

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study November 2020



*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28

At Park Ridge Community Church, we are committed to learning and growing together. One of the ways we do this is through intentional study of the scriptures. Because 2020 is a bizarre year, we are trying to find ways to offer Bible Study that can meet a variety of schedules and needs. This DIY Bible Study will bring together some commentaries and perspectives to help facilitate your deeper reading of the scripture passages. Each week will have a correlating video, filmed by our Ministers, as well as discussion questions. People are encouraged to find a conversation partner or two - set up your own Bible Study group, talk about these questions in your Kindred Connection, use them for conversation with your spouse, or simply use them for your own devotional meditation. We hope and pray that this time of study will be helpful in the growth for our entire church!



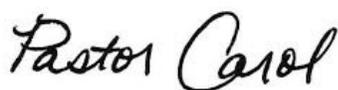
You can find the Study Guide for each month at <https://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org/diybiblestudy>

You can find the weekly Bible Study Videos at <https://www.youtube.com/c/ParkRidgeCommunityChurchPRCC/playlists> OR <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAkijH5hvvqpb-mHPqPfp48hxQX5OL7HV>
Click DIY Bible Study and click the video for that particular week.

Please let us know if you are finding this method of study meaningful or if you are having trouble using these resources. We will continue to tailor these materials over the course of the year to the needs and responses of our congregation.

Thank you for your faithfulness! Praise God for all the ways God's Holy Spirit is beckoning to us through the scriptures!

Blessed to be on this journey with you!



Pastor Carol



Pastor Mollie

SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

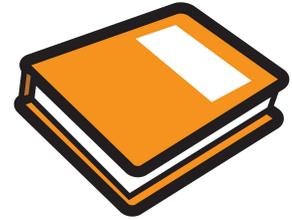
Isaiah 25:6-9

*On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained
clear.*

*And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.*

*Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.*

*It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*



John 11:32-44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'



LISTENING TO OTHER VOICES:

Amy Erickson, Professor, Ilif Seminary, Denver, CO

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1433

Jamie Clark-Soles, Perkins Seminary, Dallas, TX

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1457

DISCUSSION/ ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:

1. What stands out as you read these passages that invite us to consider life, death, and resurrection?
2. Were Mary and Martha's faith a resource as they grieved?
3. Do you consider death an enemy? How does it feel that Death has been overcome by God? (swallowed up)
4. What is your understanding of resurrection? What does Jesus mean by saying "I am the resurrection and the life?"
5. What holds you back from experiencing new life, like the graveclothes of Lazarus? How can your friends/ family unbind you?



PRAYER:

Giver of Life, we pray for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. We pray for the waves of grief that sometimes take us by surprise and knock us for a loop. Like, Mary, we wish you could make the pain go away. Like Martha, we believe that you embody the hope of the life to come. Help us to experience new life in the here and now. Comfort us, reminding us of the promises of resurrection- both now and forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

Jeremiah 31:27-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say:

*‘The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’*

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Matthew 11:28-30

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’



LISTENING TO OTHER VOICES:

Wil Gafney, Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=705

Frank G. Honeycutt, an ELCA minister living in Walhalla, South Carolina. His latest book is *Sunday Comes Every Week: Daily Habits for the Busy Preacher* (Eerdmans).

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2011-12/weary-prophet>

Alphonetta Wines, Pastor, Coolidge, TX

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3023

Colin Yuckman, Duke Divinity School, North Carolina

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3334

DISCUSSION/ ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:

1. When have you felt like things were hopeless?
2. List a few of the covenants God has made with humans:
 - a. -----
 - b. -----
 - c. -----



3. It's sometimes hard to see "the day that is surely coming" when the current day seems overwhelming. What helps you keep perspective?
4. Jesus has occasionally highlighted the cost of following Him, but here he speaks of finding rest and a light burden. Why? What is different?
5. How does your faith help your soul find rest?

PRAYER:

Caretaker of our soul, we are so grateful for your covenant with us. When the days seem too heavy to bear, we ask that you help us to lighten our load. Remind us that you are by our side, helping to shoulder the load. We long to find rest for our souls. Be the salve to heal our hearts. Amen.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.



Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.' Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

Luke 8:22-24

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm.



LISTENING TO OTHER VOICES:

Rev. Kathryn Matthews retired in 2016 after serving as the dean of Amistad Chapel at the national offices of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio

https://www.ucc.org/weekly_seeds_surprising_investment_new_directions_092019

Stanley Saunders, Columbia Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=2635>

DISCUSSION/ ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:

1. What are the storms that are raging in your life right now? What are the storms that are raging in the world right now?

2. Does faith help you through your challenges? How?

3. What spiritual practices have you found to be helpful?

Do you admire spiritual practices of others, who seem to be able to stay calm in the storm?

4. Buying up property in the middle of a war seems frivolous and Potentially insane. What does the story of Jeremiah teach us about faith in turbulence?



PRAYER:

Holy One, you are able to calm the waves, to overcome the most turbulent of moments, and you remain faithful even when we lose faith. Open our hearts that we might trust you more. Open our eyes to see your vision for the future. Teach us to take risks that can lead us into faithful living for generations to come. Amen.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

Jeremiah 42:1-12

Then all the commanders of the forces, and Johanan son of Kareah and Azariah son of Hoshai, and all the people from the least to the greatest, approached the prophet Jeremiah and said, 'Be good enough to listen to our plea, and pray to the Lord your God for us—for all this remnant. For there are only a few of us left out of many, as your eyes can see. Let the Lord your God show us where we should go and what we should do.' The prophet Jeremiah said to them, 'Very well: I am going to pray to the Lord your God as you request, and whatever the Lord answers you I will tell you; I will keep nothing back from you.' They in their turn said to Jeremiah, 'May the Lord be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act according to everything that the Lord your God sends us through you. Whether it is good or bad, we will obey the voice of the Lord our God to whom we are sending you, in order that it may go well with us when we obey the voice of the Lord our God.'



At the end of ten days the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah. Then he summoned Johanan son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces who were with him, and all the people from the least to the greatest, and said to them, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your plea before him: If you will only remain in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up; for I am sorry for the disaster that I have brought upon you. Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, as you have been; do not be afraid of him, says the Lord, for I am with you, to save you and to rescue you from his hand. I will grant you mercy, and he will have mercy on you and restore you to your native soil.'

Luke 11:5-13

And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.'

'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone

among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!



LISTENING TO OTHER VOICES:

Cynthia Briggs-Kittredge, dean and president of the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas.

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/living-word/july-28-ordinary-17c-luke-111-13>

Rev. Kathryn Matthews retired in 2016 after serving as the dean of Amistad Chapel at the national offices of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio

https://www.ucc.org/weekly_seeds_shaped_by_prayer

DISCUSSION/ ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:

1. Have you been to a point of desperation and reached out in prayer, ready to offer everything you've got? What do Prayers of desperation soothe the soul?

2. In what ways are modern day Christians "a remnant?"

3. Jesus taught his followers a new and different way of Praying. Do Jesus' prayers influence how you speak to God?

4. Jesus reminds his followers how God has loved them, and just as human parents care for their children, so too God cares for you. Does this help provide assurance when you're feeling isolation, alone, overwhelmed?

5. As we near Thanksgiving time, what about your faith and your relationship with God are you most thankful for? How does your life shine forth gratitude?



PRAYER:

God of Love, teach us your ways when our memories are short. Remind us of your covenant. Remind us of your love. We are so thankful for your love and abiding presence. Continue to guide us and lead us into the future you have designed for us. Amen.