

Day 1 -

Read

Colossians 3: 14-15 "14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."

Think

What does it look like to clothe yourself with love? Before we can put on new clothes in the morning we have to first take off what we were wearing before. Clothing ourselves in love is not a passive thing that just happens, it is a step we have to intentionally take as a Jesus follower each day. We have to remind ourselves of the Love that God has for us first. So much love that he sacrificed his son for us. Then we have to take the step to ask Jesus to give us his eyes of love towards everyone around us. This is how Christ rules in our hearts. We seek to see people as Jesus's beloved whom he loves so much he died for.

Reflect

How is your love tank doing? Have you put yourself in a place to receive that love of God and reflect on it lately? How have you been treating others around you? Have you been showing the sacrificial love that Jesus shows you?

Pray

Jesus thank you for loving me perfectly. You show me what real love looks like. It's constant and never gives up on me. Help me to clothe myself in love and allow you to rule my heart. Amen

Day 2

Read

Colossians 3:16-17

“16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.”

Think

Being part of the family of God is one of the most amazing gifts of being Jesus' follower. There are people who will be in your corner cheering you on in this life. Not always perfectly, only Jesus can do that, my life has been so much fuller because people have helped me to see my faults and helped lead me to Jesus who transforms me.

Reflect

How are you leading the people in your life who are following Jesus towards him. When they share what is going on in their life are you giving wisdom from God? The only way to do that is to be seeking God's wisdom yourself. Representing Jesus to those who are following him and those who are far from him is our privilege and responsibility, so we have to keep close to Jesus so who knows who he is. Spend time this week reading about the life of Jesus from Matthew.

Pray

Jesus, thank you for the family of God, flawed and broken yet so beautiful. Help me to draw near to you so I truly know you, being able to then show people who you are, what you look like, how you treat others. Amen

Day 3

Dan Self - WCC

Read

Isaiah 26:12-13

“Lord, you established peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us. Lord our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us, but your name alone do we honor.”

Think

This prayer was written in a tumultuous time in Israel’s history. Israel was in a constant process of being conquered and re-conquered by the superpowers of the world, and was nothing more than a pawn in greater nations’ conquests.

Israel was in a place in which they were unable to attribute any good thing to their own power and ability- they were essentially owned by other nations.

But yet, the author exclaims that all peace and prosperity is from God alone.

The author acknowledges earthly power and authority, but also honors God above all.

Reflect

You may feel like you are powerless and you may feel like you are constantly answering to other people.

You may feel like you have no voice of your own and you may feel like nothing you do really matters in the grand scheme of things.

As Christians, though, we don’t take any pride in what we can do or have done, but we rejoice in the person of Jesus Christ.

We will serve many people in this life, but God alone is the one who is truly worthy of all praise.

Pray

Lord, you are the source of my purpose.

Anything else will let me down.

Show me how to walk in step with you as I humble myself before you.

Day 4

Marty

Read

Matt. 11:28 “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. 29 Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. 30 Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Think

There’s a lot in this season that can cause us to feel tired, worn out, burned out, and in need of real rest and recovery. Sometimes what adds to that stress is the uncertainty of it all. How will I manage the stress of online learning in addition to the obstacles I’m already facing? How do I navigate this new school year when I’ve never done anything like this before?

Reflect

Jesus promises rest for us when we feel tired, worn out and burnt out. We can get away with Jesus today, and learn how to take a real rest. Even though life can throw heavy ill-fitting situations our way, Jesus never will. He teaches us to live freely and lightly.

Pray

Jesus, thank you for the rest and encouragement I can find in you today. I trust you with my anxiety and needs. Teach me your unforced rhythms of grace for this new season ahead.

Day 5

Braden Curalli and Kali Burkhartzmeyer

Read

Philippians 4:6-9

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Think

It almost feels like I hear this verse every week. While this may be annoying at times, as I was reading today I realized that there is a very good reason as to why we are reminded of this verse so often. It is honestly so hard to do what Paul is saying here in Philippians. In conversation, in time alone, in time with friends, there is never a time when this comes easy. In this crazy season where many of us have had plans, trips and camps canceled, you may be finding yourself with more free time than you are used to. What are you doing with it? Are you aware of what you are filling your mind with? Take some time today to think about how the things you are watching, listening to and even who you are spending your time with may be affecting your mind. We don't often think that what Netflix show we are currently watching or what music we decide to flood our ears with actually matters, but Paul emphasizes the importance of what we choose to fill our minds with. We don't have control over a lot right now, but we are able choose what we fix our minds on.

Reflect

What are you fixing your mind on?

If you are struggling in anxiety or depression, “fix your thoughts on what is noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable.”

If you are looking at things you are not supposed to, “fix your thoughts on what is noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable.”

If you are lonely, “fix your thoughts on what is noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable.”

Pray

Lord,

I pray for those who are suffering quietly in this season. May they be heard, seen, and listened too. May you meet us where we are and help us as we wander in this new season. God may we fix our thoughts, conversations and time on You this week. May you be our center. May you be our liberator. May you be our redeemer.