. Amen.

**Sacred Pause:** Remember that you are not alone. When you feel isolated, focus on the unwavering, loving presence of God within you and everyone you meet. Let that guide you.

**Evening Prayer:** As I reflect on my day, help me to release all thoughts of failure or inadequacy, knowing that you do not judge me for those. I rest in your unconditional love.

## **Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

**Scripture: Psalm 133:1** Look at how good and pleasing it is when brothers and sisters live together as one!

**Morning Prayer:** God, as I face this new day, help me to remember how good it is to be with others in a spirit of unity rather than a spirit of discord or division. If I find myself in stressful situations, tempted to respond with negative feelings or words, gently remind me that yours is a spirit of perfect unity, and that is the state you desire for all people. Help me to be a peacemaker in all situations. Amen.

**Sacred Pause:** Remember that you were created to be in unity and harmony with everything in the universe. This is your truest God self. Lean toward that and you will see God.

**Evening Prayer:** Tonight I am grateful for the things that I experienced today, knowing you were with me through it all. I will sleep in peace to wake renewed by your spirit.

## **Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

**Scripture: Matthew 18:20** "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

**Morning Prayer:** God, as I face this new day, I am reminded that you are present in all situations, and in all people. Help me to see your loving, welcoming presence in every situation, and in every person I encounter. It is my intention to be the loving, welcoming embodiment of your presence to the world around me. Give me strength to be that person today. When I miss the mark, gently guide me back to refocus my mind on that intention. Amen.

**Sacred Pause:** Wherever you are, God is there. Nothing can separate you, or anyone else from God's unconditional love. Let these truths guide your thoughts and actions today.

**Evening Prayer:** God, thank you for the assurance of your loving presence. May it lead me to a restful sleep, clearing all troubling or disruptive thoughts from my mind.

## **Thursday, March 1, 2018**

**Scripture: Colossians 3:13-14** Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

**Morning Prayer:** God, as I face this new day, let me go into the world with a tender, forgiving heart, remembering the depths of your unending forgiveness for me when I need it. Let me be slow to feel hurt, anger or insult, and be gracious in my response when I do experience these feelings. Help me to cultivate a loving spirit so that I may live in unity with all. Amen.

**Sacred Pause:** Today, resolve to be generous with praise, patient in trials, and extravagant in forgiveness. These are the qualities we experience in a gracious God.

**Evening Prayer:** God, help me to release any hurt or resentment I experienced this day. May I fall asleep secure in the knowledge that you love and accept me unconditionally.

## Friday, March 2, 2018

**Scripture: Acts 2:46-47** Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

**Morning Prayer:** God, as I face this new day, help me to remember that I was not created to experience all of life alone, but to be in caring, supportive community with others. Remind me that together we are stronger, and better able to enjoy the lives we have been given. When I am tempted to bear all my burdens alone, remind me that I don't need to. When I want to hoard the blessings of the day and the joys I experience, remind me to reach out and share my joy and my abundance with others. I know that it is in sharing that others see your goodness. Amen.

**Sacred Pause:** Remember that all good gifts are from God, and meant to be shared. In your sharing you will be a beautiful reflection of God's goodness to the whole world.

**Evening Prayer:** God, may I look back on my day with a thankful heart, holding the blessings of the day close. Help me welcome deep rest, to wake renewed to face another day.

## Saturday, March 3, 2018

**Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:14** Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are disorderly. Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone.

**Morning Prayer:** God, as I face this new day, help me to be guided by Your wisdom throughout this day. I want to offer comfort and help to all those who need it, so I ask for patience to respond with kindness and love to every situation I may face. May I have the humility to ask for help when I need it, and to graciously accept the wisdom of others when it is offered. Help me to be patient with myself. May I feel your holy presence at all times. Amen.

**Sacred Pause:** Be kind to everyone. You never know what burden they are carrying. Comfort all who need it. Be patient and understanding, and a true model of God's love.

**Evening Prayer:** God, as I fall asleep, I am thankful for the gifts of friendship wherever I have experienced them. Help me to face the coming week with joyful anticipation.



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## Daily Scriptures and Prayers Week of February 25, 2018



During the season of Lent, for 40-days we Christians focus more intensely on our journey to follow the ways of Jesus.

This Lenten Season we are focusing on how we might rise up in body, mind and soul. Each week we will gather on Sundays to be inspired with prayer, scripture, music and a message of unwavering hope.

During the next 40-days you can receive a morning email with a scripture verse and a morning prayer. If you do not already receive the daily scripture email, please go to [crossroadsnova.org](http://crossroadsnova.org) to sign up.

Each day at noon you can receive an inspirational text that will help you see God in the moment. To receive this transformational text, please text the word [crossroads](https://www.crossroadsnova.org) to phone number 41411.

Each evening you will receive a special evening prayer to help you rest on God's presence and peace before going to bed.

