

Day 1

Braden Curalli

Read

Mark 9:21-24

21 Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us." 23 Jesus said to him, "If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

Think

If you are like me, you are looking around and seeing the ominous sight of smoke. The only difference is, I am currently living in LA, and you in Oregon. The smoke that is present in my area is coming from a fire that is about two-three miles from where I live. Currently, I am sitting on my balcony, watching the overwhelming sight of smoke engulf my city. I am lingering in the majesty of the flames that rise taller than the mountains, staring at something that is so beautiful but causing so much destruction. Reality is, I am currently hoping that my house, and my friend's houses alike, are not taken by the flames of the 8,500-acre fire. While things feel completely and utterly out of control, much like the father in our story, remember it is ok to be challenged. It is ok to express your disbelief. Ultimately, God meets us where we are, and I hope that God meets you in your disbelief this week.

Reflect

As you enter the figurative and literal smoke and flames of this week, remember you are not alone. Challenges are ok. Take a breath. Take a break.

If you are like me and are struggling to find hope this week, remember these words "I believe; Help my unbelief."

Pray

God

I lift up the current fires to you

May you keep all of us safe and far from the flames

May our air be clean

Our minds be at rest

Calm our hearts

I believe; Help my unbelief!

Day 2

Marty

Read

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (2 Cor. 6:16).

Think

Often we can limit our relationship with God to doing things for God, or wanting things from God. But what God wants most is to be with his people. God has always wanted to be with his people.... And that means YOU. He wants you to live your life with him, not just to do things for him, or want things from him.

Reflect

Because of Jesus, God is with us, we are with God, and we will be with God forever. In Revelation 21:3 we read, "I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them."

Pray

God, thank you that you are with me. I am grateful for everything you do for me, and the opportunity I have to serve others. But help me to remember that the greatest goal is to be with you. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 3

Dayne Scanlon- WCC

Read

Proverbs 12:1

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,

but whoever hates correction is stupid

Think

Did the bible just call us stupid? If you hate correction it sure did! This is one of my favorite Proverbs (not just because it gives me the excuse to call people stupid), but because it helps me look at myself and ask myself if I'm letting people speak into my life. Personally, I've always struggled with letting people speak into my life, because I assume that I'm always right. Rarely is this the case, and I usually end up making poor choices because I don't have anyone to check me on what I'm doing. This is probably why the author uses such strong language to describe the person who hates correction.

Reflect

Do you have someone who you've given permission to speak into your life?

Spend some extra time today praying for God to discipline and correct the areas of your life that you might not see.

Don't be stupid, seek correction :)

Pray

God,

Thank you for caring about me enough to let my actions have consequences. Help me desire correction, and strive to grow to be more like your son, Jesus.

Thank you for this day, and I pray that you would use me to reach people for your kingdom.

AMEN

Day 4

Chrissy- HCC

Read

Isaiah 43:2-3

“Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

2 When you go through deep waters,

I will be with you.

When you go through rivers of difficulty,
you will not drown.

When you walk through the fire of oppression,

you will not be burned up;

the flames will not consume you.

3 For I am the Lord, your God,”

Think

When Jesus talked to the disciple about prayer, he taught them to pray the promises of God. This means looking at the verses in the Bible and praying back to God what he is saying. Between Covid, racial injustice, politics, fear, anxiety and now fires. We need to be sure more than ever of who our God is. What His character is. When we don't know someone we struggle to trust them. So let's get to know our God in the midst of our fear. We can do this by praying his word back to him.

Reflect

So think about what you are worried about, school, fires, friends, loved ones, sickness whatever it is and pray these verses back to God.

Pray

God you are with me as I walk through troubles, difficulties and fires. You are with me in the unknown and you lead your people in the middle of this messy hard scary year. Amen.

