

FRIDAY

11-5-10

Read: Ephesians 1:11-23 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=ephesians+1:11-23)

Prayer: God of power and might, I tremble before You. I am in awe of You. How can You be so powerful and still love me? Your power of love is even more mysterious to me than Your power to create the universe. God of power I celebrate Your power in my life even though I cannot understand or comprehend it. Continue to fill me up so that I may grow with You to make a difference for You in this world. Amen

Journal Reflection: God's power is available to you on a daily basis. The key to receiving God's power is your willingness to be open to Christ's presence in your life. Electricity can not flow through a closed circuit. God's power cannot flow through a closed heart. Invite God's power to flow in and through you today. Pray for Christ's powerful presence to be in your life. Open every closed door and window in your soul.

Resolve: I am open to the power of God being in my life.

SATURDAY

11-6-10

Read: Psalm 119:137-144 (www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+119:137-144)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, energize me to be able to hear Your voice and follow Your holy words in my daily life. I know Your teachings are wise. I know that following Your leadership is best. Yet, one distraction after another fills my thoughts. Give me grace to hear Your loving voice within my soul. Give me strength to actually follow Your teachings today. Amen

Journal Reflection: Over and over again the Psalmist repeats that God's teachings are right, trustworthy, tested, everlasting, true, and a delight. In our search for self-expression it is difficult to consider that God's teachings might be better than our own thoughts. Our arrogance leads to major life traumas. Better that we become more like the Psalmist and appreciate, learn, follow, and love God's teachings. With an attitude of openness to God's way, our lives will be much more victorious. Choose today to follow God's teaching even if it runs counter to your thinking.

Resolve: I will learn to love and follow God's teachings.

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

For Sunday, October 31, 2010's Sermon

Foundational Scripture: Acts 11:19-26 (NRSV)

Featured Scripture Reflection: "A Peculiar People" (Acts 11:19-26 NRSV)

Opening Icebreaker: Share one or two things you do or enjoy which might not be considered normal (Example: "I love the smell of play-dough" or, "I wear sandals in the snow")

Scripture Questions

What is the scripture saying?

- How was the persecution of the early church a blessing and a curse?
- What compelled some of the early believers to "proclaim" the Lord Jesus and what compelled others to only speak of it to the Jews?
- Why did the church in Jerusalem send Barnabas to observe the situation in Antioch? When the text says that Barnabas "saw the grace of God," what tangible things do you think he observed?
- Why do you think Barnabas selected Saul to help lead the fledgling congregation in Antioch?

How is your life touched?

- Have you ever been treated poorly because you behaved contrary to generally accepted principles or expectations?
- What risks does one face if they choose to "proclaim" or "tell the good news"?
- What do you think of Flannery O'Connor's quote (based on John 8:32): "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you odd."
- In general, what do you think an unchurched person thinks of when they hear the term "Christian"? What characteristics run through their mind? The following text tells how the name "Christian" first came about. With this account in mind, what *should* the word "Christian" bring to mind?

What is God's invitation to you?

- How do you live differently from those around you? What difference does it make to others? Does your faith compel you to greater isolation or "greater invitation"?
- What makes Chilson Hills Church unique or different? How do you speak of this congregation to others? Would you feel comfortable inviting others to be a part of this congregation? Why or Why not.

What can you pray for?

- Pray that we would live "peculiar" lives of faith and that our congregation would be fearless in proclaiming our "peculiar" faith to others through daily, ordinary attempts.