

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

Being with Jesus

VOL 3, JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023

NAME:

Love God Love People

Mark 12:29-31

Make Disciples

Matthew 28:19-20

READING SCHEDULE, JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023

BEING WITH *Jesus* 2023

| | JULY | | AUGUST | | SEPTEMBER | |
|-----|------|------------------|--------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| TUE | | | 1 | Amos 8:1-18 | | |
| WED | | | 2 | Amos 9:1-15 | | |
| THU | | | 3 | Hosea 1:1-10 | | |
| FRI | | | 4 | Hosea 2:1-23 | 1 | 1 John 1:8-10 |
| SAT | 1 | Obadiah 1-21 | 5 | Hosea 3:1-5 | 2 | 1 John 2:1-2 |
| SUN | 2 | | 6 | | 3 | |
| MON | 3 | Joel 1:1-12 | 7 | Hosea 4:1-19 | 4 | 1 John 2:3-8 |
| TUE | 4 | Joel 1:13-20 | 8 | Hosea 5:1-15 | 5 | 1 John 2:9-11 |
| WED | 5 | Joel 2:1-11 | 9 | Hosea 6:1-11 | 6 | 1 John 2:12-14 |
| THU | 6 | Joel 2:12-17 | 10 | Hosea 7:1-16 | 7 | 1 John 2:15-17 |
| FRI | 7 | Joel 2:18-32 | 11 | Hosea 8:1-14 | 8 | 1 John 2:18-23 |
| SAT | 8 | Joel 3:1-21 | 12 | Hosea 9:1-17 | 9 | 1 John 2:24-28 |
| SUN | 9 | | 13 | | 10 | |
| MON | 10 | Jonah 1:1-16 | 14 | Hosea 10:1-15 | 11 | 1 John 2:29-3:3 |
| TUE | 11 | Jonah 1:17-2:10 | 15 | Hosea 11:1-12 | 12 | 1 John 3:4-10 |
| WED | 12 | Jonah 3:1-10 | 16 | Hosea 12:1-14 | 13 | 1 John 3:11-18 |
| THU | 13 | Jonah 4:1-10 | 17 | Hosea 13:1-16 | 14 | 1 John 3:19-24 |
| FRI | 14 | Nahum 1:1-15 | 18 | Hosea 14:1-9 | 15 | 1 John 4:1-6 |
| SAT | 15 | Nahum 2:1-13 | 19 | Micah 1:1-16 | 16 | 1 John 4:7-12 |
| SUN | 16 | | 20 | DG SUNDAY | 17 | |
| MON | 17 | Nahum 3:1-19 | 21 | Micah 2:1-13 | 18 | 1 John 4:13-15 |
| TUE | 18 | Zephaniah 1:1-18 | 22 | Micah 3:1-12 | 19 | 1 John 4:16-21 |
| WED | 19 | Zephaniah 2:1-15 | 23 | Micah 4:1-13 | 20 | 1 John 5:1-5 |
| THU | 20 | Zephaniah 3:1-8 | 24 | Micah 5:1-15 | 21 | 1 John 5:6-8 |
| FRI | 21 | Zephaniah 3:9-20 | 25 | Micah 6:1-16 | 22 | 1 John 5:9-12 |
| SAT | 22 | Amos 1:1-2:3 | 26 | Micah 7:1-7 | 23 | 1 John 5:13-15 |
| SUN | 23 | | 27 | | 24 | |
| MON | 24 | Amos 2:4-16 | 28 | Micah 7:8-13 | 25 | 1 John 5:16-21 |
| TUE | 25 | Amos 3:1-4:5 | 29 | Micah 7:14-20 | 26 | 2 John 1-6 |
| WED | 26 | Amos 4:6-13 | 30 | 1 John 1:1-4 | 27 | 2 John 7-13 |
| THU | 27 | Amos 5:1-17 | 31 | 1 John 1:5-7 | 28 | 3 John 1-4 |
| FRI | 28 | Amos 5:18-27 | | | 29 | 3 John 5-10 |
| SAT | 29 | Amos 6:1-14 | | | 30 | 3 John 11-15 |
| SUN | 30 | | | | | |
| MON | 31 | Amos 7:1-17 | | | | |

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Dear SSMCians,

Congratulations to all who completed the BWJ-02 on the four letters Apostle Paul wrote while under house arrest in Rome (AD 60-62). As we systematically read blocks of God's Word, may the Holy Spirit paint a growing and comprehensive picture of God's story, completed, fulfilled and expressed in Jesus Christ and now, in us and through us, His disciples.

For BWJ-03 (July - September), we intentionally selected a cluster of books, called the Minor Prophets, written during the pre-exilic period before Jerusalem was razed to the ground by the Babylonians, and the Jews exiled to foreign nations. The Minor Prophets (or Twelve Prophets), occasionally called the Book of the Twelve, is written between the 8th and 4th centuries BCE. 8 of these prophetic books were written during the pre-exilic period. The other 4, were written after the 70 years of exile.

We will explore Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, and Nahum. We have excluded Habakkuk as it was covered in 2022 by Rev Hwa Yung. The term "Minor Prophets" does not mean they are less important than the "Major Prophets" like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. They are classified as minor because these are "short" prophetic books. These are the obscure books of the Bible; unfamiliar, seldom read or preached on or taught from. All the more, as God's people, we should seek to understand them to know the full counsel of God.

Hebrews 1 :1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways.

Indeed God spoke through the prophets in various ways and at various times, be it good or bad times, in prosperity or in disaster. The loud call is to uphold covenantal faithfulness, righteousness, justice and mercy as an individual, society and nation that belongs to God. Additionally, the call to repent comes with the promise of restoration and warnings on the consequences of disobedience. The messages in the Minor Prophets are equally relevant in our time and day to confront and respond rightly to the same spiritual, cultural and social issues confronting us and what it means for us to live right before God and man.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

“The Old is in the New revealed, the New is in the Old concealed” is a famous quotation by Saint Augustine.

The OT narrative is a foreshadow providing a glimpse or fore-taste of what is to come. The reality is now fulfilled in the NT through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, King and Lord. Jesus came not to abolish but fulfil (every requirement) the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 5:17). On this basis, as we read the Minor Prophets, do observe and reflect on how Jesus Christ fulfilled and expressed the teachings of the Law and Prophets through His life and ministry with grace and truth (John 1:14).

May we follow Him too!

Pastor Robin and the Leadership Team
Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

As we enter the second half of 2023, may God's Word continue to be our individual and collective focus. Let us gather together with family or other loved ones to read and share what God is speaking to us week by week. As God continues to teach us about building up the next generation, may we have an expanded view on who exactly we have been blessed with, that we may bless them in their growth and maturing.

The provided questions for each day's readings are intended to encourage us to chew on God's Word, not just with our minds, but with our heart and soul. The pronouns "I", "me", and "my" are used to indicate the personal nature of the proposed reflections. Let us remember too that our faith is walked together in communities, and that "we" and "our" pronouns are often also appropriate. As with any other Christian writings, none of the provided questions rise to the level of Scripture, and all are encouraged to rely on Scripture alone.

May we approach God's Word with gladness of heart, an inquiring mind, and hands willing to put into action the instructions of our Lord. May Christ be evident inwardly and outwardly in every aspect of our lives.

Yours truly,
Ng Oon-Ee (Christian Education)

This edition of Being With Jesus has seen significant contributions from various disciples in the body. Special thanks to Chien Aun, Charin, Kwee Heong, Poh Gaik, Edward and the other Christian Education team members for their efforts and time in preparing this material, as well as to Rosalind and Sarah for their valued contributions to the actual final copy.



JUL 1, SATURDAY

Obadiah 1-21

Prophecy on Edom

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What is the theme of Obadiah's vision? Why was God angry with Edom?
- 2) What are the consequences for Edom's actions?
- 3) Reread verses 10-14. Who are my 'brothers' or 'sisters'? How can I apply these verses in my life today?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 2, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

JUL 3, MONDAY

Joel 1:1-12

An Invasion of Locusts

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) Describe the condition of Israel in today's passage.
- 2) Reread verses 6-7. Who is the owner of Israel and all in it?
- 3) Today's passage talks about the consequence of Israel's disobedience and sin. Reflect on the state of Israel as a people and as a land. Have I been a good steward with what God has given me?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 4, TUESDAY

Joel 1:13–20

A Call to Lament

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) Who else suffers beside the people according to this passage?
- 2) What is Israel asked to do?
- 3) Are there areas in my life where I have allowed a desert to grow? Ask God to search your heart. Repent if necessary.

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 5, WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:1-11

An Army of Locusts

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) How does the passage describe the locusts?
- 2) Who do the locusts belong to?
- 3) We tend to think God only brings blessings or good things to His people. Here, the terrible 'army' that invaded Israel was an affliction from God. What does this passage tell me about God's nature?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 6, THURSDAY

Joel 2:12-17

Rend Your Heart

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What does God want from Israel?
- 2) What is God's nature as described in verses 13-14?
- 3) Two days ago, we read about God's 'terrible' nature when Israel was not right before God. Today, reflect on being in the good graces of God - it goes beyond the mere absolution of past transgressions. Do I have a healthy fear of the Lord?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 7, FRIDAY

Joel 2:18-32

The Lord's Answer

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What did God do for the people of Israel after their repentance? 2) Read verses 28-32. These verses are seen to be apocalyptic (future revelation) for the Israelites and maybe us. Who shall be saved? 3) The last 4 verses tell us Israel are not the only ones who will be saved despite being the promised people. Yet, in the New Testament, the Jews have always seen this as an exclusive right. What about us? Have I prevented people from coming to Christ? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 8, SATURDAY

Joel 3:1-21

Nations Judged and Blessing for God's people

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) How does God describe the enemies of Israel and Judah?
- 2) How does God describe Israel and Judah's future?
- 3) Today we read more apocalyptic scripture. Am I ready to face the reckoning of God?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 9, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

JUL 10, MONDAY**Jonah 1:1–16****Jonah Flees from the Lord**

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What was the consequence of Jonah's disobedience?
- 2) What did the people on the ship try to do? Reflect on the differences between Jonah's character and those on the ship.
- 3) Have I been delaying/ running from the call of God?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 11, TUESDAY

Jonah 1:17–2:10

Jonah's Prayer and Release

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What is the attitude of Jonah in his prayer?
- 2) How does Jonah describe God in his prayer?
- 3) Spend some time to reflect on your own salvation or a time when you prayed to God in distress. Say a prayer of thanksgiving today.

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 12, WEDNESDAY

Jonah 3:1-10

Nineveh's Repentance

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What was Nineveh's response to God's Word?
- 2) What was God's response?
- 3) Spend some time asking God to reveal areas of hidden/ unknown sin in your life. Reflect on the quick response by Nineveh's king.

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 13, THURSDAY

Jonah 4:1-10

Jonah's Anger and the Lord's Compassion

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Why was Jonah angry? 2) What was God's response? What does it tell us about God's nature? 3) Am I a stumbling block to others coming to Christ because of my own biases and prejudices? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 14, FRIDAY

Nahum 1:1-15

The Lord's Anger against Nineveh

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Nineveh's repentance, like Israel, was only temporary. It is now Nineveh's turn to pay for their wickedness. List the attributes of God in this passage. 2) Reread verses 7; 12-13 and 15. Contrast these verses on Judah versus Nineveh. What does this tell us about God's protection over His people when they are right with Him? 3) Perhaps I am in a difficult spot like Judah. Say a prayer in response. Take refuge and trust in God's deliverance. Share with your faith community. |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 15, SATURDAY

Nahum 2:1-13

Nineveh to Fall

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) Reread verses 5-13. Nineveh was once a great city. What does this tell us about the greatness of man before God?
- 2) What can we learn about God's anger? Feel free to draw on the previous day's reading too.
- 3) Today we read about Nineveh's fall to an army as ordained by God. Do I rely on my own strength or on God's?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 16, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

JUL 17, MONDAY

Nahum 3:1–19

Woe to Nineveh

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What were the sins of Nineveh?
- 2) There is much to be proud about if you had lived in Nineveh at her height. Pick out some of the greatness of Nineveh in today's passage. Am I proud of my efforts and the results they have borne?
- 3) Nineveh's destruction came at the hands of those she once subjugated. Her glory and splendour were built on their exploitation and submission. Have I built myself up at the expense of others?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 18, TUESDAY

Zephaniah 1:1–18

Judgment on the Whole Earth in the Day of the Lord

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 19, WEDNESDAY

Zephaniah 2:1–15

Judah Judged Along with the Nations

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Who is the source of hope against all these calamities? 2) Reread verses 7 and 9. Will ALL of Judah be saved according to the passage? 3) Reflect on the characteristics of those saved by God. Ask God for these characteristics in our Christian walk. |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 20, THURSDAY

Zephaniah 3:1-8

Jerusalem's Judgement and Unrepentance

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reread verses 1-4. What is the state of those with authority within Jerusalem? 2) Am I in a position of power/ responsibility over others? Do I abuse this power? 3) Spend some time to pray for our nation's leaders. Let the Holy Spirit guide your prayers. You may do this as a DG. |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 21, FRIDAY

Zephaniah 3:9–20

Restoration of Israel's Remnant

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What are the signs of a restored Israel?
- 2) What are the traits of God's restored people?
- 3) Does my own life embody the characteristics of Israel's remnant?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 22, SATURDAY

Amos 1:1–2:3

Judgment on Israel's Neighbours

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) List the transgressions of Israel's neighbours and upon whom they were afflicted. 2) The book of Amos opens with Israel's neighbours, despite its focus on Israel's transgressions. It is clear however, that God does not only care about the plight of Israel, but the injustices beyond. What do you think this means for us- both as Christians and Malaysians? 3) What other nation can I pray for today? What injustices am I aware of that I can commit to God in prayer? You may pray together with other members of your faith community. |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 23, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

JUL 24, MONDAY

Amos 2:4-16

Judgment on Judah and Israel

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) List the transgressions of Israel's people and those whom they have wronged. 2) Reread verses 6-7. The prosperity of Israel led to Israel's mistreatment of the less fortunate. Am I able to see injustice and empathise with the less fortunate around me? 3) Reread verses 7-16. In Israel's arrogance, they have become irreverent. Have I blinded or deafened myself - such that I do not think /care of God's divinity? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 25, TUESDAY

Amos 3:1-4:5

Witnesses Summoned Against Israel

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Amos 3:1-10 paints a picture of a broken covenant between Israel and God. Think of a time you felt wronged by a broken promise, how did it make you feel? 2) Reread 3:13-4:1. What were the transgressions of Israel? What are some ways people may, knowingly or unknowingly contribute to oppression? 3) In worship, Israel's hypocrisy is a stench to God (verses 4-5). God's justice may feel delayed but it always comes. How does this shape my pursuit of justice, both for myself and others? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 26, WEDNESDAY

Amos 4:6-13

Israel Has Not Returned to God

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What has God done to Israel according to these verses?
- 2) What does today's passages tell us about the heart of man? What does it tell us about God's desire?
- 3) Like Israel, have I been stubbornly resisting God's call?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

JUL 27, THURSDAY

Amos 5:1-17

A Lament and Call to Repentance

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Do I reflect Israel's condition in my life? 2) If somebody asked, "Where is God in the midst of injustice?", how would you respond? How does today's passage address this question? 3) Reflect on your personal sense of justice in the light of what the Bible says about it. How does yours match up? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 28, FRIDAY

Amos 5:18-27

The Day of the Lord

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are some spiritual practices that Christians do that can become a routine? 2) Israel was told to not seek the holy places where they performed rituals to God. God told them these places would be worthless. Have we placed our faith in places and practices instead of the living God? 3) How does my knowledge and understanding of God's judgment influence how I live? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 29, SATURDAY

Amos 6:1-14

Woe to the Complacent; The Lord Abhors the Pride of Israel

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Consider the material state of Israel. How did God react? 2) Do I identify material wealth as a sure sign of God's approval and blessings? 3) Should today's passage change the way I think? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

JUL 30, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

JUL 31, MONDAY

Amos 7:1-17

Locusts, Fire and a Plumb Line; Amos and Amaziah

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reread verses 1-9. What do these visions reveal about God's character? 2) Compare the characters and status of Amos and Amaziah. What does this tell us about God's messengers? 3) As we have read so far, God's message can be difficult at times to swallow. How can I make sure I stay open to hearing from God even if I do not like it? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 1, TUESDAY

Amos 8:1-18

A Basket of Ripe Fruit

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reread verse 5. While much of Israel's transgressions are repeated, a new one is added here - holiness was perfunctory (carried out without real interest, feeling, or effort.). 2) Am I guilty of such actions in my life? Am I guilty of putting my career/ wants for earthly treasures before God? 3) Spend some time taking stock and repenting if need be. |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 2, WEDNESDAY

Amos 9:1–15

Israel to Be Destroyed and Restored

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reread verse 12. Israel's restoration came with a charge. What was it? 2) At the end of what seems to be a thorough indictment of His people, Amos concludes with hope. What particular aspect of the coming kingdom are you anticipating most? Why? 3) Is this hope alive within me? How should I share this with others? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 3, THURSDAY

Hosea 1:1–10

Hosea's Wife and Children

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What sort of wife did Hosea marry? Why do you think God used marriage as a means to convey His message? 2) What are the names of Hosea's children and what do they signify? 3) Hosea was instructed to both deliver God's Word and live it out in his family life. What does this teach us about how we interact with God's Word? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 4, FRIDAY

Hosea 2:1-23

Israel Punished and Restored

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What kind of emotions does today's passage express? What does it say about Israel? 2) Reread verses 8-13. How does God feel about spiritual adultery? 3) Reread verses 14-23. Does God have to take things away to bring me back to Himself? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 5, SATURDAY

Hosea 3:1–5

Hosea's Reconciliation with His Wife

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Who took the initiative in restoring this broken marriage? What does it say about us and God? 2) Reread verse 2. What is it that (possibly) has happened to Gomer? Have we 'sold' ourselves to slavery in our pursuit of earthly desires? 3) Hosea's love for Gomer is a reflection of God's love for His people. He took the initiative; He drew near when He had every legal right for divorce. How should this affect my relationship with God? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 6, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

AUG 7, MONDAY

Hosea 4:1–19

The Charge Against Israel

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) Reread verse 3. What are some wider consequences of sin here?
- 2) Reread verse 6. Do I know God? How can I enhance my knowledge and relationship with Him?
- 3) A theme of God's accusation here is how Israel's men led others astray. Have I led others astray from God through my actions or words?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

AUG 8, TUESDAY

Hosea 5:1-15

Judgment Against Israel

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reread verses 8-14. What does God promise to do to Israel? Look at the images used and the use of "I will". What could prevent Israel from seeing these events as corrective discipline? 2) How does Israel respond to their circumstance in verse 13? Are we prone to behave similarly? 3) What might God be revealing to you about Himself and your character? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 9, WEDNESDAY

Hosea 6:1–11

Israel Unrepentant Part 1

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 10, THURSDAY

Hosea 7:1–16

Israel Unrepentant Part 2

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What kind of emotions do you think are being expressed here? 2) Are there any areas of disobedience that might be preventing you from experiencing His restoration and healing? 3) What might stop you from calling on God, even when you clearly need Him? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 11, FRIDAY

Hosea 8:1-14

Israel to Reap the Whirlwind

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How did Israel practise worship in comparison with the commanded Levitical laws on worship and sacrifice? What does it tell us about God and pleasing Him? 2) Have I become overly reliant on the forms or rituals of Christianity eg. going to church; giving offering, listening to sermons - instead of on God? 3) Reflect on the rituals you have in place. Is God truly the object of your worship? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 12, SATURDAY

Hosea 9:1-17

Punishment for Israel Part 1

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reread verses 7-8. What can we learn about Hosea? 2) What can we learn about Israel? 3) Have I closed my ears to rebuke/chastisement because I did not like what I heard? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 13, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

AUG 14, MONDAY

Hosea 10:1-15

Punishment for Israel Part 2

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

- 1) Read Revelations 6:12-17. Note the similarities in verse 8. What can we learn about God's anger?
- 2) How can prosperity lead to our downfall?
- 3) How does this help me to understand God, and what the world is coming to?

AUG 15, TUESDAY

Hosea 11:1-12

God's Love for Israel

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reread verses 1-4. What does the imagery mean? What does it tell us about God? 2) Reread verses 8-9. How does this make me feel? How is God's anger different from man's anger? 3) David Gibb writes: 'On the one hand, God cannot deny His justice, for He is just. On the other, He cannot deny His mercy, for God is love. And if He were to do either of these and not the other, He would be less than God'. Israel is like an example for all of us. Reflect on this and why Christ had to come. |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 16, WEDNESDAY

Hosea 12:1-14

Israel and Judah's Sin

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) Reread verses 2-6. Israel's punishment is due but tracing the life of Jacob, what reconciliation does God offer?
- 2) Reread verses 7-14. In what ways has Israel shown their rejection of God?
- 3) In what ways do I follow the world's cues to live life independent of God? What does Christ want me to become instead?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

AUG 17, THURSDAY

Hosea 13:1–16

The Lord's Anger Against Israel

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reread verse 14 and 1 Corinthians 15:54–57. How does Paul understand this verse in light of what Christ did on the cross? 2) Just as Gomer is redeemed by Hosea, we are redeemed not by our own merit but through Christ. How does this truth encourage me to keep trusting God? 3) Spend some time contemplating and thinking about Christ's work on the cross and your salvation. |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 18, FRIDAY

Hosea 14:1–9

Repentance to Bring Blessing

| | |
|---|---|
| Context | |
| <p><i>Questions</i> to ponder</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Despite all the iniquities and terrible judgement brought on Israel, Hosea ends with another call to return to God – God clearly was not done with Israel. What kind of picture does God paint here? 2) What are the fruits of returning to God? 3) Reread verse 9. Think back over the book of Hosea. What has God shown you about Himself? What do you need to remember? |
| <p><i>Head</i> What can I understand?</p> | |
| <p><i>Heart</i> How do I respond?</p> | |
| <p><i>Hands</i> What must I do?</p> | |

AUG 19, SATURDAY

Micah 1:1–16

Judgment Against Samaria and Jerusalem/ Weeping and Mourning

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify and list the places and things God holds against the Israelites. 2) What is going to happen to the people? 3) The reading starts off once again with a warning. If you have been following the BWJ this season, note the number of prophets God has sent to His wayward people. Reflect on both the condition of Israel and God's persistence. |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 20, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

AUG 21, MONDAY

Micah 2:1–13

Human Plans and God's Plans; False Prophets & Deliverance Promised

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) Who did the people of Israel oppress?
- 2) Greed and injustice were rampant among the Israelites. As Christians today, are we guilty of the same?
- 3) Reflect on your actions and deeds. How can we look after the needy and poor amongst us?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

AUG 22, TUESDAY

Micah 3:1-12

Leaders and Prophets Rebuked

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reread verses 1-3; 11. What is the condition of Israel's political leaders? How can we keep our political leaders accountable? 2) Reread verses 5-7; 11. What is the condition of Israel's spiritual leaders? How can we keep our spiritual leaders accountable? 3) Am I accountable to those under me? Do I uphold what is right and just where God has placed me? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 23, WEDNESDAY

Micah 4:1–13

The Mountain of the Lord; The Lord's Plan

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) List the activities that take place on the Lord's Mountain. 2) In verse 2 it is mentioned that 'many nations shall say 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord''. Does my life point people to the 'Lord's Mountain'? 3) How can I or we as a community point people to the Lord's Mountain in our context? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 24, THURSDAY

Micah 5:1-15

A Promised Ruler from Bethlehem

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 25, FRIDAY

Micah 6:1–16

The Lord's Case Against Israel

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What has God done for Israel? 2) What is God's requirement in return? 3) How has God's grace and mercies been evident in my life? Do I struggle in fulfilling God's requirement? Share your answers with your DG. |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 26, SATURDAY

Micah 7:1-7

Israel's Misery

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What are the woes of Israel? Do I feel the same today?
- 2) In verse 7, what does the author resolve to do in his plight?
- 3) Waiting on God can be difficult. Say a prayer about something that is bothering you. Ask God also for patience and wisdom in approaching the issue.

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

AUG 27, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

AUG 28, MONDAY

Micah 7:8-13

Israel Will Rise

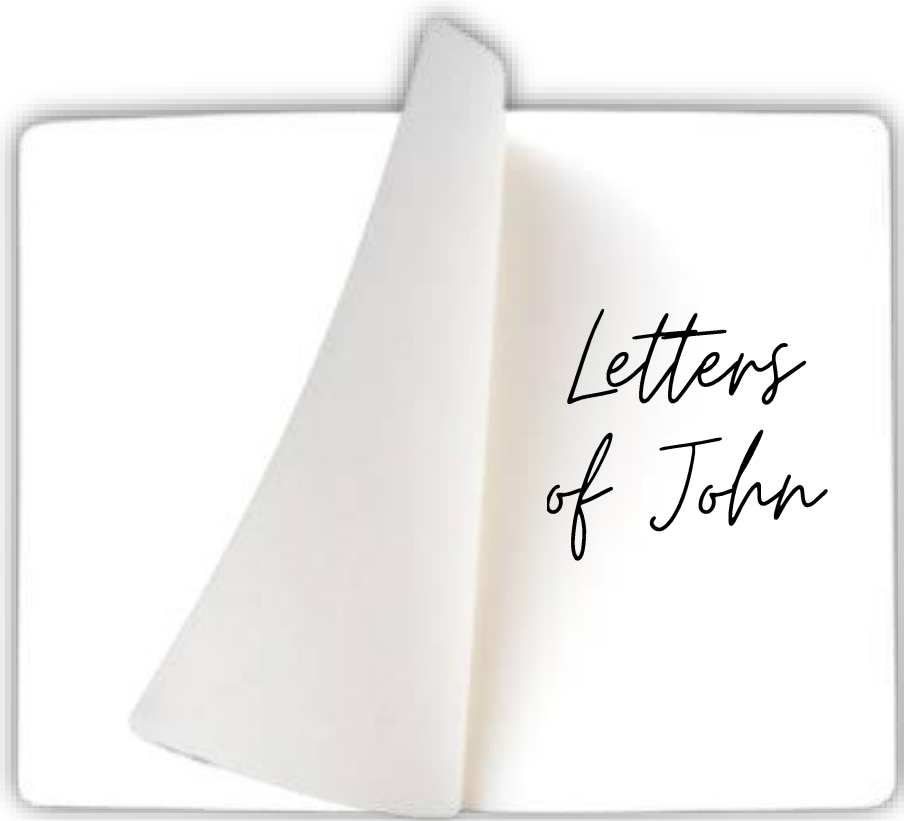
| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What does the author's attitude in this passage tell us about God? 2) Is there a different outcome between the sin of Israel and those of other nations? Why? 3) As Christians, repeatedly falling into sin of any kind can be a very demotivating. We all make mistakes. The writer here understands his place in God - acknowledging sin, its consequences and ultimately returning to God for salvation. Am I able to adopt a similar attitude when struggling with sin? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 29, TUESDAY

Micah 7:14-20

Prayer and Praise

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reread verse 14. What does the image of shepherding with a staff say to you? 2) Reread verses 18-19. Despite being God's chosen people, the Israelites do not escape discipline. The consequence of sin is that only a remnant will inherit God's promises. Am I faithful to God as He is faithful? 3) Reflect on the steadfastness of God. Give thanks for His continual shepherding over your life. |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |



AUG 30, WEDNESDAY

1 John 1:1-4

This We Proclaim

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 1 John is commonly believed to have been authored by the apostle John. Who is this Word of Life (compare John 1:1-4) whom the author proclaims? 2) What proclamations do the author refer to in these verses? 3) What is the author's stated purpose(s) in his proclamations? What are my own purposes in proclaiming the Word of Life? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

AUG 31, THURSDAY

1 John 1:5-7

The Purifying Light

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Today's passage progresses through a few related concepts. What is the foundational truth from which all of them flow? 2) What should be the basis of Christian fellowship? Is this true of my faith community? 3) Do I believe the promise of 1 John 1:7? How does my life reflect this? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 1, FRIDAY

1 John 1:8–10

Sin, Truth, and Lies

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is the difference between 1 John 1:8 and 1 John 1:10? 2) Every verse in today's passage starts with a hypothetical declaration ('claim', 'confess') about sin. What does this tell me about the importance of my own words and statements with regards to sin? 3) What is the only declaration which the author of 1 John affirms will bring about forgiveness and freedom from sin? When was the last time I made this declaration? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 2, SATURDAY

1 John 2:1-2

Our Sin Advocate

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is the author's primary intent and hope in writing to the church? Is this a reasonable or realistic hope? 2) Who among us requires the advocacy mentioned in 1 John 2:1? Why is Jesus qualified to be our advocate? 3) According to 1 John 2:2, how universal is Christ's atoning sacrifice? What does this mean for my kingdom-building efforts? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 3, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

Keeping His Commands

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is the evidence and proof of our relationship with Christ (or in-Christ-ness)? Does my public life reflect this? 2) What is 'this old command' which the author is affirming? Does my faith community still share this 'old command'? 3) What is 'a new command' which the author first appears to deny, but then affirms in 1 John 3:8 (see also John 13:34-35)? How does this command allow us to shine the true light? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 5, TUESDAY

1 John 2:9–11

Darkness is Dark

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What evidence demonstrates that a believer is still in darkness? 2) 'There is nothing to make them stumble' is an incredible statement to make about inter-personal relationships within the church. What is the source of such secure relationships? 3) Conversely, 1 John 2:11 vividly describes the condition of 'anyone who hates a brother or sister'. Do I see my own condition (or that of a brother or sister) from this passage? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 6, WEDNESDAY

1 John 2:12-14

Generation After Generation

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 1 John is a general letter to Christ's church, but in today's passage, 3 spiritual generations are addressed directly. What does the passage say about spiritual children (those new to the faith)? 2) What does today's passage say about spiritual fathers (those of stature and lengthy experience)? 3) What does today's passage say about spiritual young men (those who are vigorous and active in the body)? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

Choose Your Love

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Today's verses are generally familiar to many Christians. Why is love 'for the world' and 'for the Father' portrayed as being mutually exclusive? 2) What are the three primary worldly temptations mentioned in today's passage? How do they compare to the Head, Heart, and Hands we have been focusing on as a church? 3) From a young age, all of us have struggled to accept delayed gratification, because the desire to have what we want right now is a pervasive one. Have I truly learnt the lesson of 1 John 2:17? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

No Lie Comes from the Truth

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The antichrists referred to in today's passage are (or were) not external to the church. Has my faith community focused too much on external threats to our fellowship? 2) What is the mark or spirit of the antichrist according to today's passage? 3) What antidote or protection does Christ's body have against 'the liar'? Do I myself hold this protection in my hand? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 9, SATURDAY

1 John 2:24–28

Remaining

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | <p>1) How many times do the words remain/continue/abide (depending on translation) used in today's passage? Who/what is it who should and will remain?</p> <p>2) Is 1 John 2:27 advising believers not to receive teaching/instruction? What is the most reliable source of teaching according to this passage?</p> <p>3) The 'anointing' referred to in today's passage refers explicitly to that of the Holy Spirit (see also Luke 4:18; Acts 4:27; Acts 10:38). How has the Spirit's anointing shaped my life?</p> |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 10, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

SEP 11, MONDAY

1 John 2:29–3:3

Children of God

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What is the qualification for being a child of God, according to 1 John 2:29 and 1 John 3:1?
- 2) Is being a child of God a goal to celebrate or is there something more to look forward to?
- 3) How should our hope inspire action from me and those in my circle of influence?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

SEP 12, TUESDAY

1 John 3:4-10

Continuing to Sin

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is the relationship between 'who our father is' and sin or righteousness? 2) Is there a difference between sinning and continuing to sin, according to today's passage? What difference does the past, present, or future tense make to how I understand it? 3) Most of today's passage talks about sin and lawlessness, contrasting it to righteousness and doing what is right. What does the end of 1 John 3:10 mean to me? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

Love One Another

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) Yesterday's reading contrasted sin and righteousness. What contrast does today's reading have?
- 2) What instructions does the author have for 'the world'? In contrast, what instructions does the author have for us, the fellowship of believers?
- 3) 1 John 3:18 addresses the way in which we love. How am I loving my brothers and sisters?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

SEP 14, THURSDAY

1 John 3:19-24

This is How We Know

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Are verses 20 and 21 in contradiction to each other? What does this tell me about the importance of 'our hearts'? In today's language - how much does my mental health influence my true standing before God? 2) Righteousness is keeping God's commands. How much do I believe in the name of Christ and love others? 3) 1 John 3:24 summarises the 'true' mark of how we know that Christ lives in us. Which brother or sister can I encourage today with this knowledge? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 15, FRIDAY

1 John 4:1-6

The Spirit of Truth

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 'Do not believe every spirit'. What is the role of skepticism within the faith practice of my community? How can I contribute to healthy skepticism? 2) 1 John argues against the belief that flesh and spirit are separate, and that the flesh is evil while the spirit is righteous (this belief eventually contributes to Gnostic heresies). Why does the author focus on the person of Jesus in today's passage? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) The author repeatedly reminds us as believers that we are from God. How can I similarly assure a brother or sister in Christ today about their place in Christ's family? |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 16, SATURDAY

1 John 4:7-12

Reason to Love

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What are the reasons given in today's passage for us to love one another?
- 2) How is loving one another a way for us to see God (1 John 4:12)?
- 3) 1 John 4:9 begins by describing Christ's coming in terms of our life in Him first (rather than His atoning sacrifice). Who can I share my life in Christ with today?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

SEP 17, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

SEP 18, MONDAY

1 John 4:13-15

God Lives in Me

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) Is it possible for modern-day believers to echo 1 John 4:14?
- 2) What is my relationship right now with God, Jesus, and His Holy Spirit?
- 3) Take time today to acknowledge God's love with a song of worship or a prayer of gratitude.

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

SEP 19, TUESDAY

1 John 4:16-21

God is Love

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) According to today's passage, what two things cannot exist in love?
- 2) How can my faith community build an environment of love for every member (regardless of age, background, or sinfulness)?
- 3) Who is the ultimate source of the love we pour out for each other? Who do I need to love (with the love of God) today?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

SEP 20, WEDNESDAY

1 John 5:1-5

Belief Born of Love

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is the relationship between belief (that Jesus is the Son of God) and love? Which one comes first? 2) What is the relationship between obedience (to God's commands) and our status as children of God? Which one comes first? 3) Is my faith centered in intellectual understanding and decision? How can I ensure that my heart is fully in line with my mind as a child of God? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 21, THURSDAY

1 John 5:6-8

Testifying to Jesus

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In today's passage, 'water' refers to Jesus' baptism at the beginning of His public ministry. What does this say about Jesus Christ? 2) In today's passage, 'blood' refers to Jesus' crucifixion. Why does the author emphasize the importance of 'blood'? What false teachings is the author contending with? 3) Unlike the water and the blood, the Spirit who testifies is alive and present in us. How does God's Spirit testify about Jesus Christ? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 22, FRIDAY

1 John 5:9–12

This is the Testimony

Context

Questions
to ponder

- 1) What is the testimony, according to 1 John 5:11?
- 2) Whose testimony is this? Why should we believe God's testimony on this matter?
- 3) 1 John 5:12 speaks to the exclusivity of the Christian message. How does this exclusivity affect my life and testimony?

Head

What can I understand?

Heart

How do I respond?

Hands

What must I do?

SEP 23, SATURDAY

1 John 5:13-15

Confidence in Prayer

| | |
|---|--|
| Context | |
| <p><i>Questions</i> to ponder</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is it that 1 John 5:13 confidently says that we have? 2) How should this confidence affect our prayer life when we approach God? 3) 1 John 5:15 is essentially speaking of our faith when we pray. Do I have a testimony of God's faithfulness which I can share to build up the confidence of my faith community? |
| <p><i>Head</i> What can I understand?</p> | |
| <p><i>Heart</i> How do I respond?</p> | |
| <p><i>Hands</i> What must I do?</p> | |

SEP 24, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

Praying for Sinful Brethren

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) This passage is a continuation of yesterday's passage, but we are exhorted to make a very specific prayer. Can we have confidence when praying for the sinful brother or sister? 2) 'The sin that leads to death' is a thorny topic, something not expounded on in this or other passages of scripture. Is this concept central and important to what the author is exhorting in today's passage? 3) In 1 John 5:18, the author gives reassurances on the spiritual protection upon us as children of God. How can I reassure a brother or sister today regarding God's protection on them? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

To the Lady Chosen by God

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Some believe the lady addressed in this letter is the church (the bride of Christ). A plain reading would indicate her to be a believer with believing family members. Either way, are the contents of this letter still relevant today? 2) What is the relationship between truth and love, based on today's passage and 1 John? 3) 1 John 1:6 gives a picture of an interlinked relationship. Do I obey God's commands? Do I walk in love? How can I keep doing this? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

Continuing in the Teaching of Christ

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The author explicitly talks about the lies of the 'many deceivers' in today's reading (see also our readings from 1 John). What is untrue about these deceivers' teachings? 2) How can I 'inoculate' myself against false teachings which do not 'continue in the teaching of Christ'? 3) Based on the entirety of the three letters from this author (1, 2, and 3 John), what is the teaching that we are to continue in? How can I share this teaching with a brother or sister today? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

In the Truth

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is the relationship between the author and Gaius, based on these verses? What does this tell me about inter-generational passing on of faith in today's church? 2) The greeting in 3 John 2 addresses Gaius' health and wellness, as well as his soul. How well do I and my faith community care for the physical and spiritual well-being of our brethren in the faith? 3) Once again, the author focuses on 'the truth' (as we have read in 1 and 2 John). Who do I know who walks in the truth? How can I encourage them today? |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 29, FRIDAY

3 John 5–10

Hospitality or Exclusion

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How is Gaius' treatment of believing strangers contrasted with that of Diotrephes'? 2) Diotrephes was probably a leader, as evidenced by the end of 3 John 10. The author promises to 'call attention' to Diotrephes' wrong actions. How should I react when credible reports are raised regarding the actions of Christian leaders? 3) The author begins describing Diotrephes as someone 'who loves to be first'. Does this description sound familiar? How can we (including leaders of my faith community) maintain Christ-like humility? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

SEP 30, SATURDAY

3 John 11–15

Imitating Good Examples

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In the context of the rest of this letter, what does the author's instruction to Gaius in 3 John 11 refer to? Who should Gaius not be imitating? 2) The author then mentions another believer who presumably is from the same congregation as Gaius and Diotrephes. Why does he do so? 3) Have I ever encountered evil examples in Christian leadership? How can this short letter (3 John) help guide me in responding in a godly manner? |
| <i>Questions</i> to ponder | |
| <i>Head</i> What can I understand? | |
| <i>Heart</i> How do I respond? | |
| <i>Hands</i> What must I do? | |

OCT 1, SUNDAY

Sunday Worship Celebration

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

Notes



Notes



Notes



Notes





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