Prayer & Study Guide

First United Methodist Church, Sallisaw—Daily Scripture Readings 10/20/13

Prayer - *Use this prayer to begin your time with God each day.*
Heavenly Father, we know that suffering is a part of living in this world. We realize that none of us are immune to pain and disaster. We ask that You grant us the strength to endure, the courage to face our challenges, and the wisdom to grow in faith and character. Most of all, Lord, give us the opportunity to serve others who suffer. Allow us to radiate Your love, joy, and peace to all those who hunger and thirst. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

Monday – Read Genesis 41:1-57. **Joseph Becomes Pharaoh's Prime Minister.** Before moving into our study of Moses' life, let's take a look at the movement of the Israelites to Egypt. The Hyksos were Semitic people, related to the Israelites, who descended upon Egypt in 1720 B.C. and became foreign rulers of that land for 170 years. It is likely that the Pharaoh of Joseph's time was a Hyksos - thus originally from the lands that the Israelites had come. The Hyksos and the Israelites were distant cousins. How does this help us understand the story you are about to read? Joseph the former slave and prisoner became Prime Minister of Egypt. Spend some time in prayer asking God to redeem the areas of you life in which you experience suffering.

Tuesday – Read Genesis 47:1-27. **The Israelites Move to Egypt.** As you read this story, consider how the Egyptian people may have felt under foreign kings who, while protecting them from famine, in the process confiscated much of their land and property. This story shows the Israelites migrating from the promised land to the land of Egypt along with hundreds or perhaps thousands of other tribes during the famine and perhaps as part of the greater movement of the Hyksos' move into Egypt in the 1700's B.C. In 1550 B.C. when the Egyptians overthrew Hyksos rule, it is not hard to imagine their hatred of these people who had taken their land. The Hyksos, who were distant cousins of the Israelites, were expelled from Egypt. The Israelites were allowed to stay but were despised and eventually made to be the slave labor Pharaoh used on massive building programs of that time.

Wednesday – Read Exodus 1:1-22. **The Oppression of Israel.** As we noted in yesterday's reading, around 1550 B.C. the Egyptians overthrew the Hyksos and expelled them from Egypt. This corresponds perfectly with Exodus 1:8. From a historical perspective what is amazing is reading these passages we've been studying and seeing how closely aligned they are with what is known of Egyptian history from Egypt's own historical records. Review your notes from Sunday's sermon. What did we learn about the power of fear? What bearing might that have for America today? Notice in this story that Pharaoh is not named while Shiphrah and Puah are named and that these two powerless women who courageously helped to save Moses and other babies ultimately defeated the most powerful man in their world. What speaks to you in this story? Ask God to use you to lift up someone in your life who feels beaten down.

Thursday – Read Exodus 2:1-10. **The Birth of Moses.** Look over your notes from Sunday's sermon. Imagine what Moses' mother was feeling throughout this story. Notice how God cared for Moses and his birth mother; she is paid by Pharaoh's daughter to nurse him! Why is Pharaoh's daughter such an unlikely person to save Moses from the river? What qualities of character did she exemplify? What does this story teach us about adoption? What does God's work in Moses' life, even from his birth, teach us about God's ways of working in our lives? Spend some time praying for the youth and children in our church. Are you willing to "adopt" or mentor a young person in our church?

Friday – Read Exodus 2:11-22. **Moses Flees Egypt.** Today we skip ahead to Moses' adulthood. Describe the heart of Moses. What motivated him to kill the Egyptian? Moses was caught between his royal upbringing in Pharaoh's household and the compassion he felt for his own people. When you think about struggling people in our community, do you feel compassion for them? Why did the Israelites respond with disdain to his help? What does the story of Moses' care for the daughters of Reuel teach us about Moses? Do you think Moses had any idea that God would ever use him for God's purposes? Spend some time praying for those who are oppressed and hurting.

Saturday – Read Exodus 2:23-35 & Romans 8:35-39. **God Heard Their Groaning.** Note that years went by before God delivered Israel from Egypt. God was working, preparing, and planning for their deliverance the entire time. What does this say about God's timetable? What might that mean for you? As Christians, we believe that the worst thing is never the last thing, and we know that God is present even when we can't see or feel God. Let Romans 8:35-39 guide your prayer as you give thanks to God for carrying you through your most difficult times. Ask God to help you see and feel the ways that God is present in your life through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Access this Prayer & Study Guide at www.sallisawfumc.org.

Subversive Women & an Evil King

Dr. Trevor Smith

15The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives,
one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other
Puah, 16"When you act as midwives to the Hebrew
women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a
boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." 17But
the midwives feared God; they did not do as the
king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the
boys live. *–Exodus 1:15-17*

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:

Prayer List

New & Short Term Requests*

- Gary Lattimore, upcoming chemo treatment.
- Laura Byrd, pneumonia. Linda Byrd's niece.
- The Family of Michael Crabtree.
- The Family of Susie Watie.
- Carl & June Rolston, unspoken request.
- The Family of Michael Crabtree.
- Shawna Fowler, Linda Byrd's daughter.
- Zadie Trimble, recovering from dental work.
- James Albertson, stage 4 lung cancer. Janet Luttrell's friend.
- Norma Treat, back problems, suffering and unable to sit up, scheduled for surgery on Oct. 28. Carl & June Rolston's friend.
- Lindsey Jones, waiting for liver/pancreas transplant. Guy & Barbara Jones' granddaughter.
- George Daugherty, stroke. Linda Byrd's friend.
- Mike & Kim Barnett, missionaries in Thailand whose house flooded with more rain expected.
- Ray Gillespie, recovering from stroke. Guy & Barbara Jones' brother-in-law.
- Unspoken request. Machell Trimble.
- The Family of Gerry Falleur.
- The Family of Roger Herndon. Linda Mattox's brother.
- The Family of Ken Downs, whose 14 month old baby died.
- Patsy Barrett & Family for the loss of her husband.
- Debbie Vokoun, needs confidence and feeling of self-worth. Bryan Warner's aunt.
- Daphne Brucks, cancer.
- Gail Allen, cancer, going through chemo.
- Healing for Edna's body and her spirit. JoAnna Rogers' mom.
- Bobbie Green, MRI on knee, possible surgery.
- Luke Echols, pneumonia. Son of Charlotte & Brian Echols.
- The Family of Gladys Willis. Lynn Allsup's aunt.

Hospitalized / Continuing Treatment

- Kyle Martin McGowan, finished chemo. Pray that he avoids infection and for sustained remission.

On-Going Needs

Pris Bartram
Freda Cooke
Kogi Christians
Lou Rogers
Gary Griffin
Barry Walden
Richard Hawkins

Our Service People

Greg Luttrell, North Carolina
Kenny Knight, Afghanistan
Jennifer Rogers-Cooper, SC
Jarrett Blair, Georgia
Jessica McMillian
Earl Plumlee, Pakistan
Jeremy Rogers, Maryland

*Names on this list will remain for three weeks.

Call Anne Bottorff, (918) 775-2072, to start the Prayer Chain.