

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – December 5 - 10
Doing Live Together: The Past is Powerful

MONDAY: Psalm 102:18, 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 2 Timothy 3:16

KEY VERSE: Romans 15:4

OBSERVATION Hope is an amazing thing. If you can cling to hope in the midst of trials, a difficult situation can become bearable because hope will enable you to get through it. As believers hope is a necessary part of life. We must cling to certain things so that we can come out on the other side of difficulties unscathed by the world around us. Romans 8:24 says, "hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?" The realization of our hope cannot be seen yet, but today's passage explains to us where this hope is rooted and where to find this hope necessary for life.

TUESDAY: Deuteronomy 4:10, Deuteronomy 4:23, Deuteronomy 6:7

KEY VERSE: Deuteronomy 4:9

OBSERVATION: The possession of the oracles of God by Israel was a benefit to them only as these were kept in mind and reverently obeyed. Therefore they were to take heed and diligently beware of forgetting the circumstances under which the Law had been received at Horeb. God had then commanded the people to be gathered together, so that they stood before the Lord, were in his manifested presence, and were made to hear his voice speaking to them from amidst the fire and the clouds that covered the mount.

WEDNESDAY: Exodus 12:26, Job 8:8, Deuteronomy 32:7

KEY VERSE: Psalm 77:5

OBSERVATION: Worship includes picturing the mighty acts of God in history. The word pictures provided in the psalms should help us to "feel" the power of God's great works in history. The lightning flashes. The thunder crashes. The power of God is palpable in our midst. There it is: the hand of God is holding back six trillion tons of water as His people walk on dry ground to safety. Such descriptions take you into the story and help you experience the miracle one more time.

THURSDAY: Psalm 106:7, Jeremiah 4:1, Isaiah 1:16

KEY VERSE: Zechariah 1:4

OBSERVATION: When God calls us to complete a task, we know we should be faithful and diligent until it is accomplished. But sometimes we grow tired or discouraged. Obstacles block our path; opponents mock us, and in time we are tempted to give up. During such times, we need a fresh word from the Lord. He gently rebukes us, then offers us strong encouragement and genuine hope. Most of all, he gives us a renewed vision of how our task fits into his broader plans and purposes in the world.

FRIDAY: Hebrews 10:23, 2 Peter 2:9, Matthew 6:13

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 10:13

OBSERVATION: Temptation (which can also be described as a test) comes when we are faced with the choice to do the right thing or the wrong thing. Temptations are a part of life, but God is faithful and will always help us to overcome them. Now what does the scripture in 1 Corinthians mean by no temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind? It simply means that everyone is tempted to do wrong because we are human, and it's in our human (fallen) nature to desire sinful things.

And by everyone I mean everyone. You, me, our parents, people at your school, the pastors at our churches, the president of the United States, everyone!

SATURDAY: Philippians 4:13, 1 Corinthians 2:3-5

KEY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 12:9

OBSERVATION: The Apostle Paul teaches us a thing or two about infirmities. Paul takes pleasure in his infirmities because it is his weakness that God's power and strength are made perfect. It is because we are frail and feeble jars of clay that any successes or victories more clearly shine as displays of the efficacy of God and the results of the staggering strength of God. They emanate from the surpassing power of God, and not any inherent strength of our own.