

Daily Readings

Monday

Read Ephesians 3:7-13. It was God's intention that his kingdom, his saving love, his power, will be known to the world through the gathering of his people- through the church. Paul goes on to tell us that it is through Jesus that we can freely approach God himself in faith. When you think of yourself as part of the church- the gathered people of God, what purpose do you imagine God is calling you toward? How does gathering as the church help you approach God? How does being part of a church community help you make God known to the world?

Tuesday

Read Matthew 16:13-19. Jesus' question to his disciples led them to have to define what it was they really believed. When Peter came to the point of confessing his faith, Jesus responded to him, You are Peter (which means rock) and on this This rock I will build my church. Jesus' church is built on and around the confession of faith that He is Messiah. When people gather, they gather for a purpose. That purpose could be fun, it could be activity, it could be agenda. Jesus' people are called together in the confession that He is Lord. How does that common confession unite people?

Wednesday

Read Matthew 18:20. When we gather together in Jesus' name he promises to be present with us. There is power in coming together in Jesus' name as the people of God. Think through experiences you have had of communal worship. At what times do you feel the presence of God among you? Have there been experiences in your life of two or three coming together in Jesus' name that have been powerful as well? Jesus' promise to be with us is not dependant on our feelings. When we gather in his name, we can trust that he himself is present with us. Thank the Lord today for his presence at work in our community.

Thursday

Read Acts 10:22 (or the whole chapter). When Cornelius became a heartfelt seeker of the truth, God didn't lead him to continue his worship of God alone, but drew him to the community of faith. It was through the community of faith that God helped both Cornelius to come to know Him, and helped Peter learn something valuable about how God operated. God calls us together as the church because we need each other. God teaches us through one another. Think about your history, gathering with other Christians. What have you gained from those relationships?

Friday

Read Psalm 122:1, Psalm 84. Who in your life has shown you Joy in gathering with the church for worship? Has anyone ever invited you to be part of worship with them as the opening line of Psalm 122 reflects? Have you ever invited anyone to join and worship with you? There is a joy in knowing that because of Jesus' sacrifice for us, when we are in God's presence together, we are 'home'. How can that feeling of love and grace be extended by what you do as we gather together as a Christian family?

Saturday

Read the Ephesians passage again: Ephesians 3:7-13. After this week have you gained any insights in prayer for what God's intention is for the church? How do you see yourself as part of that movement in the world—the movement of people who belong to Jesus the Christ?



