

Daily Reflection on Scripture
Week of August 11
The World is Our Neighborhood
Week 3: Guatemala



Sunday August 11

Scripture: Proverbs 31:8-9 Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable. Speak out in order to judge with righteousness and to defend the needy and the poor.

Morning Prayer: God, every day I see and hear stories of injustice to people everywhere. It would be easy to tune out these stories of human pain and suffering because there are so many, and I am only one person. My prayer today is for the courage and mindfulness to see and hear each one of these stories as the stories of your precious children crying out in pain and in need. I have a voice, I have the ability to speak and act on behalf of those who are treated unjustly. Let me always speak and act with boldness and courage. May it be so.

Morning Text: Pause and be grateful for the gift of life today. You are a gift to the world. Take a moment to reflect on how you might use your gift to serve others today.

Noon Text: Be encouraged in this moment. You are forever loved by God, and that love gives you more strength than you even realize to face whatever comes yet today.

Evening Text: Think of two things for which you are grateful tonight. Let these thoughts of gratitude be calming to your mind and spirit, and lead you into restful sleep.

Monday August 12

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:17-18 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.

Morning Prayer: God, help me to remember that my hope and security rests in You and not merely in my own strength. Help me to be aware of how blessed I am and help me to see the many opportunities that today presents to share my blessings by serving others. May I share from a generous heart. May I be reminded that true wealth comes from giving of myself and doing good for others. May it be so.

Morning Text: Pause to consider the possibilities this day offers to you. How might you use your time and talent today to serve others?

Noon Text: Take a moment to be grateful for the gift of life. Focus on one gift you've been given. It's yours to enjoy but mostly to share so that others find joy as well.

Evening Text: God, I am grateful for all I have experienced today. May I release the anxieties and be grateful for the many blessings. I am ready to rest in Your love.

Tuesday August 13

Scripture: Proverbs 11:25 A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Morning Prayer: God, I confess that generosity doesn't always come easy. It's easy enough in times when I have plenty, to share what I have. But when things get tight or life gets busy, it is all too easy to slip into a scarcity mentality, when I am more likely hold tight to my money, my time and my possessions than to share. Help me to remember that I have enough. Help me to recognize that what I may not think of as plenty – is surely enough. Even when I think I don't have enough time, help me to manage my time so that I can be present to friends, family and any strangers I encounter on my journey. In this I will prosper in the way You desire for me. May it be so.

Morning Text: As you begin your day take a moment to take stock of all that you have – both material things and relationships. Speak words of gratitude for all that you have.

Noon Text: Pause and reflect. How have you practiced generosity today? With your money, your things, your time. Are your words and actions building up and blessing others?

Evening Text: God, I began my day with words of gratitude and as I come to rest I end my day with words of gratitude. Your love surrounds me and helps me to rest. Thank you.

Wednesday August 14

Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:11 Poor persons will never disappear from the earth. That's why I'm giving you this command: you must open your hand generously to the needy among you, and to the poor who live with you in your land.

Morning Prayer: God, these are troubling times to live. I see the daily struggles of Your children daily both in the news and in my community. Help me to see others as You see everybody You have created. Each person loved. Each person worthy. My gifts are plentiful. Your love and provision for me is enough. Help me to continue to find ways to use my gifts to help those who cannot help themselves. Giving is pleasing to You. Help me to share this with others through my giving heart and outstretched hands. May it be so.

Morning Text: God is an amazing provider. This morning as you wake up, think of all the ways God provides for you. Remember to provide for others in need.

Noon Text: "For it is in giving that we receive" Francis Assisi. Think of the smiles you get, when you give. Give freely and feel God's love through your giving spirit.

Evening Text: God, today I made somebody's life better through an act of kindness or generosity. Now, I rest knowing this is pleasing to You, the ones I served, and to me.

Thursday August 15

Scripture: Proverbs 3:27-28 Don't withhold good from someone who deserves it, when it is in your power to act. Don't say to your neighbor, "Go and come back; I'll give it to you tomorrow" - when you already have it.

Morning Prayer: God, I laughed when I read today's scripture. It made me laugh at myself for I have certainly either said or thought those very words, "Go away and come back another day". Sometimes serving others is just too inconvenient. After I laughed at how real this scripture is for me, I then realized that this is not funny at all. For I never know when my last opportunity to help another person might be, and if I miss it in this moment, I just might miss the intent of your greatest commandment in every moment - Love God, others and self. Help me to see every moment as a gift to be present to whatever or whomever might come my way. Help me give what I have in the

moment remembering that my choice to serve or not will impact all the other moments of the day. In this moment I have all I need. May it be so.

Morning Text: Today is the first day of the rest of your life. That's not just a cliché. It's true. Today is God's gift. God has given all you need. Make it a great day.

Noon Text: In all your busyness don't neglect what's going on around you. You're more than a producer of work, you're also a conduit of God's grace and love. Let it flow.

Evening Text: This evening may you rest from your daily labors. May you have compassion for self. May you hold in your heart with love those you have interacted with today.

Friday August 16

Scripture: James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is it?

Morning Prayer: God, sometimes it is hard to take the step from well-meaning thoughts to actually acting on those. Too easy to think someone else will do it. Or sometimes I just feel overwhelmed and think to myself 'what can I do?' and then I do nothing. Especially in these times of news coming at me from all fronts, the idea that I can effect change simply doesn't register. Help me to move past that place of helplessness and hopelessness and recognize what I do have that I can share. Let me not be stingy with what I have but generous. Help me to arm myself with knowledge so if I don't have resources myself, I know other sources. Help me be an advocate for those on the margins, to get beyond the simple need to the root cause of the need. Let my actions speak of my faith. May it be so.

Morning Text: God as I approach this day, let me open my eyes, my ears and my heart to recognize and respond to the needs of others. Let my actions speak of Your love.

Noon Text: Pause and remind yourself how you can make a difference is someone else's day. Be aware, be ready and be willing to respond to the needs of others.

Evening Text: God the week is drawing to a close. For those moments when I have been able to share Your love through my words and my works I am grateful. I rest in Your love.

Saturday August 17

Scripture: I John 3:17 Whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him.

Morning Prayer: God, as I reflect on this passage, I am reminded that my actions speak louder than words. So, I ask myself, "How is my intention to show the love of God revealed in my actions?". I am supposed to do more than simply feel love; I am to act on it as well. If I'm honest, I've been blessed mentally, physically, and even financially. While I certainly do not have the "world's goods," I do have abundance. I can share my heart and be present to offer the gift of listening. I can share extra resources, however meager, or I can repurpose items no longer of use to me for others. I can lend a hand when I see someone in need. If I set my intention to not just feel love towards others but walk the talk, I will be open to and step into opportunities throughout my day to show the love of God. May it be so.

Morning Text: Pause and breathe in the love of God. As you release the breath, ask God to help you to be open and present to show the love of God in action today.

Noon Text: Breathe in, "I am the hands and feet of God." Breathe out, "I have more than enough to share." Remember who you are. You are the beloved of God.

Evening Text: Think of those you helped today with a smile or act of service. Rest peacefully knowing your actions helped another come to rest more peacefully as well.