



## WEEKLY STUDY

### ANOTHER AND AGAIN

Director of Student Ministry, Rachel Armstrong employed an abbreviated version of an ancient practice called Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) to share the scripture this week. Those who were a part of our Practicing the Way classes this fall will remember this practice as a way of praying through the scriptures. It involves removing distractions and asking God to reveal a word or phrase that might speak to you in a particular time or place. Rachel's practice led to her hearing the words *another* and *again*. As you read this week, try to be even more intentional to listen for God's voice.

1. Ask God, "Would you allow Your word to speak to me today God, I am open to what you have to say."
2. Read the passage slowly. Listen for a word or phrase that seems to jump out.
3. Read the passage again while focusing on that word or phrase.
4. Thank God for His Living Word.

Be encouraged that the God of the universe wants to speak to you.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: MARK 8.1-9

*During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said,<sup>2</sup> "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat."<sup>3</sup> If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance."*

<sup>4</sup>*His disciples answered, "But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?"*

<sup>5</sup> “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked.

“Seven,” they replied.

<sup>6</sup> He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. <sup>7</sup> They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. <sup>8</sup> The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>9</sup> About four thousand were present.

- Rachel shared that we keep practicing the things that can draw us closer to Jesus. **As you read, was there a particular word or phrase that stood out to you in this passage? If not, that's ok! Try it again tomorrow. Have you ever experienced miraculous provisions from God? Describe. Do you find yourself doubting whether or not you have enough (food, money, time, talent)?**
- *God, thank you for your provisions. Even when I doubt, and even when I don't notice, you are faithful to provide what I need. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: MARK 6.30-34

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

<sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

- This passage describes the events that took place prior to Monday's passage. The disciples had just returned from their own mission trips where they were able to witness to the teachings and miracles of Jesus. He then invited them into his own practice of finding quiet and rest after a time of teaching. **As you read, was there a particular word or phrase that stood out to you in this passage? How is God using that word or phrase to speak to your life?**
- *Jesus, you are the Son of God. May I share who you are and what you have done with everyone I meet. Give me actions. Give me words. Give me patience. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY: MARK 6.35-44

By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it's already very late. <sup>36</sup> Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

<sup>37</sup> But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

<sup>38</sup> “How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup> and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. <sup>44</sup> The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

- The story continues with the feeding of the 5,000. As much as Jesus wanted solitude for himself and the disciples, he refused to disperse the crowd that had formed (although the disciples had legitimate excuses for doing so). **What surprises you in this story? Was there a word or phrase that stood out to you? What might God be revealing to you through this story?**
- *Jesus, you do not disperse the crowd. You stay engaged with my situation and desire to teach me and form me. Give me the kind of spiritual food that leads to life. Amen.*

#### THURSDAY: GALATIANS 6.7-10

*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

- Let us not become weary in doing good...do not give up! These words from Paul offer encouragement for those trying to follow the Way of Jesus in Galatia. It is not easy to follow Jesus. One day we are focused on pleasing God, the next we are focused on pleasing ourselves. The encouragement we need is to know that Jesus continues to show up again and again. If we do the same we can “reap eternal life”. **Was there a word or phrase that stood out to you? What might God be revealing to you?**
- *God, send your Spirit and give me strength to not give up. Make me more like your Son Jesus. Amen.*

#### FRIDAY: JOHN 15.5-8

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

- **Read this passage slowly three times.** You may not be familiar with vineyard language, but Jesus’ audience was. In order for us to have life in Jesus, we need to stay connected. The only way to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God is remain (or abide) in Jesus. **Was there a word or phrase that stood out to you? What might God be revealing to you?**
- *God, help me to remain in you that I might bear much fruit and give you glory, today and always. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: ISAIAH 40.28-31

*Do you not know?*

*Have you not heard?*

*The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

*He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.*

<sup>29</sup> *He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.*

<sup>30</sup> *Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;*

<sup>31</sup> *but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.*

- This passage is full of promises for tired and weary people. As long as our hope is in God, we can be people who grow by coming to Jesus again and again and again. **Where do you turn for strength? Was there a word or phrase that stood out to you? What might God be revealing to you today?**
- *You are the everlasting God. You have created the earth and everything in it—even me. Give me strength when I am weak so that I might soar for you. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Share your experiences of reading the scripture this week.

1. Where did you encounter God?
2. What did God reveal to you?
3. Did you find it easy or difficult to slow down?

Check out the following resources and consider how you might incorporate one of them into your personal prayer life and as a small group.

[Lectio-365](#) (app with prayer and scripture every morning and evening).

[5 Ways to Use the Bible in your prayer life.](#)