

Day 1

Marty Miranda BCC

Read

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” **Philippians 4:4**

“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.” **Philippians 1:12-13**

Think

Ever notice how two people can look at the same thing but see something different? One person may view a situation through anxiety and fear, while the other person through praise. But each of us has our own perspective. Perspective is how you view something. In this verse, the Apostle Paul is in a prison and chained to a palace guard because he shared the good news Jesus. Yet even in chains, Paul finds a perspective that allows him to rejoice in the Lord, and see an opportunity. You may feel chained at home, but you can choose a new perspective!

What does rejoicing mean for you? How do you rejoice?

Talk about a time when you had a change of perspective

Why do you think Paul was able to look at his circumstance from such a positive perspective?

How can you approach this situation from a new perspective of praise?

Reflect

Be on the lookout for opportunities for God to work in your life, even while “chained” at home!

Pray

God, thank you that I can view my current circumstances with a perspective of gratitude and praise. No matter how hard life seems, help me to trust you, and to see the opportunities in my life for you to work. And help me to rejoice in you, no matter what. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 2

Dayne Scanlon WCC

Read

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.” Psalm 1:1-6

Think

Who is in your community right now? How have you been able to keep in touch with them? This Psalm speaks very clearly about the wisdom of surrounding ourselves with godly people. Without being able to physically be with your friends, how can you still engage in good Christ-centered community today?

Reflect

In our world today, we are bombarded with a mess of things to be distracted with; school, homework, sports, theater (holla), work etc. Recently most of our distractions have obviously been taken away, yet for many of us (myself included) finding time for God seems just as difficult as it used to be. My challenge and encouragement for you today is to read this psalm and put it into practice. Verse two talks about delighting in the law of the Lord and meditating on God’s word. Pick a passage of scripture that means something to you, and meditate on it, take notes call a friend and talk about it, but we are “distraction free”, so let’s fill our time with the Lord today!

Pray

Lord, I pause to say thank you. Thank you for all that you have given me, and for revealing yourself to me. I praise you for your goodness and your mercy. I ask that you would help me “Delight in you” today. Help me be extra thankful for ALL that you have provided for me.

Give me focus today to meditate on your word, and I pray that you would continue to reveal pieces of your character to me. I love you Lord, and I commit this day to you. Amen.

Day 3

Josie Self WCC

Read

"The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?" **Psalm 27:1**

Think

The world can feel very dark on some of these days. But what does it mean that the Lord is our light? What does it look like for Him to illuminate the parts of our lives that seem dark and confusing? In times like these, we look to no one but Jesus for strength. He alone is our salvation, our hope, and our strength.

Reflect

Take a moment to think about the things that feel dark and confusing right now. Maybe you won't be returning to school this year or you don't know if you'll be having a graduation. Maybe you know someone who's health is struggling or your parent lost their job. Now take a few deep breaths and invite the Lord's light and strength into these dark situations. Breathe in His hope and breathe out your fear.

Pray

God, thank you for being my light and strength. Thank you that there is no one greater than you and that in you alone we find our salvation. Help me to turn to you first when I am afraid. Please illuminate the dark situations in my life right now and help me to see where you are moving for my good. I trust you completely, God. Amen.

Day 4

Chrissy Davis HCC

Read

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." **Colossians 3:1-3**

Think

It can be easy in this uncertain time so allow our minds to focus on what is out of control, what has been taken from us, and what we lack. Paul tells us in Colossians as people following Jesus we should focus not on what is going on on earth but on the truth that Jesus is seated with God. The Bible tells us He is praying on our behalf. What would it look like for you to focus on the things above and on Jesus, and his work on our behalf? How can you use this time at home to invest in your relationship with Jesus your savior? The one who is praying for you all the time.

Reflect

Start a reading plan with a friend or leader. You could start in the book of John and learn about Jesus' life on earth.

Pray

God thank you for Jesus my savior. He cares not only about my physical health but also about my spiritual health. Jesus thank you for fighting for me. Holy Spirit, draw me to the Bible and to prayer in this season. Amen

Day 5

Garrett Carr WCC

Read

"...seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator...Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." **Colossians 3:9-10, 12-16**

Think

In this passage, Paul wants to encourage these believers to put on the "new self" and to forget the "old self". He encourages them, instead of being stuck in the ways of their past life, to look to the character of Jesus to see the ways that they should be living. In this season, where all of our normal rhythms have been disturbed and our community feels more separated, it may be easy to slowly stop doing the things that bring us closer to Jesus. And that's what the Accuser would love for us to do; to slip back into our old selves and our old routines. This means that it becomes even more important to look to Jesus to shape our minds and hearts

Reflect

- What rhythms of connecting with Jesus may have been disturbed in this time? Reading the Bible in the morning? Connecting and praying with your friends/family? Regular serving opportunities? Have you noticed a shift in your mindset for each day?
- Are there habits or behaviors that you are finding yourself caught in that are a part of your "old self", but you're finding it easier to do them again?
- What is one way that you can fight the temptation towards the "old self"? What is one way you can take a step back towards the "new self"?
- Of the attributes in the passage, like patience and forgiveness, encouragement and being in the Word, pick one to try to focus on today. For example, look for ways to be more patient or kind with your family or to encourage them. Little steps like this may be the small ways to fight the habits of the "old self" and to allow Jesus to shape our "new self".

Pray

Jesus, thank you that you are close to me in the middle of this difficult time. Please speak to me through your Holy Spirit today. Show me the ways that I may be moving closer to my old habits and thoughts instead of you. Remind me that you have victory over my fears,

habits, and my sin; that you give me power to follow you. I am not stuck in my old ways, but you have given me new life. Help me to step into your new life today.