



## **Pause. Listen. Act. be You.**

[concordpreschurch.com/devotions](http://concordpreschurch.com/devotions)

**MONDAY 5.30.22**

*Being Intentional*

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 9:1-5**

Faith requires intentional mindfulness. In other words, it's not something which just appears. It needs to be nourished and strengthened. Nothing can prevent God's will from being fulfilled, not even our own lack of commitment or follow-through. Everything happens in God's time.

- How can "God time" affect our faith? How does it make life easier? Harder?
- What is one thing you can do to be more intentional about your faith?

**Prayer:** God, help us to remember you have created us just the way we are, with the wisdom and clarity to know that is not necessarily perfect. Remind us where we are dependent upon you. Amen.

**TUESDAY 5.31.22**

*Ow! It hurts!*

**Scripture: Psalm 22:6-11**

Christians only hear this psalm in the context of Jesus Christ as he cries from the cross. This experience shows us how Jesus Christ entered the deepest parts of human pain. Sometimes, all we can say to God is simply, "My God, Why?"

- Who do you know who needs this prayer?
- Do you believe God sees your pain?

**Prayer:** Faith giving God, help us remember we are valuable and important, even when the world tells us we are not. Enable to act out of security in your love, not the insecurity of our pain. Amen.

**WEDNESDAY 6.1.22**

*Response Time*

**Scripture: Luke 17:1-10**

God was already at work in the Samaritan before he found the injured person on the side of the road. It is God at work in the man which enable him to respond in compassion and kindness. God is at work in the outsider. The healing was physical, but it was also social because it restored him to community.

- What enables us to respond with kindness? When do avoid helping?
- How can we help restore others to community?

**Prayer:** Holy and loving God, we often only accept or acknowledge those who act just like us or agree with everything we think. Help us to see the people behind the issues and speak in ways which spread your gospel of love. Amen.

**THURSDAY 6.2.22**

***Bible Study***

**Scripture: 1 Peter 5:1-7**

Leadership happens when we are thinking about others. We often find God in the same way, when we stop “thinking” and start doing what our soul, and the Spirit, tells us to go and do. We need to get out into the world and do.

- How does our Bible Study actually get in the way of our faith? How does it help?
- Where have you seen grace in other people? How do you think you can find a place of grace?

**Prayer:** God, you tell us we are your child. Help us to hear and share the stories which shape a life of service, generosity, open hearts, and strong minds. Amen.

**FRIDAY 6.3.22**

***Reformed Fruit***

**Scripture: Zephaniah 3:1-13**

It was obvious by the time Zephaniah wrote the reformed the king had put in place years before was not going to work. It didn't bear fruit. God acted instead through four new ways: prophets, covenant laws, preserving nature, and defeating enemies. Zephaniah believe that not seeing God at work in those things was a kind of willful ignorance.

- How much is seeing God at work a choice?
- God works in new ways and through new pathways. How might we be more available to see God at work?

**Prayer:** God of the outcast, help us to see where others have something important to say and to see them in your light. Amen.

**SATURDAY 6.4.22**

***The Christ Hymn***

**Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13**

Amy G. Ogdon explains the paradox of Jesus this way: “God chooses downward mobility against all expectations of a deity. In the ancient world, a god who was “born in human likeness” (verse 7) was a self-demoting God, hardly the sort of God useful for human life. This God doesn't sound like a “winner,” like a mighty deity who comes to the aid of powerless humans or like a super kick-butt-and-take-names deity we want on our side. In fact, ancient folks were unlikely to trust the judgment of a “loser God” who chooses this sort of downward mobility.”

- Jesus is a radically different God than the kind which we are used to, even if we grew up in church. How does Jesus choosing humanity reveal something special about who Jesus claims to be?
- If humbleness is an essential part of being a Christian, how does you practice humility?

**Prayer:** God of love, with praise we celebrate Jesus, who humbled himself so that every knee should bend and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen.