BCS HIGH SCHOOL DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

March 30 - April 5, 2020 "Peace in the Pandemic"

MONDAY: Do Not Be Anxious

Key Passage: Matthew 6:25-34

"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matt. 6:26).

Questions to Consider:

- 1. What things are causing you to worry and / or experience anxiety right now?
- 2. How does it make you feel to know that you are of great eternal value to God? In what ways have you experienced this?
- 3. What does it look like to "seek first the kingdom of God"? What is one practical thing that you can do today / tomorrow to "seek first the kingdom of God"?
- **Takeaway:** Your life is about more than anything this world offers you. Therefore, don't allow worry or anxiety to weigh you down, cause you to lose perspective on life, or lack trust in God. Rather, have faith, knowing that God eternally values you.

Prayer Focus: Pray against the worry and anxiety you are experiencing in light of present circumstances. **Song of the Day:** <u>"Your Love is Strong" - Jon Foreman</u>

Note: If anxiety is something you struggle with regularly, I would encourage you to check out this recent <u>message</u> from Mrs. Kinsee Crew on how scripture memory has helped her to battle anxiety.

IVESDAY: God's Everlasting Love

Key Passage: Romans 8:31-39

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

Questions to Consider:

- 1. What does Paul present as the greatest display of God's love for and faithfulness to us? (That the Father didn't spare his greatest treasure—the life of his Son—but rather gave him up for us!)
- 2. According to this passage, where is Christ and what is he doing? (At the right hand of the Father interceding on our behalf, making it known that we are justified in Him and condemned no more!)
- 3. Knowing this, how then should we respond to God's great love for us? Don't be afraid to get personal and relate this to your own struggles and circumstances.
- **Takeaway:** Though we were once dead in our sins, we stand condemned no more because God—in His great love for us—spared not his Son, but gave him up for us and now nothing can separate us from His love. Knowing this, we are more than conquerors because the victory has already been won.

Prayer Focus: Pray for those who don't know the comfort and extent of the Father's love.

Song of the Day: <u>"How Deep the Father's Love" - Shane & Shane</u>

WEDNESDAY: Jesus Calms the Storm

Key Passage: Mark 4:35-41

"And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was great calm" (Mark 4:39).

Questions to Consider:

- 1. What "storms" are you facing in your life?
- 2. In the midst of these storms, do you ever feel that God doesn't care? (Mark 4:38)
- 3. Let me ask you the same question that the disciples asked: "Who then is this?". Who is this Jesus?

Takeaway: Faith isn't the absence of fear, but rather the fear of God (awe and reverence). We can have faith knowing that all of creation still obeys the voice of the One who spoke it into existence.
Prayer Focus: Pray that Jesus would speak into your storms and bring peace.
Song of the Day: <u>"It is Well" - Bethel Music</u>

IHURSDAY: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Key Passage: John 14:1-14

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1).

Questions to Consider:

- 1. What has your heart troubled? Why is it so easy for us to become troubled with the things of this world?
- 2. In stating that he was going to make a place for us, Jesus reveals that this world is not our home. How do we keep that kind of eternal perspective as we struggle in this world?
- 3. As Thomas asked, "How can we know the way?" (God has revealed it to us through Christ!)
- 4. How has God made a way for us into eternity? In what ways do you need God to make a way for you today?

Takeaway: "How can we know the way?" The way has been revealed to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ because he is "the way, the truth, and the life." Therefore, we need not be troubled by the things of this world because Jesus has made a way for us and has gone to prepare a place for us beyond this world.

Prayer Focus: Pray that God would give you great faith to trust him in the midst of our present troubles.

Song of the Day: <u>"Make a Way" - I AM THEY</u>

fRIDAY: God is in Your Midst

Key Passage: Zephaniah 3:14-20

"The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing" (Zeph. 3:17)

Questions to Consider:

- 1. In your walk with Christ, do present circumstances affect (positively or negatively) your spirit of worship? Why, or why not?
- 2. What is presently hindering your ability to worship the King with joy?
- 3. How does it make you feel to know that God—the one who is mighty to save—is with you and is bringing redemption and restoration to all things?

Takeaway: Even in the throes of suffering we can rejoice because the King is in our midst and He is mighty to save.

Prayer Focus: Pray that God would bring you great joy in the midst of this pandemic that would lead you to worship with your whole being.

Song of the Day: <u>"Mighty to Save" - Hillsong United</u>

SATURDAY: Meditation and Memorization

• Take some time today to meditate on the following verse and commit it to memory, knowing that the God who has promised us salvation through the death of his Son is faithful.

Verse: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful" (Heb. 10:23)

Song of the Day: "Yes and Amen" - Housefires

SUNDAY: Engage with your Local Church Online

• On this day we would encourage you to engage with your local church online. If your local church doesn't have the resources to offer online services, we would love to have you join our online services at Briarwood Presbyterian Church at https://briarwood.org/.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- FAMILY WORSHIP (UIDE: Check out <u>this guide</u> from David Platt at McLean Bible Church:
- IHE WORSHIP INITIATIVE: Check out the <u>Daily Devo app</u> from the Worship Initiative. Each devotion focuses around a popular worship song. This is a great way to engage in worship through song and the Word.
- HE / SHE READS TRUTH: This group provides excellent printed and digital resources tailored to <u>men</u> and <u>women</u> for personal devotions and the study of Scripture (costs may apply). There's even an app!
- UNREACHED OF THE DAY: Remember that this pandemic is affecting our entire globe. <u>This app</u> from the Joshua Project will help you to be mindful of this as you pray for unreached peoples each day.