

Some thoughts to start...

Engaging in the practice of faith is not always easy. For some people, sitting down and having an open, in-depth chat with God is not difficult. For many of us, however, it is.

What we're trying to do here is to give people a resource – to help them in their thinking about scripture, and in the practice of personal prayer.

Everything written here is simply a *suggestion*. If you find other practices more helpful, please use them!

Find a bible and head to a place you won't be disturbed. Take a few moments to sit quietly. In that quiet moment you might want to say to God, "What would you like me to hear today?"

Read each of the scriptures. Some people prefer to read silently, while others find it more helpful to read out loud. Take a few moments to reflect on what you've heard. (If you would like, the 'reflection' section is there to help start you off.)

Finally, take a few moments to talk with God. The printed prayer is there as a guide, but there may be other things you want to share. Chat, as openly and honestly as you can. Then, through the day, listen for God's response.

This resource was initiated by St. Andrew's Haney United Church, Maple Ridge, BC and their minister, the Rev. Richard Bott.

The suggested scripture readings are based on the Consultation on Common Text's *Daily Lectionary*.

ST. ANDREW'S HANEY
UNITED CHURCH

Daily Scripture and Prayer Time

(January 14th to 19th, 2008)

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Monday

Scripture:

- Genesis 35.1-15
- Psalm 89.5-37
- Acts 10.44-48

Reflection:

In the readings today, we see both Jacob become Israel and how the Lord instructed him to go forth and multiply; and hear of the gift of God's Holy Spirit on His people. We see God's Holy Spirit poured out on all people, "Jews and Gentiles" alike.

Down through the generations God has called on all to spread the message. We are given to understand that God's faithfulness never fails - it has been since the beginning of time.

For me, these readings bring to mind the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" How do we see God's faithfulness being revealed in our lives today?

Prayer:

Loving Father,
we thank You for leading Your people
for many generations -
for watching over them and us -
we praise You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit
which leads and guides us -
may we go forth always,
may we multiply your love and
demonstrate that love to the world.

Today, I remember and pray for _____,
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,
with your love,
and in Christ's name, I pray.

Tuesday

Scripture:

- Jeremiah 1.4-10
- Psalm 89.5-37
- Acts 8.4-13

Reflection:

From the time we were conceived, God has known and loved us. Jeremiah, a prophet whose ministry lasted about 45 years during which time his message was one of obedience to God. We all have a ministry just as Philip did.

What is your particular ministry? How does it help you grow spiritually? God will be faithful in providing what you need in order to carry it out.

Prayer:

Holy One,
just as Jeremiah and the prophets,
just as the disciples and followers of Jesus did,
may we spread Your message
to a hurting world.
Use us to help bring others to the knowledge of
Your faithfulness.

Today, I remember and pray for _____,
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,
with your love,
and in Christ's name, I pray.

Wednesday

Scripture:

- Isaiah 51.1-16
- Psalm 89.5-37
- Matthew 12.15-21

Reflection:

It is wonderful to think of God's protection is with us – 24/7. To me that is a great gift, a part of the faithfulness God promises.

Do we stop and thank God for these gifts, or do we take them for granted? For me these are two gifts I can't live without.

The Matthew reading calls on us to reach out and help others even, no matter the time or the rules.

I hear Isaiah's prophecy being lived out in Jesus - "Behold My Servant whom I have chosen". I am reminded that even though these words were spoken by Isaiah they are from God – and can be shared with all.

Prayer:

I give You thanks for the gift of love which surrounds and protects me daily. Help me to always be ready to spread this gospel of love.

Today I remember and pray for _____, friends blessed by your love.

For your grace, with your love,
and in Christ's name, I pray.

Thursday

Scripture:

- Isaiah 22.15-25
- Psalm 40.1-11
- Galatians 1.6-12

Reflection:

Judgment and reward are the themes of our Isaiah reading. Most of us don't like to think about judgment.

Does God reward good that is done, and punish ill? Is this reward given only to some, and not to all?

I believe that we must exercise patience and trust in God's understanding and response to all things. This is not always easy to do, especially when a situation seems impossible to understand - but with God's help we can do it.

Paul lived many of these kind of incomprehensible experiences, and yet he trusted God's call. Perhaps, part of his reward, was the ability to serve Christ through those experiences.

Is God visible in the incomprehensible experiences of your life?

Prayer:

Loving God - I come before You with all my sins -
Forgive me,
so that I may show
Your love and message,
just as Paul did.
Teach me patience and trust
in all things, I pray.

Today, I remember and pray for _____,
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,
with your love,
and in Christ's name, I pray.

Friday

Scripture:

- Genesis 27.30-38
- Psalm 40.1-11
- Acts 1.1-15

Reflection:

I love this statement from the Inspirational Study Bible, "When people choose to hurt others, God disciplines."

In this reading we see how one was hurt by another's actions - how often does that happen in our world today?

We are again reminded to exercise patience and trust in our daily lives. Gathering for prayer and fellowship helps us to build community as we seek the guidance of God's Holy Spirit in our lives.

Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit lead us and lift us up - encourage us to keep from hurting those we love – and those we don't. May we sense the joy of gathering for prayer with others in our families - our 'home' family and our church 'family'. May we trust those whose lives we encounter each day.

Today, I remember and pray for _____,
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,
with your love,
and in Christ's name, I pray.

Saturday

Scripture:

- 1 Kings 19.19-21
- Psalm 40.1-11
- Luke 5.1-11

Reflection:

Do you ever have problems finding someone to do a particular job on a committee, whether it be church or other community based organizations?

Service is a commitment – and many of us are not always ready to make that commitment when asked. Think of those times when you have been ready to make a commitment to something. Has that commitment made the task easier?

Christ calls out to us, just as he did to the fishermen. How do we respond to his call to serve?

What can we do to help others be ready to offer the commitment service requires?

Prayer:

Holy One, show me the way that I should use when seeking others to help in your work. May we become fishers of all people. Help me to exercise patience in my service, and in my search for others to help on that journey.

Today, I remember and pray for _____,
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,
with your love
In Christ's name I pray.