



122 S. SAN MANUEL SAN ANTONIO TX 78237

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***WESTLAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

**AND YOUTUBE:**

**WESTLAWN UMC**

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*“Y estoy convencido de que nada podrá jamás separarnos del amor de Dios.*

*Ni la muerte ni la vida, ni ángeles ni demonios,<sup>[a]</sup> ni nuestros temores de hoy ni nuestras preocupaciones de mañana.*

*Ni siquiera los poderes del infierno pueden separarnos del amor de Dios.*

*<sup>39</sup> Ningún poder en las alturas ni en las profundidades, de hecho, nada en toda la creación podrá jamás separarnos del amor de Dios, que está revelado en Cristo Jesús nuestro Señor.” Romanos 8:38-39*

Estimados Hermanos y hermanas: Damos gracias a Dios quien nos bendice todos los dias, quien cuida de nosotros y provee para todas nuestras necesidades.

Les invito a que sigan acompañándonos en nuestros servicios, estudios bíblicos y tiempos de oración durante cada semana. Durante el mes de Julio estuvimos aprendiendo del Apóstol Pablo y sus viajes. Ahora en el mes de Agosto concluiremos esta maravillosa historia de fe y valor del Apóstol en su tercer viaje misionero y su ultimo viaje a Roma. Les invito que continúen con los materiales después del boletines dominicales donde cuentan con lecturas y preguntas de reflexión y un resumen breve del sermón.

Los 3 últimos domingos de Agosto, estudiaremos las “3 reglas simples de Juan Wesley” cada semana estaremos aprendiendo como vivir estas 3 simples reglas: No hacer el mal, hacer el bien y vivir enamorado de Dios, Aprenderemos que atreves de estas simples reglas podremos disfrutar de la paz y el gozo de la vida en Cristo. Nuestra Iglesia sigue adelante, hemos terminado 8 semanas de programa de entrega de lonches, libros y manualidades de lunes a jueves. Servimos mas de 50 niños durante las 8 semanas. También agradecemos por tener entrega de despensa cada semana aproximadamente 100 familias por semanas. Nuestros amigos de Daily Bread y Children Hunger fund, nos compartían leche y otros productos que compartimos cada semana en los Apartamentos General McMullen. Además de recibir 200 platos de comida de Asian Wok cada semana para la comunidad.

Les amamos mucho y están en nuestras oraciones, siempre orando por ustedes y sus familias, que Dios llene sus vidas con su presencia y amor. Que el poder del Señor cuide de todos los que ustedes aman y que en todo momento EL los proteja. Siempre en nuestro corazón: Pastora Liliana Padilla y familia.



TERCER VIAJE MISIONERO DE PABLO

## Paul's Third Missionary Journey

WESTLAWN UMC—122 S. SAN MANUEL, SAN ANTONIO TX 78237

AGOSTO 2, 2020

### Oración de Adoración y Confesión

#### Call to Worship

(inspired by Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6)

Lead a life worthy of the calling  
to which you are called:

**We cannot do this alone,  
we dare not try this alone,  
so we gather as God's people.**

Lead a life worthy of your calling,  
a life filled with service and meekness.

**We come to build up Christ's Body,  
in humility and gentleness,  
with patience and love. Lead a life which re-  
flects your calling,  
that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.**

We rejoice in our oneness in Christ;  
we would share the grace offered to us.

Live a life worthy of the calling  
to which you have been called.

**We gather as God's family  
at the Table prepared for us,  
waiting to be fed by the Bread of life**

### Prayer of Adoration and Confession

#### Llamada al culto

(inspirado por Efesios 4:1-16, Juan 6)

Llevar una vida digna del llamamiento  
a la que se nos llama:

**No podemos hacer esto solos,  
no nos atrevemos a probar esto solos,  
así que nos reunimos como  
el pueblo de Dios.**

Llevar una vida digna de tu vocación,  
una vida llena de servicio y mansedumbre.

**Venimos a edificar el Cuerpo de Cristo,  
con humildad y dulzura,  
con paciencia y amor. Llevar una vida que refleje tu  
llamado, una vida de paz basada en el Espíritu.**

Nos regocijamos en nuestra unidad en Cristo;  
compartiríamos la gracia que se nos ofrece.

Vivir una vida digna del llamamiento  
a la que tu nos has llamado.

**Nos reunimos como familia de Dios  
en la Mesa preparada para nosotros,  
esperando ser alimentado por el Pan de vida**

## WORSHIP TIME

## CHILDREN'S TIME

## OFFERING

*<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

- **Ways You Can Send Us Your Offerings**

- **Www.myiglesiawestlawn.org**

- **By email: Rene de la Cruz**

**9446 Hindi Drive, San Antonio TX 78224**

***Prayer for illumination:*** *Loving God, enter into our hearts. Help us to receive you with joy and thanksgiving. Instill in each of us the mind of Christ, that we may be your disciples on this earth. In Jesús name Amen.*

***Bible Reading: Acts 19:1-7 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.***

## SERMON SERIES:

## Holy Communion

## Blessing

## TIEMPO DE ALABANDA

## TIEMPO PARA LOS NIÑOS

## OFRENDA:

Cada uno de como propuso en su Corazon  
no con tristeza o por necesidad porque  
Dios ama al dador alegre.

2 Corintios 9:7

**\*Formas en que usted puede hacernos llegar sus ofrendas.**

**-A traves de la pagina:**

**www.myiglesiawestlawn.org**

**-Por correo regular al hermano Rene de La Cruz**

**Cheque a nombre de la Iglesia Westlawn  
9446 Hindi Drive, San Antonio TX 78224**

**Oración por la iluminación:** Amado Dios, entra en nuestros corazones. Ayúdanos a recibirte con alegría y acción de gracias. Infunde en cada uno de nosotros la mente de Cristo, para que podamos ser sus discípulos en esta tierra. En el nombre de Jesus.

## **Lectura Biblica: Hechos 19:1-7**

**19** Mientras Apolos estaba en Corinto, Pablo recorrió las regiones del interior y llegó a Éfeso. Allí encontró a algunos discípulos. **2** —¿Recibieron ustedes el Espíritu Santo cuando creyeron? —les preguntó. —No, ni siquiera hemos oído hablar del Espíritu Santo —respondieron. **3** —Entonces, ¿qué bautismo recibieron? —El bautismo de Juan. **4** Pablo les explicó:

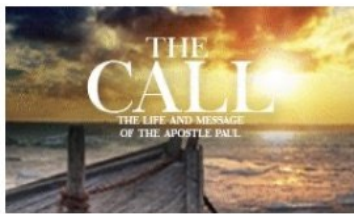
—El bautismo de Juan no era más que un bautismo de arrepentimiento. Él le decía al pueblo que creyera en el que venía después de él, es decir, en Jesús.

**5** Al oír esto, fueron bautizados en el nombre del Señor Jesús. **6** Cuando Pablo les impuso las manos, el Espíritu Santo vino sobre ellos, y empezaron a hablar en lenguas y a profetizar. **7** Eran en total unos doce hombres.

## Santa Comunión

## BENDICION





## Paul's Third Missionary Journey

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### MONDAY

**Acts 18:23, 19:1-7**

Do you recall that on his second missionary journey, Paul wanted to go to Ephesus, but the Holy Spirit somehow kept him from it? He tried again on his third journey, and got there. Early on, he met some disciples whom John the Baptist (or a follower of his) had baptized. They didn't know about Jesus or the Holy Spirit. Paul showed them that John had pointed forward to Jesus, and that the Holy Spirit's power continues Jesus' work in giving us a new inner life. Baptized in the name of Jesus, they began to experience that power.

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### TUESDAY

**Acts 19:8-17**

Ephesus was a major travel and commerce center (three main Roman roads ran through the city). Paul preached there for two years, first in the synagogue, then in Tyrannus' lecture hall. Luke said that after two years, "everyone living in the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the Lord's word." Some traveling exorcists tried to "borrow" Jesus' name as a gimmick. The results showed clearly that "Jesus" was not a magic word, but a real Lord to take seriously.

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### WEDNESDAY

**Acts 19:18-22**

As in most major cities, many Ephesian citizens held political or economic power. Some also sought to exercise a more mystical kind of power, through the dark arts of sorcery or magic. But a greater power—the greatest power—had come to town. Luke wrote, "The Lord's word grew abundantly and strengthened powerfully." One sign was that people who believed Paul's message then got rid of sorcery scrolls worth roughly 50,000 days' wages!

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### THURSDAY

**Acts 19:23-41**

When some Ephesians burned their costly sorcery scrolls, they set the stage for real trouble. Some Ephesian silversmiths who made profitable temple and goddess statues were furious. They rioted because Paul taught, "Gods made by human hands aren't really gods." Their leader Demetrius claimed their protest was about reverence for the "great goddess Artemis" (verse 27). But his real concern showed in verse 25: "you know that we make an easy living from this business."

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### FRIDAY

**Acts 20:1-12**

After the riot led by silversmiths, Paul left Ephesus. He spent three months in Macedonia and Greece, strengthening the churches there. He was determined to go to Jerusalem, taking an offering from the Gentile churches to help poverty-stricken Jewish Christians as a sign of the unity of all believers (cf. 2 Corinthians 8-9, probably written from Ephesus). In Troas, God's power used Paul as its instrument to give life back to a young man who fell after dozing off during a long discussion.

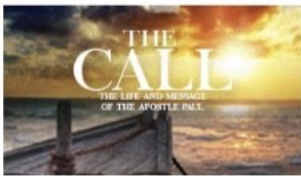
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### SATURDAY

**Acts 20:13-38**

As he set out for Jerusalem, Paul asked the Ephesian church elders to meet him in a nearby port city. He reviewed the essential principles of his time with them, and urged them to keep on serving Christ as faithfully as he always tried to. It was an emotional meeting. Paul had a strong sense that his enemies were likely to be stronger in Jerusalem than in any of the other cities where he had preached. The Ephesians wept as he told them, "I know that none of you will see me again."

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### SUGGESTED PRAYER

Almighty God, thank you for standing by Paul, whose life and writings bless and inspire us. Give us some of his courage and faith, as we strive to do whatever you set before us. Surround us with people who can make us stronger and let your life-giving power flow through us. Amen.

### CONNECT (5-10 minute discussion, at most)

Have you noticed that KC Royals fans tend to say “we” are going to the World Series? What happens that allows us all to live vicariously through the successes of our local teams?

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND STUDY

**NOTE:** We encourage study groups to have several different Bible translations available for these readings. Reading aloud from the *Common English Bible* or *The Message* may help to clarify the meaning of some passages.

- Read **Acts 18:23, 19:1-7**. Did these people fully understand the message of Jesus? How fully do you understand your faith? Can you relate to the Holy Spirit or is that an aspect of God that you don't really understand? What helps you to keep deepening that understanding, and experiencing the Spirit's life-changing power? The people experienced the miracle of the Holy Spirit after Paul baptized them. Do you wish you had had a similar experience, or are you already confident you have received the Holy Spirit?
  - Read **Acts 19:8-17**. “Some people had closed their minds” (verse 9). Do you know people who have closed their mind and seem to have no faith? Why is that? Even if they now have no faith, do you think they might come around in time? What will it take for them to change? Can you contribute to that change? Do you think there are people today who might profess Jesus, but who might have no real faith and really just want to promote their own agenda? How can we know, love and serve God without having our own, hidden agenda?
  - Read **Acts 19:18-22**. How powerful were the messages that Paul delivered? Do you wish you could have heard what he had to say? How big an effect did his message have on people? What kinds of “magic scrolls” do some of us hang on to? Have you ever had to “burn” anything of value in order to follow God faithfully? What kinds of places in our lives are there where we need to make a clean, final break from something hurtful and wrong? How can we make these kinds of breaks without looking back with a kind of regret?
  - Read **Acts 19:23-41**. What was “The Way”? What are some equivalents today to what these people called an “easy living”? Have things changed much in today's world? Where have you seen faith in Jesus still have economic effects? Have you ever been like the disciples and government officials, helping someone like Paul avoid a foolish risk? Have you ever seen hometown pride, patriotism, or social norms turn into a mindless, irrational defense of “us” vs. “them”? How can we honor our city and country without absurdly assuming that “ours” is always better, just because it's “ours”?
  - Read **Acts 20:1-12**. Was Paul a “loner” when it came to preaching the good news of Christ? Why did Paul value having others help him with this message? How important is it for us to enlist the gifts of others to work with us in serving God? Was it Paul who restored the life of the young man? How did God use Paul in this miracle? Do you personally believe that such power is available to us even today? Why?
  - Read **Acts 20:13-38**. As he was leaving, what kinds of “savage wolves” did Paul warn the people about? Do some people today “distort the word in order to lure followers after them.”? Paul said, “...by working hard, we must help the weak.” How is this still happening today? Paul also quoted Jesus as saying, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
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How have you found this to be true in your experience? Paul left knowing that he was going to face some of his most severe trials yet. How can we garner the strength to push forward with our witness, knowing we will face opposition?

**From last week:** Did you prayerfully consider your attitude toward people of other American political beliefs? Did you open your heart to embrace them as your “neighbors”? Did you pray for them and love them as you know you should? If you had opportunity, did you discuss with them beliefs you both share? Share with the group however your attitudes toward them might have changed.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INSIGHT

Last week we followed Paul on his second missionary journey through Greece. That journey ended with Paul returning with Silas to Antioch in Syria. This is where Paul's third journey begins. Luke in one verse simply says: “Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus.” That one line captures Paul travelling 700 miles. He would have revisited the churches he started five years earlier—Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Antioch. The road he took would have taken him past Colossae, a city he would likely have stopped in, to whom he writes letters. Where Paul really wants to go is Ephesus. If Rome is like our New York, then Ephesus is Los Angeles. It was the fourth largest city in the Roman Empire after Rome, Alexandria and Antioch in Syria. It was the most important city in Asia Minor. From here the gospel could spread across Asia and Greece.

Paul stayed here in Ephesus for 2 years and three months....Upon Paul's arrival in Ephesus? Here's what we read: “Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ They answered, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’”

How fascinating. Paul meets persons who called themselves disciples of Jesus, yet these disciples had a very limited understanding of the Christian faith. They were familiar with Jesus, but had been baptized by John the Baptist or someone who had heard the call under John. They have an only a partially formed view of God that does not include knowledge of the Holy Spirit, and they were baptized only with John's baptism for repentance of sin.

Paul re-baptizes them—this is the only example in scripture of rebaptism, and then only because these persons were not baptized in the name of Jesus. But here's what I want you to notice: Paul lays his hands on them and they begin to speak in unknown languages and prophecy as they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

How many of us have an only partially formed faith because we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit? Or having heard, we act like there is not a Holy Spirit? Power, Jesus said earlier in the Book of Acts, comes from the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is God's presence dwelling in, and working through us, guiding us into truth, giving us gifts for ministry. We lay hands on at baptism, and at confirmation. Many of us have yet to experience the power of the Spirit's work in our lives.

Acts goes on, “Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.”

This is amazing. Literally thousands of Jewish people, and many Gentiles, bought small magic scrolls meant to give you power against demons, to help you overcome infertility, or otherwise to supposedly give you power to be healthy, wealthy and wise. They spent a small fortune on these things that were meant to make them happy, and owning them gave them a sense of security.

In what ways do we put our trust in things other than God? Lottery tickets? Medications, other things? Christ has power, is the source of power, these other things are often false sources of life. So they burned these things. They did not sell them—they did not want them in the hand of someone else. What in your life needs to be set aside because it no longer is consistent with your faith in Christ? What do you trust in that doesn't merit your trust?

Ephesus was the center of the worship of Artemis, the goddess of fertility, animals and women. For crops, for animals, for women's diseases or childbearing, she was your goddess. Temples were found throughout the empire to her. But Ephesus considered itself the protector of Artemis' honor. There on a hillside was built a magnificent temple to her. It was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Unfortunately it has been entirely destroyed and its building materials reused in other places.

People came from all over to Ephesus to pray, to honor the goddess and seek her favor for their crops, for infertility or for illness for women. This was a major revenue source for the city. Among the chief recipients of this largess were the silversmiths who made figurines of the goddess. At some point in the past a meteor had fallen from heaven in Ephesus. It was bulbous and was thought to be an image of the goddess. She was portrayed as multi-breasted, symbolizing fertility.

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The gospel preaching of Paul and the effect of Christianity began to impact the pocketbook of the silversmiths, Luke tells us. So the gospel was hurting people's business, not as a result of a concerted plan to shut down the silversmiths. Instead the gospel was changing values and leading people to do business differently, to change their habits which affected the sale of idols.

This got me thinking about the economic impact of the gospel today and our idols. What is it that we idolize? What we spend our money on represents what's most important in our lives.

I wonder, how do our spending habits change as we become followers of Christ? Are there things we might buy less of, or might choose not to spend our money on at all anymore? In what ways, or what businesses, might the spread of Christianity impact? What, in our lives, might we be spending money on that we need to set aside?

Ephesus becomes a center of Christianity. Paul spends three years there. Luke lives out his days there, as do Timothy and John the apostle. Mary the mother of Jesus, according to some traditions lives out her days there. The center of Christianity is moving westward from Jerusalem, to Antioch, to Ephesus, and, by the end of the first century, Rome.

Okay, here's what I think we're meant to hear from God from this story of Paul's missionary journey to Ephesus:

1. We need the power of the Holy Spirit. Though we may have heard of the Spirit, many of us live like these 12 disciples who did not know there was a Holy Spirit. Each morning, I beckon the Spirit to come. Each day I seek to listen to the Spirit. I want you to be people who are not only filled with the Spirit, but drawing upon the Spirit's power.

2. We're meant to trust in God, not in horoscopes or angels or anything other than God. There are likely things in our lives that we may have given a place—superstitions—that need to go.

3. A deeply committed Christian faith will have some economic impact. It will lead us to spend some of our money differently, to use it for purposes greater than ourselves, to stop spending it on things that are contrary to our faith—to set aside our idols.

I'd like to end by inviting you to invite the Holy Spirit to breathe upon you, to fill you and to empower you.

### Ephesus

In the ancient world, Ephesus was a center of travel and commerce. Situated on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of the Cayster River, the city was one of the greatest seaports of the ancient world.

Three major roads led from the seaport: one road went east towards Babylon via Laodicea, another to the north via Smyrna and a third south to the Meander Valley.

Considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, Ephesus' Temple of Artemis was dedicated to the goddess of the hunt. Only the foundation and one column remains of this temple which once measured 425 feet long, 220 feet wide and 60 feet high. Paul's successful ministry in this city was considered a threat to this very temple (Acts 19:27).



Library of Celsus - Originally built in AD 115-25, this restored facade is a highlight of the ruins today. This style is believed to be the standard architectural form for Roman libraries.



Theater - Originally holding 25,000 people, this theater was built in the Hellenistic period and was renovated by several Roman emperors. Designed for theatrical performances, later alterations allowed gladiatorial contests to be held here. When Paul was accused of hurting the Artemis and her temple, the mob gathered together in this theater

Source: <http://www.bibleplaces.com/ephesus.htm>

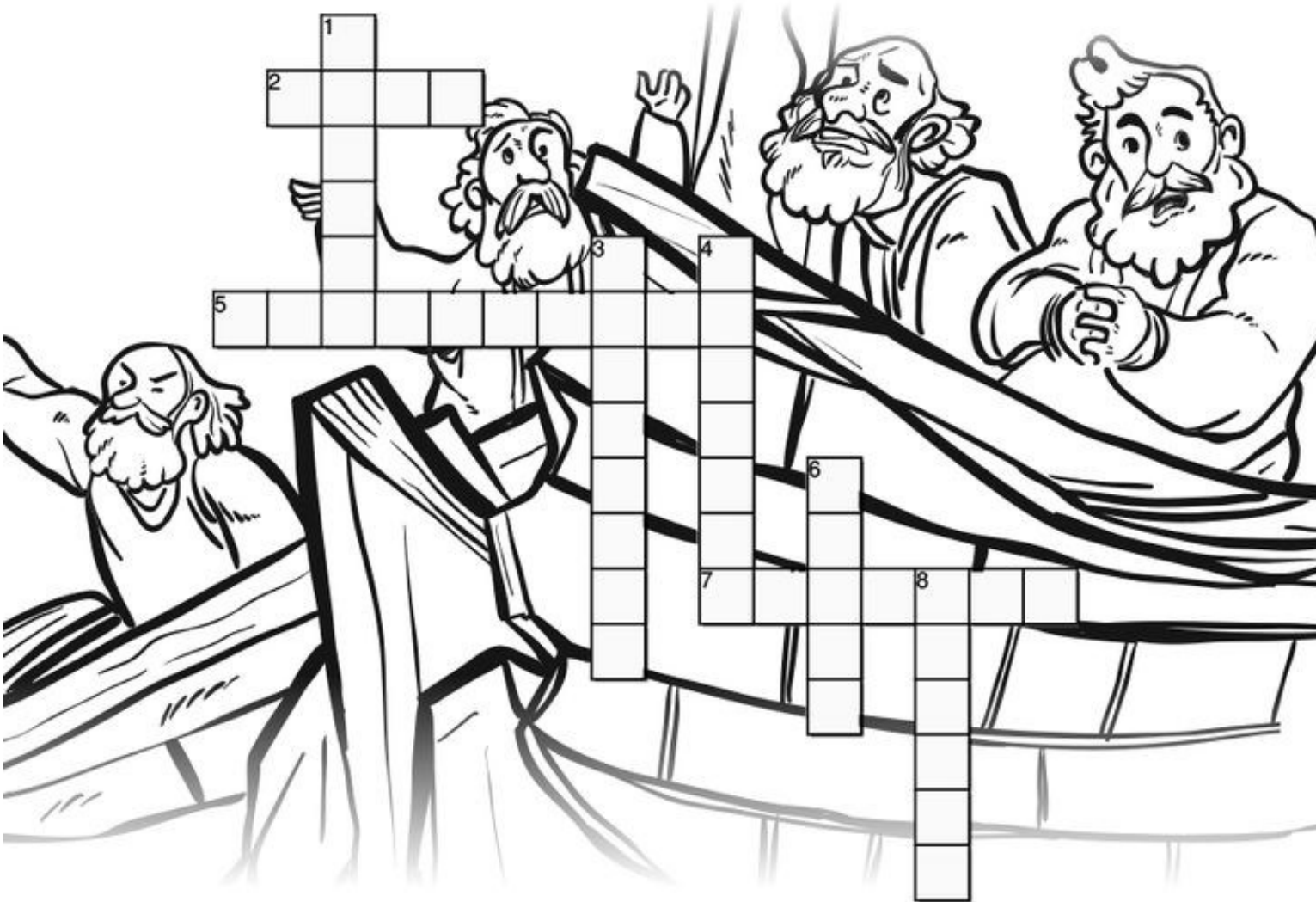
### Final application:

This week, ask God to allow his Holy Spirit to overflow within you so that you can fulfill his wish for you to be an instrument of his goodness within the world and with the people you come in contact with. Pray also that the Holy Spirit might also flow into the hearts and minds of those who might not yet know Christ. Next week, please share with the group how this experience helped you.



# THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF PAUL

## Book of Acts



### Across

2. Paul and Silas were put into \_\_\_\_\_ for preaching.
5. When Paul and Silas sang and prayed, an \_\_\_\_\_ shook the prison and opened all the doors and chains.
7. The religious leaders in Lystra stirred up lies, which led to them \_\_\_\_\_ Paul, just as they did to Stephen, but God saved Paul's life.

### Down

1. Paul saved the \_\_\_\_\_ by convincing him not to take his own life, and then by sharing Jesus with him and his whole family.
3. In the city of Lystra, Paul and his friend \_\_\_\_\_ were preaching about Jesus.
4. Paul's (**Letters**) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible, and teach us about Jesus.
6. Paul's ship crashed into rocks during a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Paul preached the gospel even while stranded on a tiny \_\_\_\_\_.



This map can be viewed at:  
**www.bible.ca**  
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**PAUL'S  
THIRD JOURNEY**  
Acts 18:23-21:17

SCALE OF MILES

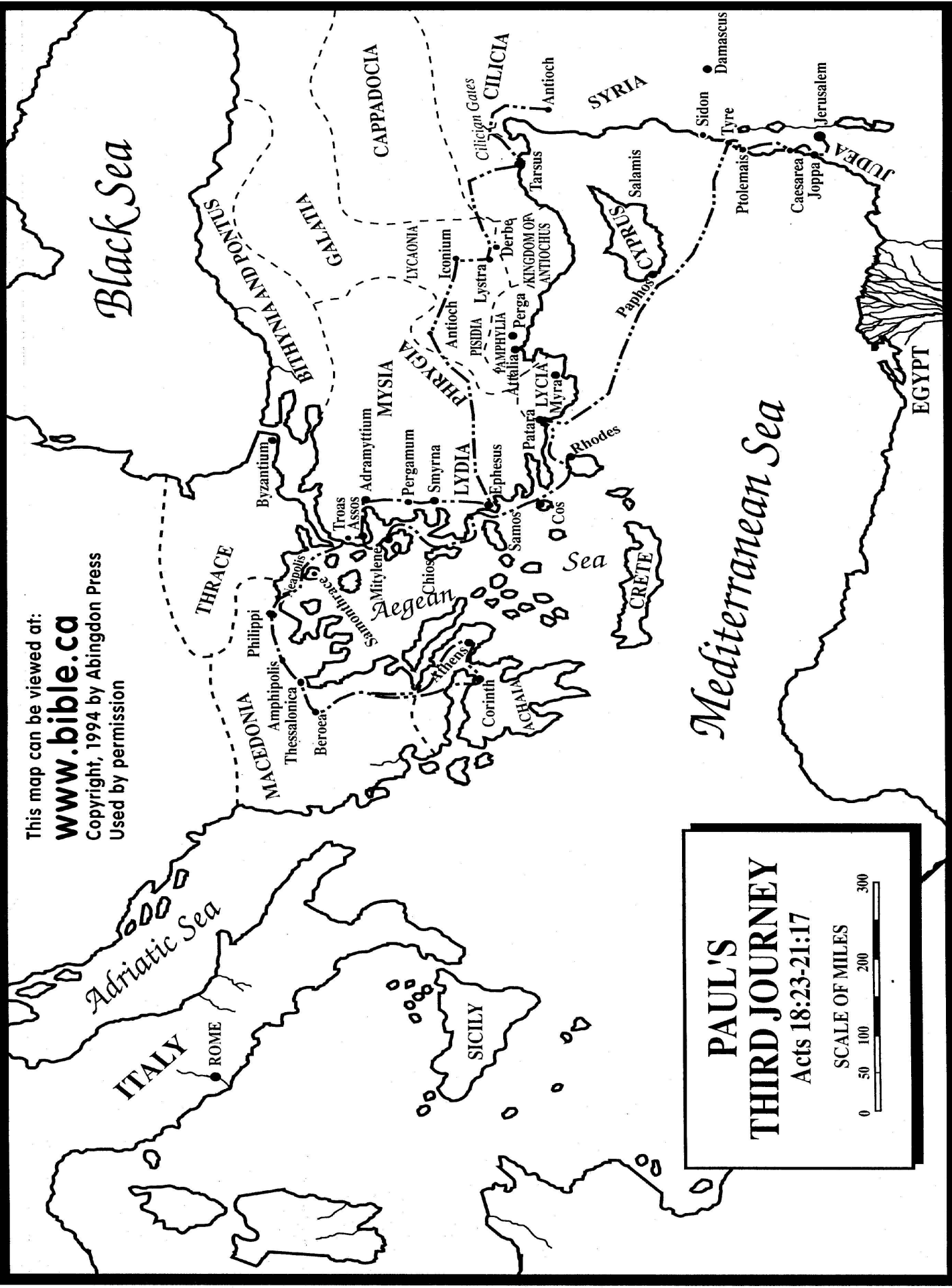
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## Paul's Final Years

Westlawn UMC 122 S. SAN MANUEL SAN ANTONIO TX 78237 August 9, 2020

### Call to Worship

A Prayer to the Potter

(inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-11, Isaiah 64:8)

Dear Potter,

The lump of clay that I am

Keeps crying for some form

Day by day I yearn for you to mold me

This is a trust song, Lord

I am in your hands like clay

I am ready to be transformed:

I expect to be molded

I expect to be beautiful

I expect to be loved.

And if by chance

Someone should drop me

As your apprentices sometimes do,

I expect to be hurt.

I'm just trying to say

I have surrendered to your dream for me

I am in your hands like clay

**WORSHIP TIME**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

### Llamado a la adoración

Una oración al alfarero

(inspirado por Jeremías 18:1-11, Isaías 64:8)

Querido Potter,

El trozo de barro que soy

Sigue llorando por alguna forma.

Día a día

Anhelo que me moldees

Esta es un canto de confianza, Señor

Estoy en tus manos como el barro

Estoy listo para ser transformado:

Espero ser moldeado

Espero ser hermorso

Espero ser amado.

Y si por casualidad

Alguien debería dejarme

Como a veces hacen tus aprendices,

Espero que me lastimen.

Sólo estoy tratando de decir

Me he rendido a tu sueño por mí

Estoy en tus manos como el barro.

**TIEMPO DE ALABANDA**

**TIEMPO PARA LOS NIÑOS**

## OFFERING

*<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

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***Bible Reading: Acts 20:22-24 and 20:36-38***

***22 “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.***

***36 When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. 37 They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. 38 What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.***

## Blessing

## OFRENDA:

Cada uno de como propuso en su Corazon  
no con tristeza o por necesidad porque  
Dios ama al dador alegre.

2 Corintios 9:7

**\*Formas en que usted puede hacernos llegar sus ofrendas.**

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**-Por correo regular al hermano Rene de La Cruz**

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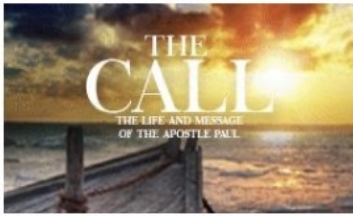
***Lectura Biblica: Hechos 20:22-24, 36-38***

***22 »Y ahora tengan en cuenta que voy a Jerusalén obligado[a] por el Espíritu, sin saber lo que allí me espera. 23 Lo único que sé es que en todas las ciudades el Espíritu Santo me asegura que me esperan prisiones y sufrimientos. 24 Sin embargo, considero que mi vida carece de valor para mí mismo, con tal de que termine mi carrera y lleve a cabo el servicio que me ha encomendado el Señor Jesús, que es el de dar testimonio del evangelio de la gracia de Dios.***

***32 »Ahora los encomiendo a Dios y al mensaje de su gracia, mensaje que tiene poder para edificarlos y darles herencia entre todos los santificados. 33 No he codiciado ni la plata ni el oro ni la ropa de nadie. 34 Ustedes mismos saben bien que estas manos se han ocupado de mis propias necesidades y de las de mis compañeros. 35 Con mi ejemplo les he mostrado que es preciso trabajar duro para ayudar a los necesitados, recordando las palabras del Señor Jesús: “Hay más dicha en dar que en recibir”».***

## BENDICION





## Paul's Final Journey

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### MONDAY

**Acts 21:27-40**

When Paul got to Jerusalem, the church leaders asked him to show that he was not trying to tear down the Law of Moses. They asked him to take part in a Hebrew ritual (cf. Acts 21:20-24), and Paul agreed willingly. Ironically, during that ritual some of his enemies from Asia saw him in the Temple. They wrongly assumed he had taken a Gentile into the area set aside for Jews only, and urged the crowd to kill him. Only prompt action by Roman soldiers saved Paul from swift, violent death.

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### TUESDAY

**Acts 23:6-31**

Like many Romans, the commander who rescued Paul from the mob by arresting him was at a loss to understand Jewish religious arguments (which included, in his view, the Christians). He called the Jewish council (the Sanhedrin) together, and asked Paul to speak to them. Knowing firsthand how divided the council members were, Paul cannily called on his history as a Pharisee. They got almost as angry at one another as they were at him.

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### WEDNESDAY

**Acts 25:9-12, 26:1-32**

Paul stayed in Roman custody for two years, safe from plotters (cf. Acts 24). Then a new Roman governor, Porcius Festus, saw it as good politics to please the Jewish leaders by sending Paul back to Jerusalem. But that journey still risked ambush. Paul, born in Tarsus and therefore a Roman citizen, used his legal right to appeal to Caesar. This assured him a trip to Rome under Roman protection (albeit as a prisoner). His strong testimony to Jesus triggered strong reactions in Festus and King Agrippa (a great-grandson of Herod the Great).

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### THURSDAY

**Acts 28:1-16,  
Philippians 1:12-26**

Sent off to Rome on a Mediterranean sailing ship, Paul experienced a shipwreck (cf. Acts 27:13-44). Paul and his guards wintered on Malta (see map on p. 4). The next spring, when he reached Rome, a company of Christians welcomed him. From Rome (cf. Philippians 4:22), Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi about his God-based confidence, both in life and in death.

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### FRIDAY

**Acts 28:17-31, 1  
Corinthians 15:1-20**

Paul reached out to the Jewish leaders in Rome. As in most other places, he got at best a mixed reaction. He quoted Isaiah 6:9-10, and told them that salvation was also going to the Gentiles. Based on Acts 28:20, and Paul's earlier embrace of the Pharisees' belief in the idea of resurrection, Jesus' resurrection must have been central to his appeal. He probably used language much like that in chapter 15 of his letter to Christians in Corinth.

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### SATURDAY

**2 Timothy 4:6-13, 16-18**

In a moving letter, Paul asked Timothy to come to him before the Romans executed him. The requests for the cloak and the scrolls, "especially the parchments," show Paul's human frailty and his resolve to keep learning and growing right to the end. We don't know if Timothy made it—but we know Paul's unsinkable faith still inspires Christians around the world. As scholar N. T. Wright said, "The picture we get, as we take leave of this intimate and personal letter, is of a man facing serious trouble and likely death, beset with problems and anxieties, but who nevertheless remains determined to bring every single aspect of his life into the orbit of the gospel itself, the royal proclamation of Jesus as Lord. He lives in the present world, Caesar's world, as already a cheerful citizen of the world to come, Jesus' world."

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### SUGGESTED PRAYER

Lord Jesus, whether you use us to reach thousands of lives, as Paul did, or just to be a faithful friends, work in our lives to make this world a better place. Keep us all on course to finish this race in triumph. Thank you for winning that victory, which we could never have won for ourselves, and then sharing your victory with us. Amen.

### CONNECT (5-10 minute discussion, at most)

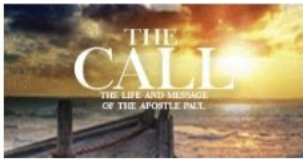
As we reach the end of October, do you find yourself looking forward to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons, dreading them, or having some other mix of feelings about them? Will you be happy or sad to leave the year 2014 behind you?

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND STUDY

**NOTE:** We encourage study groups to have several different Bible translations available for these readings. Reading aloud from the *Common English Bible* or *The Message* may help to clarify the meaning of some passages.

- Read **Acts 21:27-40**. Would you say Paul was brave? If so, where did his courage come from? How afraid must he have been while a huge mob was attacking him? Did the Roman soldiers show up just in time by chance? Did Paul know that the soldiers would save him before he was attacked? When these people spoke against Paul, were they entirely truthful? Have you found the people who argue against Christ today to be entirely truthful? Are you able to differ with someone without falsely portraying or exaggerating what you or that person believes?
  - Read **Acts 23:6-31**. What do you think you would do if people who opposed your faith plotted to kill you for your beliefs? Would you be ready to die for your faith? What if, instead of death, you were threatened with torture? Could either of these hypothetical situations happen? Should Christians wish for any kind of harm to come to anyone who has beliefs different from their own? How do we go about "defending the faith"? Paul's nephew, who we know nothing else about, saved Paul from death. When have you seen God work through people; sometimes unexpected people?
  - Read **Acts 25:9-12, 26:1-32**. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar? Did Paul make a mistake by appealing to Caesar? Why might this appeal have been important to God's plan? Have you ever seen someone raised from the dead? Then why do you believe it happened? Do we believe things about our world and universe that we have never personally seen? Can you really trust as strongly in Jesus' resurrection as Paul did? Was God totally dependent upon Paul's abilities and courage? Why or why not? What was it about Paul that made him a great instrument for God to use? Do you think God might use you to achieve one or more divine goals in the world?
  - Read **Acts 28:1-16, Philippians 1:12-26**. After reading this, what do you think of this man Paul? How would you describe him? How important was he to achieving God's will? What was it about him that was "different"? What was Paul's attitude about death? How do you feel about your own inevitable death? Has God relieved your own fear of death? What about the potential manner of your death? God saw to it that Paul was encouraged, even while things seemed to be going badly. Has God ever encouraged you when things seemed to be going badly?
  - Read **Acts 28:17-31, 1 Corinthians 15:1-20**. In 1 Corinthians 15:10, Paul said, "I have worked harder than all the others—that is, it wasn't me but the grace of God that is with me". What was Paul saying with this statement? How does this affect the way you look upon the work you do for God? Do you think that Paul was confident that his preaching to the Jews in Rome would be effective? Why did he bother? Are there people you care about that you're tempted to give up on; who just aren't going to share your faith? How can Paul's example encourage you to keep seeking loving ways to share?
  - Read **2 Timothy 4:6-13, 16-18**. Paul knew that he was about to die. How would you characterize his courage at that time? How confident was he in his faith in Jesus Christ? How did he seem to feel about those who had opposed him? Did
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he hope God would condemn them? Why not? What gave him that ability to forgive? Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith." What "mid-course corrections" do you think it might take so that Paul's words can also become our personal testimony?

**From last week:** Did you ask God to allow his Holy Spirit to overflow within you so that you can fulfill his wish for you to be an instrument of his goodness within the world and with the people you come in contact with? Did you pray also that the Holy Spirit might also flow into the hearts and minds of those who might not yet know Christ? How did this experience help you?

### FOR ADDITIONAL INSIGHT

Last week we left Paul in Ephesus on his third missionary journey. Upon leaving Ephesus after 27 months, Paul travels to Macedonia to revisit the churches he'd planted there. Then on to Greece to spend three months in Corinth addressing problems in the church there. Then he decides it's time to go back to Jerusalem, but on the way back, he wanted to see the elders of the church at Ephesus one more time.

By the way, part of Paul's aim during this journey revisiting the churches in Macedonia, Greece and Asia was to receive an offering from them for the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem meant to encourage and assist them in what may have been a time of famine back in the Holy Land. I think Paul hoped that this offering from Gentile Christians would demonstrate the unity of Gentile and Jewish followers of Jesus. You can read about this offering in I Corinthians 16, II Corinthians 8-9, and in Romans 15....

Our focus today is Paul's willingness to die for his faith and the final events of his life leading up to his death....LaVon and I were talking recently about what would happen if Ebola or something like it were to spread like the various plagues that spread across Europe with some regularity in the age before we understood diseases. You may have thought about what you'd do if there was a plague of some sort. You'd naturally think of stockpiling food and water and supplies, then cutting yourself off from anyone else in order to avoid becoming infected. I would certainly want to do that for my family. But who then cares for the sick and dying?

I'm reminded of what came to be known as the "plague of Cyprian," when 5,000 people a day died in Rome, and two-thirds of the population of Alexandria were wiped out. While the people of the Empire were struck with fear, Christians devoted themselves to caring for the sick. They not only buried their own, they buried those left on the streets by their families. In Rome they supplied food for 1,500 people a day despite the fact that they were persecuted by the Romans for their faith. In Syrian Antioch the number was 3,000 a day that the Christians fed....It was the faith that Paul had that allowed them to face death in serving Christ and others. If the plague came, would you flee or help? I would feel like fleeing. I pray that I would have the courage to help....

Surprisingly, though Acts was written after Paul's death, Luke chooses to close his story with Paul very much alive. Here's how Acts ends: "He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance."

Why does Luke not tell us the story of Paul's death under Nero in AD 64? He wrote long after this. Perhaps because all who read Acts would know of this story, and he wanted to end the story with Paul in chains proclaiming the gospel of Christ in the largest city in the world, the capital city of the empire, Rome.

It is possible that Paul was released from house arrest at some point. The Jewish leadership may never have come to Rome to testify against him. The charges would likely have been dropped by the Emperor's court even if they had shown up. Some suggest that he travelled, following this, to Spain, and revisited the churches on the Aegean Sea. Others that he remained in Rome teaching and preaching. We'll never know.

But here's what we do know: In mid July, AD 64, a fire broke out in the city of Rome, destroying much of the city and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. Some speculated that Emperor Nero himself had hired thugs to start the fire so that he could redesign the city after his liking. Others discounted this idea. Regardless of how it started, it consumed much of the city. Tacitus, the Roman historian, writes: "Therefore, to stop the rumor [that he had set Rome on fire], he [Emperor Nero] falsely charged with guilt, and punished with the most fearful tortures, the persons commonly called Christians."

Among the first arrested were the ring leaders of the Christian faith, and it appears Paul was in Rome at the time; Peter, too. Tradition says that each, presumably at different times that year, were thrown into the Mamertine dungeon, the prison located on Capitoline Hill....It is there that I imagine Paul writing the closing words of 2 Timothy – a letter which, at face value, would appear to be the last letter Paul wrote: "The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have





kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

How was it Paul faced death with such confidence? He tells us in his letters. In Philippians 2:21 he writes, "To me, living is Christ and dying is gain." In I Corinthians 15:54 he notes that because of the Resurrection of Jesus: "Death has been swallowed up in victory!"...How does Paul's story connect with our story? This weekend I went to visit a woman, her husband and family at KU Med Center's ICU. She learned this week that the doctors had done all they could do for her and her time was short. I shared these scriptures from Paul with them, as I have done hundreds of times with others.

Paul did not think, "I'm the Apostle Paul. I have prayed, studied, served, given myself to this mission. Why did you not deliver me, Jesus, from Nero?" He knew that suffering happens. He did not expect God to spare him, but instead to see Jesus the moment he died. He knew that his death was not a defeat of the gospel, but a victory, that death itself had been swallowed up in victory.... Erin Inciardi is a nurse at KU. She spoke to a 45-year-old man who was dying, and his family. She told them, "There's something my pastor says ever Easter about Jesus' resurrection and the promise of eternal life: 'I not only believe it, I'm counting on it.'" Paul did, I do—and you can, too.



### Paul's Two-Year Roman Imprisonment

An amazing series of events brought Paul to Rome, the capital city of the empire. One archaeological source suggests that the population of the imperial city in the first century was in excess of four million people, about three times the size of a large, modern city. When Paul wrote to the saints in Rome from Corinth (in Greece) during his third missionary journey (cf. Acts 20:2; Romans 16:23), he had expressed an intense longing to visit these Christians (Romans 1:10-11; 15:22). What an evangelistic opportunity this could be! Little did he realize exactly how, in the providential scheme of things, his goal would be fulfilled.

One of the more amazing circumstances reflected in the book of Acts is the manner in which Paul endeared himself to a wide variety of Roman officials. Almost without exception, these dignitaries came to respect God's ambassador to the Gentiles. One really is not surprised, therefore, at the kindly treatment Paul received in the imperial city. Rather than being housed as a common criminal, the apostle was permitted to live in his own rented dwelling, though bound with a chain, and in the company of a guard (28:16, 30; cf. Ephesians 6:20).

The latter portion of Acts 28 summarizes two meetings that Paul had with Rome's leading Jews. And while some of them stubbornly disbelieved his message, others were persuaded by the things he proclaimed (v. 24). This hints of the commencement of a fruitful ministry in the city. Then, abruptly, the narrative ends: "And he abode two whole years in his own hired dwelling, and received all that went in unto him, preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, none forbidding him" (vv. 30-31).

Source: <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/144-pauls-two-year-roman-imprisonment>

### Final application:

This week, prayerfully consider your attitude toward your own death and the death of your loved ones. Ask God for strength and for a more hopeful attitude toward life everlasting. Discuss this issue with others of faith to see what their attitudes reflect. Next week, share with the group whatever you learned.



# Bible Pathway Adventures

WORKSHEET

## SHIPWRECKED!

Read Acts 27-28.

Trace Paul's journey from Jerusalem to Rome on the map.





# Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

## PAUL'S JOURNEYS

A L N B X R T O I Q Z X H S O T S B B Q  
L Y S T R A G O B B I I E Q M D L I Q S  
I T Z S B W M L R Q E Z Q G A A F A O N  
X A I F H A E P B A I N Y U L M U W M X  
V R E K T I R V K J H Y J N T A P M C M  
V S N I O Y P N Q B E T P N A S M V O V  
G U A J Q Q V W A L U J E I I C Q M R R  
A S I D X O P O R B V K X A C U D J I Z  
L P H R V P D X C E A R X H C S W E N D  
A X F Y Q K I F C V C S O A Z H Q L T I  
T E E R T C S K S Q X K J M O J E I H S  
I F X N D Y C B X X B O E C E U S R K R  
A K S E M V I F Q T T F V D B G R T Y A  
F Z Y U F C P D O R Q C B Y N L P U Y E  
M M J B E S L O M H M Y H N Y P W F E L  
K B F M U D E N B J S G H D Y A Q E S I  
F K U A X W S C P R I S O N C U R A H T  
A N T I O C H D Z X N Q K A Q L H J U E  
J V L U I Z Z G J Y F E P H E S U S A V  
T S Y N A G O G U E F O Y L B W L D O G

CORINTH  
TORAH TEACHER  
PAUL  
ANTIOCH  
ROME  
SYNAGOGUE

LYSTRA  
EPHESUS  
BARNABAS  
GALATIA  
PRISON  
ISRAELITE

SHIPWRECKED  
DAMASCUS  
TARSUS  
DISCIPLES  
YESHUA  
MALTA



# 3 Simple Rules

Do No Harm

Do Good

Love God

AGOSTO 16, 2020

First Rule: Do no Harm

Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 149, Romans 13: 8-14,  
Matthew 18: 15-20)

Come, children of God,  
rejoice in your Maker!

Sing songs and hymns, old and new;  
celebrate with voices and instruments,  
with praise and prayers!

Open your eyes to the life-giving presence of  
Jesus Christ.

For God is already here,  
among us and within us,  
bringing new life to all who believe.  
Let's praise God together!

WORSHIP TIME

CHILDREN'S TIME

Primera Regla: No lastimes

Llamada al culto

(basado en Salmos 149, Romanos 13:8-14, Mateo  
18:15-20)

Vengan, hijos de Dios,  
regocijarse en su hacedor!

Canta canciones e himnos, viejos y nuevos;  
Celebra con voces e instrumentos,  
con alabanza y oraciones!

Abrid los ojos a la presencia vital de Jesucristo.

Porque Dios ya está aquí,  
entre nosotros y dentro de nosotros,  
trayendo nueva vida a todos los que creen.  
¡Alabemos a Dios juntos!

TIEMPO DE ALABANDA

TIEMPO PARA LOS NIÑOS

## OFFERING

*<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

- **Ways You Can Send Us Your Offerings**

- **Www.myiglesiawestlawn.org**

- **By email: Rene de la Cruz**

**9446 Hindi Drive, San Antonio TX 78224**

***Prayer for illumination:*** *Loving God, enter into our hearts. Help us to receive you with joy and thanksgiving. Instill in each of us the mind of Christ, that we may be your disciples on this earth. In Jesús name Amen.*

***Bible Reading: Romans 12: 14-19, 13:8-9***

***14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.[c] Do not be conceited. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"[d] says the Lord.***

***8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet,"[a] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself.***

**SERMON SERIE: 3 RULES**

**1 RULE : DO NO HURT**

**Blessing**

## OFRENDA:

Cada uno de como propuso en su Corazon  
no con tristeza o por necesidad porque  
Dios ama al dador alegre.

2 Corintios 9:7

**\*Formas en que usted puede hacernos llegar sus ofrendas.**

**-A traves de la pagina:**

**www.myiglesiawestlawn.org**

**-Por correo regular al hermano Rene de La Cruz**

**Cheque a nombre de la Iglesia Westlawn**

**9446 Hindi Drive, San Antonio TX 78224**

**Oración por la iluminación:** Amado Dios, entra en nuestros corazones. Ayúdanos a recibirte con alegría y acción de gracias. Infunde en cada uno de nosotros la mente de Cristo, para que podamos ser sus discípulos en esta tierra. En el nombre de Jesús.

***Lectura Bíblica: Rom. 12:14-19, 13: 8-9***

14 Bendigan a quienes los persigan; bendigan y no maldigan. 15 Alégrense con los que están alegres; lloren con los que lloran. 16 Vivan en armonía los unos con los otros. No sean arrogantes, sino háganse solidarios con los humildes.[c] No se crean los únicos que saben.

17 No paguen a nadie mal por mal. Procuren hacer lo bueno delante de todos. 18 Si es posible, y en cuanto dependa de ustedes, vivan en paz con todos. 19 No tomen venganza, hermanos míos, sino dejen el castigo en las manos de Dios, porque está escrito: «Mía es la venganza; yo pagaré»,[d] dice el Señor.

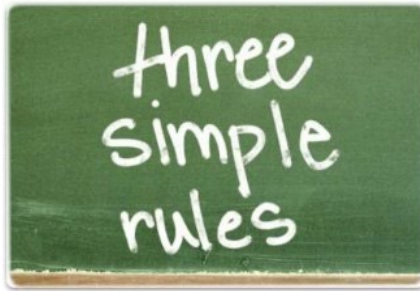
8 No tengan deudas pendientes con nadie, a no ser la de amarse unos a otros. De hecho, quien ama al prójimo ha cumplido la ley. 9 Porque los mandamientos que dicen: «No cometas adulterio», «No mates», «No robes», «No codicies»,[a] y todos los demás mandamientos, se resumen en este precepto: «Ama a tu prójimo como a ti mismo».[b]

**SERMON SERIES: 3 REGLAS**

**SERMON: PRIMERA REGLA: NO LASTIMES**

**BENDICION**





## Three Simple Rules: Do No Harm

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### MONDAY

**Exodus 20:13-17**

In the saga of how God relates to people, the Ten Commandments came at a pivotal moment. The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years. They had learned the Egyptian culture, the brutal, dominating behavior of their masters. Now God called them to a very different quality of life, one that sought to avoid doing harm to others.

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### TUESDAY

**Leviticus 19:9-18**

Jesus said Leviticus 19:18—"Love your neighbor as yourself"—is a vital life rule. An expert in the law asked him, "Who is my neighbor?" In reply, Jesus told the well-known parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). But the expert could have known that Leviticus, in the verses before the command, already listed many "neighbors" God's people shouldn't harm.

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### WEDNESDAY

**Romans 13:8-14**

Paul sent this letter to a set of Roman house churches. In Romans 14-15, we see that these churches were very different. Some were mainly Jewish; others mostly Gentile. Their customs and standards of "righteousness" varied. It was all too easy for them to quarrel and tear each other down. "Love does no harm" was a big challenge, a crucial call.

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### THURSDAY

**Galatians 5:13-21**

In *Three Simple Rules*, Bishop Job asks if one reason we don't choose to live into "do no harm" may be that "we are afraid of its consequences. To abandon the ways of the world for the way of Jesus is a radical step." Paul called the Galatian Christians to let the Holy Spirit's presence radically change their lives.

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### FRIDAY

**1 Thessalonians  
5:16-24**

Paul wrote that to reject whatever is harmful makes space for all kinds of beauty in life. He lived in the Greco/Roman world. Its people enjoyed violent gladiatorial fights and chariot races, practiced "sacred" prostitution, and worshipped scheming emperors as gods. In many ways, we face similar choices about our attitudes and entertainments today.

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### SATURDAY

**Isaiah 11:1-9**

In *Three Simple Rules*, Bishop Job writes that "even a casual reading of the gospel suggests that Jesus taught and practiced a way of living that did no harm. His life, his way of life, and his teaching demonstrated so well this first simple rule." Jesus is the biggest reason for us to adopt this approach to life. Isaiah wrote prophetically about God's dream of a world restored through the Messiah's work, a world where "they will neither harm nor destroy."

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## SUGGESTED PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, we want to be the kind of people who bring goodness into the world. We don't want to be people who harm or destroy others. We want to be people who do the right thing, not the wrong thing. We want to be your people; the kind of people you want us to be. We ask that you fill us with your spirit, oh Lord, for we know that if your spirit dwells in us, we can do no harm. May thy will be done. In Jesus' holy name we pray, Amen.*

## CONNECT

Can you think of any great men and women of peace? Did they have any common traits? Were they admired? What effect did they have on the world as a whole? Did they know how broadly they were to affect the world? Were they trying to become famous? Rich? Why do you think they did what they did?

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND STUDY

- In **Exodus 20:13-17**, God gives the commandments that cover our relationships with other people. How would we be doing harm by breaking each of these commandments? By simply not breaking these commandments, would we be bringing goodness into the world? Have you ever been harmed by someone who broke one of these commandments? How could breaking one commandment lead to breaking another?
  - **Leviticus 19:9-18** goes into more detail than Exodus about how we should act toward one another. Notice that it tells us, not only what not to do, but what not to say as well. How harmful can our words be? What can result if we wrong others by what we say? What recent news events reflect the dangers of sharp tongues? The Ten Commandments, and other Hebrew laws like those in Leviticus, have been woven into civilized society today. What would life be like if this was not so? Are we as good at applying them to our own actions as we are about insisting that others should follow them? Some things just make our blood boil. When political office holders or candidates are involved, are we more or less likely to control our tongue? How do you think it might affect political leaders when thousands or millions of others speak negatively about them?
  - Read **Romans 13:8-14**. Here Paul teaches that love conquers all. Acting out of a loving heart keeps us from violating the Old Testament laws. He says we should "clothe ourselves with Jesus Christ." What do you believe Paul means in saying we should "clothe ourselves" with Christ? Describe "love your fellow man" in another way. Which of the "deeds of darkness" don't seem to be that harmful to others? So who is harmed? Is harming yourself as wrong as harming others? What are some actions in Christian history that were terribly harmful to others? Why do you suppose these things happened?
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- **Galatians 5:13-23** begins “So I say, live by the spirit...” What does this mean to you? Remember how Pastor Hamilton speaks of “inner nudges” that tend to move us in positive directions? Where do those nudges come from? Is there anything we can do to be more attuned to that Spirit? Read verses 22-23 again. If we live by the Spirit and have these fruits, how would that affect our ability to avoid sinful acts like drunkenness, sexual immorality, cursing, meanness, etc.? Have you ever known anyone who seemed to especially “live by the Spirit”? How did they act? Did they have any effect on your life?
- Read **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**. “Be joyful, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances...” What is your reaction to this verse? How can we be joyful? How does anybody pray continually? How can we give thanks when things don’t go well? How often do we think to give thanks when things do go well? When we are repeatedly acting badly, are we likely to follow the guidance of this verse? How do we climb out of the rut of acting badly? When we walk in a rut, what are we likely to be covered by? No one likes that, so how do we “clean up our act”?
- Now read **Isaiah 11:1-9**. Who do you think these verses refer to? They speak of a perfect world in which no harm is done; a world guided by the very spirit of God. Do you like the sound of such a world? Are you willing to make a new effort to fill your little corner of this world with goodness by doing no harm? Can you really make any difference? What examples can you think of that would show your commitment? Will you pray for the strength and power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ to fill you, and the other members of your group?

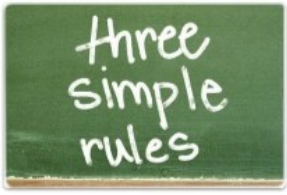
## FOR ADDITIONAL INSIGHT

Cokesbury offers this description of the book: “In *Three Simple Rules*, Rueben Job offers an interpretation of John Wesley’s General Rules for today’s readers. For individual reading or group study, this simple but challenging look at three commands, ‘do no harm, do good, stay in love with God,’ calls us to mutual respect, unity, and a deeper relationship with God.”

Here is a short selection of what Bishop Job has to say about “do no harm:”

“Is it possible to live in this complex and violent world *without* doing harm? Are we supposed to turn the other cheek to those who distort the truth by selective use of the facts of any given situation? Is it wise to do no harm to those who seek to harm us, our future, or our reputation? Are we able to limit our response to a way that is not destructive to those who use false and violent words that seek to harm and destroy us? Is it possible to speak the truth in love and gentleness when others seem to speak partial truth in anger and hatred....

There are many reasons why we find it difficult to embrace the first of these three simple rules. But the good news is that we don’t have to make this journey alone. There is *always* One who stands there with us. And not only stands there but invades us with Spirit Presence and Power to practice our faith with integrity and in fidelity to the One we seek to follow. This truth is at the heart of the Incarnation and of Pentecost. The good news is that it is possible to practice a way of living that is in harmony with the life of



Jesus and survive, even thrive, in a world like ours. It is both a challenging and rewarding way to live; and each of us, with God's help, can live such a life fully, faithfully and joyfully." (Job, *Three Simple Rules*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007, pp. 27-29.)

**Galatia:**

Geographical name derived from Gaul because its inhabitants were Celts or Galli (Gauls). The original settlement was in central Asia Minor. See Asia Minor. King Nicomedes of Bithynia invited the Celtic warriors across the Bosphorus River to help him fight his brother in 278 B.C. The invaders fought on their own capturing cities until stopped by Antiochus I in 275 B.C. They then occupied the northern part of Asia Minor, bounded on the north by Pontus and Bithynia, on the east by Tavium and Pessinus in the west. For the most part, true Galatians lived in open areas, leaving city occupation to their predecessors, the Phrygians. The true Galatians constantly switched sides in ongoing battles in the area. Finally, in 25 B.C. Rome made Galatia a province of the empire and extended its borders... (source – Holman Bible Dictionary)

**Thessalonica:**

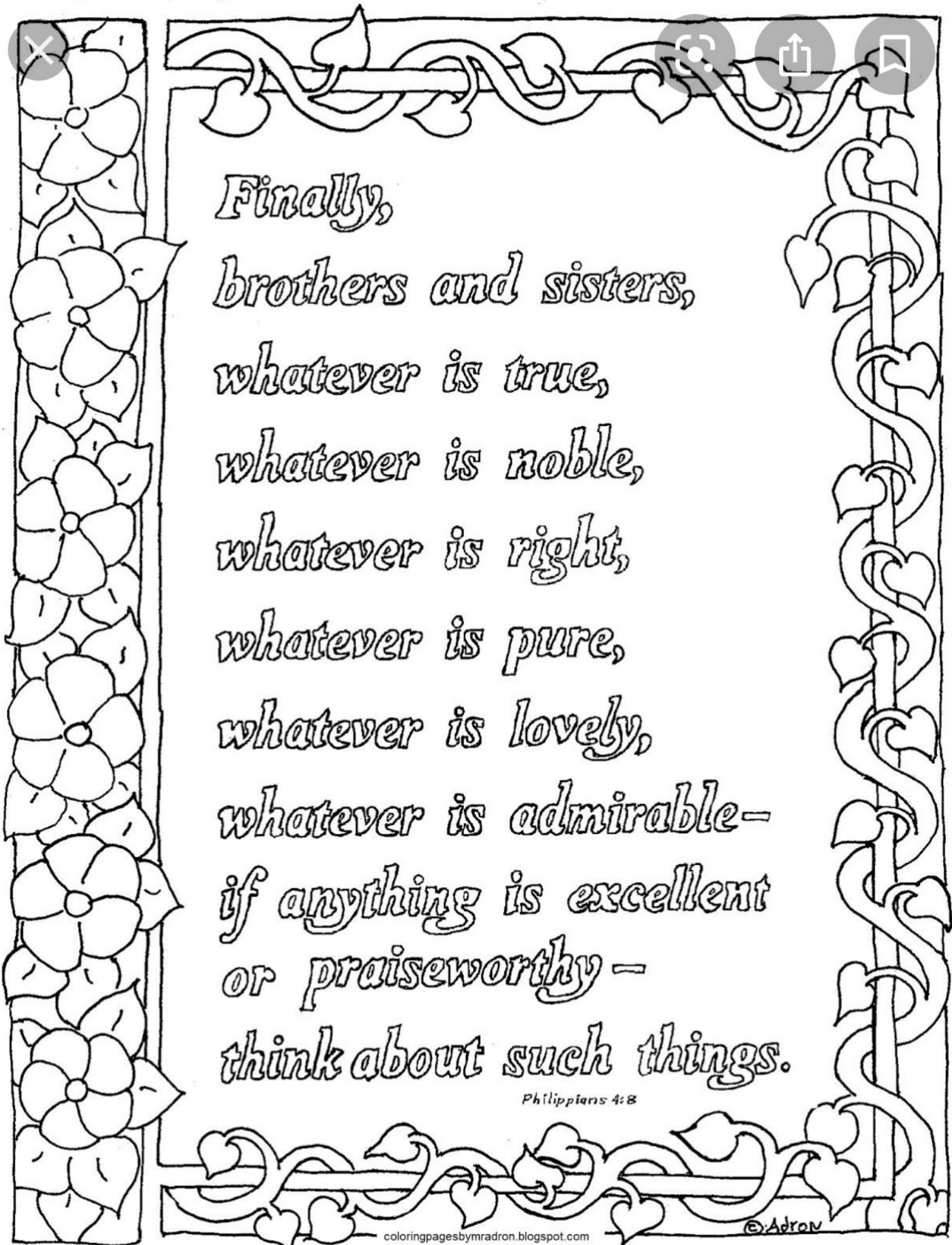
Located on the Thermaic Gulf (Gulf of Salonika) with an excellent harbor—and at the termination of a major trade route from the Danube—it became, with Corinth, one of the two most important commercial centers in Greece. In the Roman period, it retained its Greek cultural orientation and functioned as the capital of Macedonia after 146 B.C. When the apostle Paul visited the city, it was larger than Philippi which reflected a predominantly Roman culture. Thessalonica was a free city, having no Roman garrison within its walls and maintaining the privilege of minting its own coins. Like Corinth, it had a cosmopolitan population due to the commercial prowess of the city. The recent discovery of a marble inscription, written partly in Greek and partly in a Samaritan form of Hebrew and Aramaic, testifies to the presence of Samaritans in Thessalonica. The Book of Acts testifies to the presence of a Jewish synagogue there (Acts 17:1). (source – Holman Bible Dictionary)

**Final application: "Now what?"**

Here's a question for you to consider this week: Am I willing to transform my life and do everything possible to be "different"; to become a person who does no harm; to be a person who always seeks to do the right thing?

Here's one thing to try this week: Put a loose-fitting rubber band on the same wrist that you wear your watch. Use the rubber band as your reminder that, in every circumstance, you will do no harm and that you will only do what is right. Use the rubber band to remind yourself that you are constantly in a state of prayer, and that God is with you. When your group meets next, report on how things went.





*Finally,  
brothers and sisters,  
whatever is true,  
whatever is noble,  
whatever is right,  
whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely,  
whatever is admirable—  
if anything is excellent  
or praiseworthy—  
think about such things.*

*Philippians 4:8*

# 3 Simple Rules

Do No Harm

Do Good

Love God

AGOSTO 23, 2020

## Second Rule: Do Good

### Prayers of Approach and Confession

Mysterious God power behind all we see grace  
beyond all we know love before all we meet,

**We cannot comprehend your majesty we only  
know your presence in our lives:**

You, who knew us before we were born  
You, who will cradle us after our last breath...

**We cannot encompass your glory  
instead we marvel at all the works your hand  
has made and we worship and adore you.**

It seems too good to be true that you would  
care for mere mortals like us...  
in our messy lives often caught-up in trivialities,  
that you would mould us in your own image  
social creatures with a divine spark...

So good, we'd rather not believe: rather not see  
your image in those around us crying out for  
love and companionship rather not see your  
wisdom underpinning creation groaning at our  
wanton waste and exploitation

**God above all, help us with our unbelief our  
incredulity our self-preserving acts which iso-  
late and harm...**

Pour mercy into our hearts and souls giving us  
eyes to see and ears to hear your gift in every  
person every place every moment;

For your greatness is seen in all the world: may  
our words and actions be our praise of you  
reaching up and out into your Kingdom, made  
real for us in the person of Jesus who taught us  
so much including how to pray:

**Our Father, ...**

WORSHIP TIME  
CHILDREN'S TIME

## Segunda Regla: Has el bien

### Oraciones de acercamiento y confesión

Dios misterioso, poder detrás de todo lo que vemos-  
gracia más allá de todo lo que sabemos. amor antes  
de todo lo que nos encontramos

**No podemos comprender Tu majestad. solo cono-  
cemos tu presencia en nuestras vidas:**

Tu, que nos conociste antes de nacer. Tu , que nos  
acunarás después de nuestro último aliento ...

**No podemos abarcar tu Gloria en cambio, nos mara-  
villamos de todos los trabajos que ha realizado tu  
mano y te alabamos y adoramos.**

Parece demasiado bueno para ser verdad que cuida-  
rías a simples mortales como nosotros ... en nuestras  
vidas desordenadas a menudo atrapados en triviali-  
dades, que nos moldearías a tu propia imagen  
criaturas sociales con una chispa divina ...

Pero preferimos no creer: prefiero no ver tu imagen  
en quienes nos rodean clamando por amor y com-  
pañerismo, prefiero no ver tu sabiduría que sustenta  
la creación gimiendo por nuestro despilfarro y explo-  
tación sin sentido

**Dios sobre todo, ayúdanos con nuestra falta de fe.  
Nuestra incredulidad, nuestros actos de autocon-  
servación que nos aíslan y dañan ...**

Derrama misericordia en nuestros corazones y almas  
dándonos ojos para ver y oídos para escuchar  
tu regalo en cada persona, todo lugar, cada momen-  
to;

Porque tu grandeza se ve en todo el mundo:  
que nuestras palabras y acciones sean nuestra ala-  
banza alcanzando arriba y afuera en tu reino hecho  
realidad para nosotros en la persona de Jesús quien  
nos enseñó tanto. incluyendo cómo orar:

**Padre nuestro ...**

TIEMPO DE ALABANZA  
TIEMPO PARA LOS NIÑOS



## OFFERING

<sup>7</sup> *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

- **Ways You Can Send Us Your Offerings**

- **Www.myiglesiawestlawn.org**

- **By email: Rene de la Cruz**

**9446 Hindi Drive, San Antonio TX 78224**

***Prayer for illumination:*** *Loving God, enter into our hearts. Help us to receive you with joy and thanksgiving. Instill in each of us the mind of Christ, that we may be your disciples on this earth. In Jesús name Amen.*

### ***Bible Reading:***

***John 13:34-35*** 34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

***Ephesians 2:8-10*** 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## ***SERMON SERIE: 3 RULES***

### ***2: RULE : DO GOOD***

## **Blessing**

## OFRENDA:

Cada uno de como propuso en su Corazon  
no con tristeza o por necesidad porque  
Dios ama al dador alegre.

2 Corintios 9:7

**\*Formas en que usted puede hacernos llegar sus ofrendas.**

**-A traves de la pagina:**

**www.myiglesiawestlawn.org**

**-Por correo regular al hermano Rene de La Cruz**

**Cheque a nombre de la Iglesia Westlawnd**

**9446 Hindi Drive, San Antonio TX 78224**

**Oración por la iluminación:** Amado Dios, entra en nuestros corazones. Ayúdanos a recibirte con alegría y acción de gracias. Infunde en cada uno de nosotros la mente de Cristo, para que podamos ser sus discípulos en esta tierra. En el nombre de Jesus.

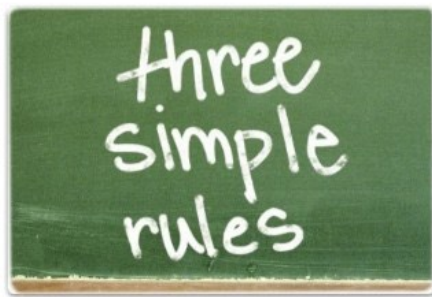
***Lectura Biblica: Juan 13:34– 35*** 34 »Este mandamiento nuevo les doy: que se amen los unos a los otros. Así como yo los he amado, también ustedes deben amarse los unos a los otros. 35 De este modo todos sabrán que son mis discípulos, si se aman los unos a los otros».

**Efesios 2:8-10** Porque por gracia ustedes han sido salvados mediante la fe; esto no procede de ustedes, sino que es el regalo de Dios, 9 no por obras, para que nadie se jacte. 10 Porque somos hechura de Dios, creados en Cristo Jesús para buenas obras, las cuales Dios dispuso de antemano a fin de que las pongamos en práctica.

## ***SERMON SERIES: 3 REGLAS***

### ***2 RULE : HAS LO BUENO***

## **BENDICION**



## Three Simple Rules: Do All the Good You Can

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### MONDAY

**Psalm 37:1-11**

At first, “do all the good you can” may sound like the way to a life of soaring popularity and grateful, devoted friends. This psalmist was deeply committed to living into this rule. But the psalm reflected challenges as well as joy. It said this way of life calls for patient trust in God, and a resolve not to fret when things don’t seem to work the way they should.

---

### TUESDAY

**Galatians 6:7-10**

“People reap what they sow”—that’s sobering! Paul was talking about relationships, about how we treat one another. He wanted his converts to sow good deeds as they blessed and helped one another. This important principle dealt with choices we control, not with natural disasters (e.g. the earthquake in Haiti) or other tragic events nobody “sowed.”

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### WEDNESDAY

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

We don’t do good to “get on God’s good side.” (That’s true of all three “simple rules.”) Through creation and salvation, God has already lovingly provided all we need for life now and forever. When we do good, we are simply living into the purpose for which God made us. (John Wesley dealt with this issue in his sermon “The Scripture Way of Salvation.” If you’d like to read it, click on <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umhistory/wesley/sermons/43/>.)

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### THURSDAY

**Luke 6:27-35**

Bishop Reuben Job asks, “Where are the boundaries...what if my gift of goodness, small or large, is rejected? Suppose I were to seek compromise in conflict and my efforts were ridiculed? What if my efforts were seen as weakness and my concerns were overlooked?” (*Three Simple Rules*) Jesus said, “Do good to your enemies. That’s what God does.”

---

### FRIDAY

**Galatians 5:18-25**

Like John Wesley, the apostle Paul did not stop with “Do no harm,” but went on to focus on all the good fruit our lives can bear. We read the first part of this passage last week, listing the harmful “acts of the sinful nature.” But we don’t avoid harm just to leave our lives swept and empty (see Luke 11:24-26). The Holy Spirit bears superb fruit in open, yielded hearts.

---

### SATURDAY

**1 Peter 3:8-17**

This passage makes little sense if we’re busy “climbing the ladder” and seeking power. When it was written, most Romans mocked Christians as weak. After all, Christians believed (as Pastor Steven Blair said recently) that a crucified man was God; Romans worshipped the mighty emperor! But Peter’s letter makes the God-given strength to do good (rather than to grab status or comfort) the basic standard of a life worth living.

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## SUGGESTED PRAYER

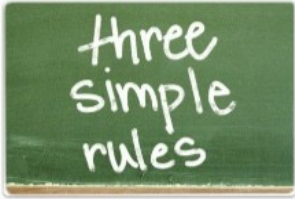
*Lord, we come to you humbly, recognizing that we haven't served you as well as we might. We haven't lived our lives in perfect harmony with your will. We see others doing good in beautiful ways, and we wish we had used more of our opportunities to do good. Lord Jesus, fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we might become the people you would have us be. We want, with all our hearts and souls, to serve you by serving others. Empower us by your Spirit to do the most good. Amen.*

## CONNECT

In the history of the world, who can you think of who did the most good? Who have you known personally who did the most good? Do you think they recognized how much good they were doing? What drove them to do good? Were they all "godly people" or were some simply "humanitarians"? Did these people and the way they lived their lives influence you and your life?

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND STUDY

- In **Psalm 37:1-11**, we are told to "Trust in the Lord and do good." What might the psalmist have meant by "trust in the Lord"? Does it mean that we should assume that whatever we ask for will be done, just as we asked? In what ways in our everyday lives can we do good? Are "little" acts of good less important than "big" acts of good? Why? Discuss real life examples of both. Are little acts of good as satisfying as big acts? Why?
- Read **Galatians 6:7-10**. When we talk about wrongdoing, we often think of the words, "A man reaps what he sows" (verse 7b). Why do we tend to focus on the negative side of this verse? Do you think it also applies to the positive? Give an example of how the negative side of this verse might happen. Now give an example of how the positive side might occur. Verse 9 cautions us not to become weary of doing good. Has that ever happened to you? Did something snap you out of it? Does the tendency to become weary of doing good happen often or infrequently? Why might this be true? Do opportunities to do good (verse 10) abound or are they not often available to us?
- In **Ephesians 2:4-10**, Paul teaches that we are saved by God's grace, through faith, and not by good works. So can we earn our way to Heaven by doing good? He also teaches that we do good only because we were created in advance, by God, to do so. And yet, time and time again, we fail to do what is right. What prevents us from doing good in every situation? What kinds of things influence us in turning away from doing good? What might help us to more consistently do the most good?
- In **Luke 6:27-35** Jesus speaks to every one of us, and it's a challenge. Do good, he says, to those who despise us, to those we dislike or hate, to those who would be ungrateful, and to our enemies. Why?...Because God is kind to the ungrateful and wicked (verse 35) and expects us to do the same. Does God expect us to "be saints"? Can we "be saints" and follow his



command? When we are angry and self-righteous, we tend to lash out rather than doing good. How might we be able to change this? **This week's notes:** Bishop Job's book says that "taking appropriate care of self and living selflessly are not opposites....To love God with all of life and to love neighbor as self is not to denigrate, deny or devalue self." What are some ways you have found of doing healthy self-care? How do these energize and empower you to do good for others?

- Read **Galatians 5:18-25**. Looking at each of the fruits of the spirit, how might each fruit cause us to do good? Which would seem easier, to buckle down and always do good, or to embrace the fruits of the spirit and then live your life as the fruits direct? No one is perfect and without sin, but if we embrace the fruits of the spirit as our own, is God more likely to judge our lives as sinful, or as lives that are and do the most good? Do we still need to be "saved by grace"? Why?
- Now read **1 Peter 3:8-17**. The apostle Peter writes that sometimes, people will treat us harshly and warns us to not lash out at them. Rather, we should still treat them well and seek to do good. This is, perhaps, the hardest thing for us to do. If someone treats you badly, other than striking back, what could you do that would be better? Peter also says that if we are always doing good, it is unlikely that others will seek to harm us. Do you believe that? If you are asked why you are always doing good things, how might you answer? Peter said that it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. What does he mean?

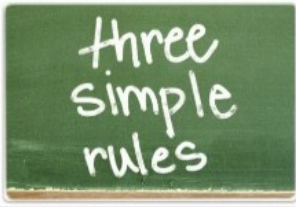
## FOR ADDITIONAL INSIGHT

"My desire to do good is in response to God's invitation to follow Jesus, and it *is in my control*. I can determine to extend hospitality and goodness to all I meet. I can decide to do good to all, even to those who disagree with me and turn against what I believe is right and good. And the reward for my doing good is not cancelled or diminished by the response to my acts of goodness. I will have the reward of knowing I did what was right and pleasing to God. I will still be identified, known, and loved as a child of God. What could be a greater reward than this?

It is true that these three rules are simple and easy to understand. We almost always know when our words or actions do harm and when they do good. And deep within us are both the desire and the nudging voice of the Spirit, telling us to fashion and maintain a living and life-giving relationship with God. Yes, the rules are *simple* and they are *easily understood*. But that does not make them *easy to practice*....

It is God who loves all and permits the rain to fall on all. So, this decision will mean that I must seek good for all. I must seek what is best for those whose position and condition may be far different than my vision for them. It will mean that I will seek to heal the wounds of my sisters and brothers, no matter if their social position, economic achievement, or lifestyle is radically different from mine. It will mean that the words and acts that wound and divide will be changed to words and acts that heal and bring together. It will mean that movements that seek to divide and conquer will become movements that seek to unite and empower all. It will mean that the common good will be my first thought and what is good for me will become a secondary thought.





Of course, this is a challenging way to live. To love God with my whole being and to love my neighbor as much as I love myself was never declared to be easy; but it was declared to be essential to our spiritual life, our life of faith, and our life with God. The three rules are simple; but when I look at this simple and practical step to a transformed world, I begin to see how complicated and costly living with Jesus can become.” (Job, *Three Simple Rules*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007, pp. 40-43.)

### EPHESUS:

(ehf uh ssuhss) One of the largest and most impressive cities in the ancient world, a political, religious, and commercial center in Asia Minor. Associated with the ministries of Paul, Timothy, and the apostle John, the city played a significant role in the spread of early Christianity. Ephesus and its inhabitants are mentioned more than twenty times in the New Testament.

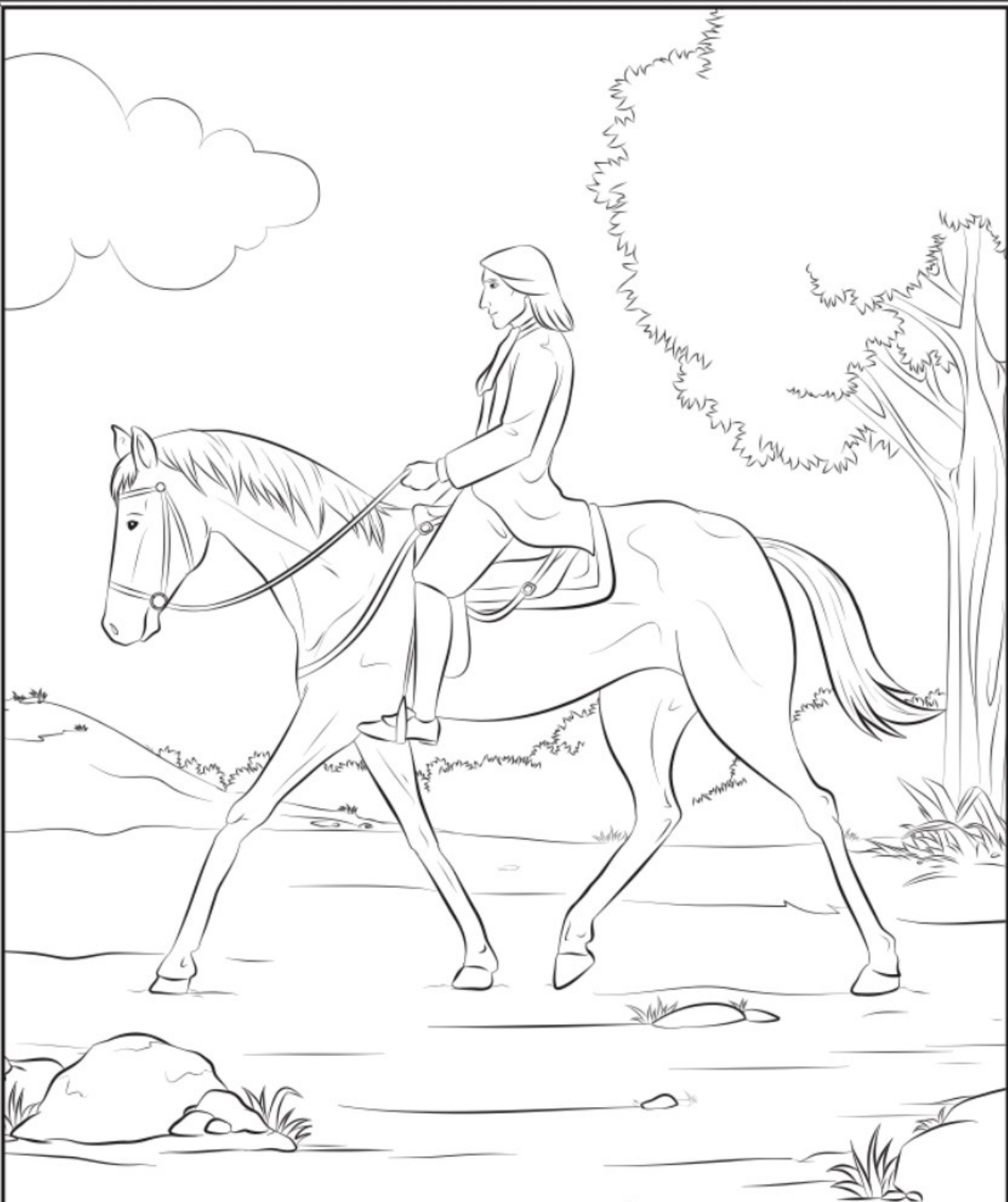
Location: The ancient city of Ephesus, located in western Asia Minor at the mouth of the Cayster River, was an important seaport. Situated between the Maeander River to the south and the Hermus River to the north, Ephesus had excellent access to both river valleys which allowed it to flourish as a commercial center. Due to the accumulation of silt deposited by the river, the present site of the city is approximately five to six miles inland. (source – *Holman Bible Dictionary*)

### Fun Facts - Deciphering Hieroglyphs of Ancient Egypt

For centuries scholars wondered about the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs that would hopefully reveal answers about the first major civilization and world power on Earth. **The Rosetta Stone:** In 1798, while General Napoleon Bonaparte was leading his French Republican army into Egypt to occupy Egypt, a lieutenant named Bouchard was supervising fortifications at Rashid (Rosetta), on the west bank of the Nile Delta, about 35 miles N.E. of Alexandria, and happened to notice a black basalt stone that had been built right into the wall. He reported the stone to the archaeologists who accompanied Napoleon's army, and lo and behold, it became one of the greatest discoveries in the 18th century. The stone was 3 ft 9 in. (114 cm) long and 2 ft 4 1/2 in. (72 cm) wide, and partly broken. It had three horizontal bands with inscriptions carved in 2 languages, Egyptian and Greek. This was a monumental discovery and scholars in Europe were very excited. Soon after, a young French scholar named Jean-Francois Champollion who, by age 16, had become proficient in six ancient Oriental languages as well as Greek, Latin and Coptic, became the code-breaker. He showed that the hieroglyphs on the Rosetta Stone were indeed phonetic, and represented spoken alphabetic signs and syllables. He compared the 1,419 hieroglyphics with the Greek text, which was the same message in less than 500 words. He also explained that out of the 1,419 hieroglyphs there were actually only 66 originals and the rest were repeated. His work lasted a painful 14 years with many setbacks, yet he compiled an Egyptian grammar and dictionary for ancient Middle Kingdom Egyptian hieroglyphics. (excerpts from <http://www.bible-history.com>)

### Final application: “Now what?”

This week, write down the list of the fruits of the spirit and place them where you can read them before you begin every day. Pray each morning that you might be filled with these fruits and that your life might be guided by their influence. See if you notice any difference in the way that you treat other people. Make a list of some of the good things you do. Is your life better because you did these? Remember: we reap what we sow...good or bad.



**John Wesley traveled thousands of miles on horseback  
to share the Gospel with his countrymen.**



# 3 Simple Rules

Do No Harm

Do Good

Love God

AGOSTO 30, 2020

## ORACION

The blame forgotten,  
shame covered,  
Peter leapt into the sea.

Where tears once drowned hope  
and denials became despair and self loathing,  
now eyes had seen that figure on the shore,  
that body once strung across the stained wood  
of execution.

A revived fishing business,  
the dull depression of remembered cowardice,  
of failed courage, bad dreams of abandonment,  
a deep sea of pain, now splashed with new  
hope.

Peter would make it to the shore. He is risen.  
Peter is risen from the dead.

Three times denied.

Three times invited to love again  
by him who three times prayed his own despair  
and, three times mocked 'mid three crosses,  
in three days rose to resurrect Peter.

Peter made it to the shore.  
Others made it to the shore.

They ate together,  
a fellowship of grace and rehabilitation,  
of forgiveness and hope,  
a symbol of the persistence of divine love,  
also for you and me.

WORSHIP TIME

CHILDREN'S TIME

## ORACION

La culpa olvidada la vergüenza cubierta  
Pedro saltó al mar.

Donde las lágrimas una vez ahogaron la esperanza  
y las negaciones se convirtieron en desesperación y  
odio a sí mismo, ahora los ojos habían visto esa  
figura en la orilla, ese cuerpo una vez colgado de la  
madera manchada de la ejecución.

Un negocio pesquero revivido,  
la depresión sorda de la cobardía recordada,  
de coraje fallido, malos sueños de abandono,  
un mar profundo de dolor ahora salpicado de nueva  
esperanza.

Pedro llegaría a la orilla. Él ha resucitado. Pedro ha  
resucitado de la muerte.

Tres veces negado.

Tres veces invitado a amar de nuevo  
por aquel que oro tres veces por su propia  
desesperación  
y tres veces se burlaron de las tres cruces,  
en tres días se levantó para resucitar a Pedro.

Pedro llegó a la orilla.

Otros llegaron a la orilla.

Comieron juntos  
una comunidad de gracia y rehabilitación,  
de perdón y esperanza, un símbolo de la persisten-  
cia del amor divino  
También para ti y para mí.

TIEMPO DE ALABANDA

TIEMPO PARA LOS NIÑOS

## OFFERING

<sup>7</sup> *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

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***Prayer for illumination:*** *Loving God, enter into our hearts. Help us to receive you with joy and thanksgiving. Instill in each of us the mind of Christ, that we may be your disciples on this earth. In Jesús name Amen.*

***Bible Reading: John 21: 15-19*** When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus

said, "Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

## **SERMON SERIE: 3 RULES**

### **3: RULE : LOVE GOD**

#### **Blessing**

## OFRENDA:

Cada uno de como propuso en su Corazon  
no con tristeza o por necesidad porque  
Dios ama al dador alegre.

2 Corintios 9:7

**\*Formas en que usted puede hacernos llegar sus ofrendas.**

**-A traves de la pagina: [www.myiglesiawestlawn.org](http://www.myiglesiawestlawn.org)**

**-Por correo regular al hermano Rene de La Cruz**

**Cheque a nombre de la Iglesia Westlawnd  
9446 Hindi Drive, San Antonio TX 78224**

**Oración por la iluminación:** Amado Dios, entra en nuestros corazones. Ayúdanos a recibirte con alegría y acción de gracias. Infunde en cada uno de nosotros la mente de Cristo, para que podamos ser sus discípulos en esta tierra. En el nombre de Jesús.

### **Lectura Bíblica: Juan 21:15-19**

Cuando terminaron de desayunar, Jesús le preguntó a Simón Pedro:—Simón, hijo de Juan, ¿me amas más que estos? —Sí, Señor, tú sabes que te quiero —contestó Pedro. —Apacienta mis corderos —le dijo Jesús.

16 Y volvió a preguntarle: —Simón, hijo de Juan, ¿me amas? —Sí, Señor, tú sabes que te quiero. — Cuida de mis ovejas.

17 Por tercera vez Jesús le preguntó: —Simón, hijo de Juan, ¿me quieres? A Pedro le dolió que por tercera vez Jesús le hubiera preguntado: «¿Me quieres?» Así que le dijo: —Señor, tú lo sabes todo; tú sabes que te quiero. —Apacienta mis ovejas —le dijo Jesús—.

18 De veras te aseguro que cuando eras más joven te vestías tú mismo e ibas adonde querías; pero, cuando seas viejo, extenderás las manos y otro te vestirá y te llevará adonde no quieras ir. 19 Esto dijo Jesús para dar a entender la clase de muerte con que Pedro glorificaría a Dios. Después de eso añadió: —¡Sígueme!

## **SERMON SERIES: 3 REGLAS**

### **3RA REGLA: AMA A DIOS**

#### **BENDICION**





## Three Simple Rules: Stay in Love with God

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### MONDAY

**Colossians 2:6-12**

The phrase “in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form” might sound formal and dry. But it wasn’t—not for Paul. Like all Jews, he’d been raised on the faith that there is only one God. To say that “the fullness of Deity” was in Jesus was a striking way of expressing his deep love and loyalty to the divine-human Savior who had changed his life.

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### TUESDAY

**Hebrews 12:22-29,  
Revelation 5:4-14**

Too often we use the word “worship” to describe something we attend. “When is worship?” we ask. These passages show that “worship” is a verb, something we do. Worship is offering all of ourselves (our joys and sorrows, our strengths and our weaknesses) to God in reverent, awed, heartfelt commitment. You do not “go to worship;” you worship.

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### WEDNESDAY

**Psalms 119:97-104,  
Deuteronomy  
17:14-20**

Deuteronomy told every king to hand-copy a scroll of God’s word. He was to shape his heart and actions by reading it “all the days of his life.” (How Israel’s story might have changed if the kings had done this!) We have pocket Testaments, and Bibles on our smart phones. These tools can help us deepen our love for God—as we use them to open our hearts.

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### THURSDAY

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26,  
John 6:47-58**

In 1 Corinthians, Paul gave the earliest written report of Jesus and his disciples sharing a last Passover meal. Two or three decades later, John’s gospel didn’t need to repeat the familiar facts. Instead, it focused on the meal’s meaning. In highly graphic images, John showed Jesus saying that the Supper is a way of taking his spiritual life into our inner self.

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### FRIDAY

**Luke 11:1-13,  
1 Thessalonians  
5:16-18**

The prayer Jesus taught his disciples was not so much a text to learn by heart as a model for an unbroken inner link with a God in whose love we trust. “Pray continually” takes in many different ways of praying. Two good books to teach you more about praying continually are Foster’s *Prayers from the Heart*, and Vennard and Bryant’s *The Way of Prayer*.

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### SATURDAY

**John 21:15-19**

This week’s readings have touched on four basic spiritual practices that help to keep us in love with God. There are many others. (John Ortberg’s *The Life You’ve Always Wanted* and Richard Foster’s *Celebration of Discipline* are superb studies of these, and available through The Well.) Spiritual practices are never an end in themselves. Each of us, like Peter, has to come to our own answer to Jesus’ searching question, “Do you love me?”

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## SUGGESTED PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, we love you. We seek to know you better and to love you more. We pray that we might more faithfully practice the spiritual disciplines that keep us attuned to your will for our lives. We ask that our love for you might help us love one another more. Use us to make our little corner of this world a better place, and bring your kingdom nearer. In your name, Amen.*

## CONNECT

Can you think of people (either famous or in your life) who just seemed to love everyone? Did everyone seem to love them? Do you think there is any correlation between the number of people that a person likes and the number of people that like them? What about between the number of people a person *dislikes* and the number that dislike them? Is there a difference between liking and loving someone?

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND STUDY

- **Colossians 2:6-12** reminds us to remain thankful for all that Christ and our faith in him has done for us. It also reminds us that we should always base our lives on our faith in him, rather on the world's philosophies, traditions, sciences, and norms. In what ways do we tend to focus our lives on what our society and culture demands, rather than on God? If we base our lives on Christ and his teaching, does that mean that we must also completely reject all the world's philosophies, sciences, traditions and norms? What does it mean to "root" ourselves in Jesus Christ? When we do this, will we love God more?
- Read **Hebrews 12:22-29, Revelation 5:4-14**. These passages are both a warning and a promise. They remind us to worship God. They also warn us never to turn away from God because God's kingdom is the only unshakable thing in all creation. Is failure to attend worship services a sign of turning away from God? Under what circumstances do people tend to turn away? Do you think these people tend to be non- or nominally- religious people or deeply committed Christians? Do you think they are more or less likely to have regularly attended worship services? As a Christian now, do you think you have greater strength in dealing with life's crises? Are you more or less likely to turn away from God now as compared to your past when you were not as committed to your faith? Why? Does worshipping God make you love God more?
- Read **Psalms 119:97-104, Deuteronomy 17:14-20**. These passages reminded the Hebrew kings (and us) to read the Bible every day. They say that reading the scriptures helps us live a life filled with wisdom, joy and peace. Do you believe reading the Bible every day could improve your life? But we are busy people! How can taking the time to read the Bible improve already busy lives? What steps could we take to make space for daily Bible reading? How would we know *what* parts of the Bible to read? What could we do if we had questions about what we read? Does reading the Bible make you love God more?





- Read **1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 6:47-58**. These passages speak of the sacrament of Holy Communion. Jesus said, “do this in remembrance of me.” When you take Communion, what goes through your mind? Do you ever take Communion outside of the usual worship services? Why do some people do this? Does this draw you closer to God? Does Communion ever remind you of Christ’s suffering for *you*? Does Communion during worship services feel more like a group event or a personal one? Why? Does Holy Communion make you love God more?
- Now read **Luke 11:1-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**. Jesus tells us to pray, how to pray and that we should ask God for what we need. 1 Thessalonians says that, rather than praying out of duty, that we should pray joyfully, continually and give thanks in all circumstances. What does it mean when it implies that we should give thanks even when things aren’t going well? How do you feel when you pray? Do you always feel the same way? How do you feel after you pray? Do you feel closer to God? Does prayer make you love God more? Would praying “continually” make you love God even more?
- In **John 21:15-19**, the apostle Peter and **you** are asked, “Do you love me?” How would you answer? In what ways does your answer to that question shape the rest of your life? Jesus said that, if we said “yes”, we should demonstrate our love for him by serving others. How does our church encourage us to demonstrate our love for Jesus?
- **From last week:** It was suggested that you write down the list of the fruits of the spirit and place it where you can read your list before you begin every day; that you pray each morning that you might be filled with these fruits and that your life might be guided by their influence. Did any of you do this? Did you notice any difference in how you treated other people?

## FOR ADDITIONAL INSIGHT

### Three Simple Rules: a conversation guide for children-

QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR CHILDREN:

#### General

- Why do we have rules?

#### Do No Harm

- What can we do as a family to take care of the earth?
- What is the difference between a want and a need?
- Take turns saying one thing that is special about each person in your family.
- Make a list of kind words that you can use with your family and with others.

#### Do Good

- What does it mean to do good?
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- What are some simple acts of kindness we can do for each of our family members? Pick one and do it.
- Brainstorm ways your family can help at church. Pick one and do it.
- Talk together about any mission projects that your children participate in at church.
- Are there ways your family can do something kind for someone else?

### Stay in Love With God

- Encourage your child to say the blessing before meals.
- Have a family Bible study or devotion time. Let your child participate as she or he is able. Your child might read the Scriptures, lead your family in a simple praise song, or say a prayer asking God to bless each person in your family.
- Talk about what your child is doing and learning at Sunday school.

(from <http://images.umph.org/misc/3SRulesConversationGuide.pdf>)

### **Peter:**

This name meant, "Rock." Four names are used in the New Testament to refer to Peter: the Hebrew name Simeon; the Greek equivalent Simon; Cephas, most frequently used by Paul and occurring only once outside his writings. Cephas and Peter both mean rock. Simon is often found in combination with Peter, reminding the reader that Simon was the earlier name and that Peter was a name given later by Jesus. The name Peter dominates the New Testament usage.

He and his brother, Andrew, came from Bethsaida and were Galilean fishermen in partnership with the sons of Zebedee, James and John. Peter was married and maintained a residence in Capernaum. Before becoming disciples of Jesus, Peter and Andrew had been influenced by the teaching of John the Baptist.

Peter is credited with being a leader of the twelve disciples. He frequently served as the spokesman for the disciples and was usually the one who raised the questions which they all seemed to be asking. As representative disciple, Peter frequently typified the disciple of little faith. His inconsistent behavior reached a climax with his infamous denial scene. Peter was, however, rehabilitated in the scene where the resurrected Jesus restored Peter to his position of prominence.

Despite Peter's role among the disciples and the promise of his leadership in the early church, Peter did not emerge as the leader of either form of primitive Christianity. Though he played an influential role in establishing the Jerusalem church, James, the brother of Jesus, assumed the leadership role of the Jewish community. Though Peter was active in the incipient stages of the Gentile mission, Paul became the "apostle to the gentiles."

Peter probably sacrificed his chances to be the leader of either one of these groups because of his commitment to serve as a bridge in the early church, doing more than any other to hold together the diverse strands of primitive Christianity.

Tradition holds that Peter died as a martyr in Rome in the 60s. To a great extent, subsequent generations of the church rely on the confession, witness, and ministry of Peter, the devoted, but fallible follower of Christ. (Excerpts from – *Holman Bible Dictionary*)

### **Final application: "Now what?"**

This week, make your own list of the spiritual disciplines. This week's GPS readings included public worship, scripture reading, Holy Communion and prayer. Other spiritual disciplines include fasting, solitude and silence, and Christian fellowship (e.g., participation in small groups). The spiritual disciplines are tools to help build a closer, more loving relationship with God. Use your list to remind you of how you can "root yourself in Christ" and live a life of faith. Begin by praying and reading the Bible daily.

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Our activities:

**Sunday School:** FACEBOOK LIVE

WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM AND SUNDAYS YOUTUBE

**CHILDREN CLASS:** SUNDAYS ZOOM 12:00 PM

**SERVICES:** FACEBOOK LIVE AND YOUTUBE SUNDAYS 9:00AM

**FOOD DRIVE DISTRIBUTE:**

THURSDAYS 10:00 AM

**FRIDAYS: RADIO PROGRAM**

11:30 AM POR LA 1130AM O 92.5FM

***PARA INFORMACION O LINKS***

***PASTORA LILIANA PADILLA***

***325-315-8735***



122 S. San Manuel  
San Antonio TX 78237  
PASTORA LILIANA PADILLA  
CELL 325-315-8735

PARA RECIBIR INFORMACION DE NUESTRAS ACTIVIDADES  
Y PROGRAMAS TEXTEA AL 325-315-8735 LA PALABRA:

**“CONECTA”**

To receive more information send us a  
text to

**325-315-8735**

With the word **“CONNECT”**