

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:6, 2, 1-2, 7-8, 11**
 Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving- | kindnesses,*
 for they are | from of old.
 Let not my enemies triumph | over me.*
 Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their | troubles!
 To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
 O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed;
 do not remember the sins | of my youth;*
 according to Your mercy remember me for Your | goodness' sake.
 Good and upright | is the Lord;*
 therefore He teaches sinners | in the way.
 For Your name's | sake, O Lord,*
 pardon my iniquity, for | it is great.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **1 Corinthians 1:27**
 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose
 what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 O God, our heavenly Father, seeing that of ourselves we have no strength,
 keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all
 adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may
 assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
 and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **When In the Hour of Utmost Need**
 TLH 522, LSB 615
 Paul Eber



1. When in the hour of utmost need
 We know not where to look for aid;
 When days and nights of anxious
 thought
 Nor help nor counsel yet have brought,

4. For Thou hast promised graciously
 To hear all those who cry to Thee
 Through Him whose name alone is
 great,
 Our Savior and our Advocate.

5. And thus we come, O God, today
 And all our woes before Thee lay;
 For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,
 Perplexed by fears on every hand.

6. Ah! hide not for our sins Thy face,
 Absolve us through Thy boundless
 grace,
 Be with us in our anguish still,
 Free us at last from every ill



“He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples”

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED
 I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
 Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
 under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
 and was buried. He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the
 dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at
 the right hand of God, the Father
 Almighty. From thence He will come to
 judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
 Christian church, the communion of
 saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
 resurrection of the body, and the life
 everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER
 Our Father, who art in
 heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it
 is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily
 bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who
 trespass against us;
 and lead us not into
 temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and
 the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have kept me this night from all
 harm and danger; and I pray that
 You would keep me this day also
 from sin and every evil, that all my
 doings and life may please You.
 For into Your hands I commend
 myself, my body and soul, and all
 things. Let Your holy angel be with
 me, that the evil foe may have no
 power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have graciously kept me this day;
 and I pray that You would forgive
 me all my sins where I have done
 wrong, and graciously keep me this
 night. For into Your hands, I
 commend myself, my body and
 soul, and all things. Let Your holy
 angel be with me, that the evil foe
 may have no power over me. Amen.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of February 21-27, 2016

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples

The Lord Jesus suffers the weakness of His disciples. He bore their infirmities and their sicknesses to the cross. He, having suffered weakness and pain here, now hears the prayers of His weak saints. And what's more, the Lord Christ also uses the weakness of men to further His kingdom and to deliver blessings. Christ suffered defeat at the hands of Jacob, and Christ sent weakness to Paul so that he might glory in God's grace alone. Christ heard the prayer of the weak and unworthy Canaanite woman. Let us thank and praise the Christ who bore our weakness and now uses our weakness to extend His kingdom on earth.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7 God has not called us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

Marriage is a good gift of God. Marriage was created before the Fall. Our Lord Jesus blessed the wedding at Cana by performing His first sign there. Marriage is a good estate. But a good thing can be twisted and corrupted. Paul calls attention to this in his letter. Original sin leads to the weakness of unrestrained lust and wicked passion. The Thessalonians had the same weakness as we do. They were surrounded by a society of sex. Temptations abounded. It is so easy to look at dirty pictures or to shack up with one's girlfriend. Jesus knows this. He suffered for your lack of self-control. His will is that you are made holy, through the forgiveness of sins. *Lord Jesus, forgive us for our uncleanness and help us to walk uprightly and please God. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 32:22-32 God suffers defeat

It is really amazing! God deigns to wrestle a mortal man! Obviously, this isn't even a contest. God's omnipotent, almighty. How can Jacob compete with that? What's more, Jacob is 97 years old. And yet, the pre-incarnate Christ doesn't wipe the matt with Jacob. Christ allows Himself to be manhandled by mortal hands so that He might impart a greater blessing. Jacob becomes Israel, "He who prevails with God." Like Jacob, we wrestle with God in prayer, knowing that He will abide by His eternal promises. *Lord Jesus, graciously hear our prayers as You have promised. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 When I am weak, then I am strong

Nobody likes to be weak. Thorns hurt. Pain and weakness make us think that we are losing or that we're doing something wrong. Has God forsaken you? The answer is no. God has not forsaken you. In fact, God sometimes sends us thorns in order to keep us from pride and conceit. Through weakness, God reminds us that our strength and our knowledge are not enough. We are strong when we are weak because weakness forces back to God's gracious promises. Christ hasn't abandoned us when we are weak; on the contrary, Christ's power rests on those who are weak and infirm. *Dear Jesus, help us to boast in our weakness, so that Your power might rest upon us. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 102 The prayer of the weak and afflicted man

This is the cry of a man who is overwhelmed by misery. His heart withers in his breast. He doesn't eat, he doesn't sleep. The whole world is against him. Yes, this man even feels God's wrath on account of his sin. Where do the weak go for help? Where do the miserable go for succor? The Lord is the help of the weak; He is the succor for the sorrowful. He has had mercy upon Zion, His church. Christ, the unchangeable One, assumed our mortal, changeable nature into Himself. He felt and carried all grief, sorrow and wrath. He doesn't despise your prayer; He has promised to hear you. *Lord Jesus, hear the prayers of your destitute people and release those appointed to death. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:1-17 Jesus took our infirmities

No miracle of Jesus is random. Everything fits the divine plan perfectly. Christ heals the leper, the sick and the demon possessed in order to fulfil Isaiah's prophecy. The Messiah came to take our infirmities and to carry our sicknesses. These people are weakened by disease or by malign spiritual powers. And Jesus takes all of this weakness on Himself. He exchanges His light yoke with our heavy yoke. And He bears all of this weakness to the cross. The Law, weakened by sinful flesh, could not save. But God has saved us by sending His Son in our likeness and by condemning sin in His flesh. He truly has borne our infirmities! *Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Your only-begotten Son to take our infirmities and to bear our sickness. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 35 God strengthens weak hands

Sometimes, it feels like the end of the world. The Israelites knew this. Their kingdom was split. There was a great apostasy among the people. Finally, Isaiah prophesied that Jerusalem would be sacked and the people would go into exile. What hope was there? God will come to save His people, Isaiah promises. How will we know Him? He will open blind eyes, unstop deaf ears, and make the lame leap for joy. God will come and ransom His people, not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. In this hope, the people were strengthened. We too are strengthened by these great promises. *Lord Jesus, lead Your ransomed saints to Your heavenly Zion, where there will be joy forever and ever. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 15:21-28 The strength of powerless prayer

The Canaanite woman was at the greatest disadvantage imaginable. Her people ought to have been destroyed by Joshua thirteen hundred years before. Jesus ignores her and then calls her a dog. Having nothing to cling to, this woman clings to the good news which she had heard. She trusts the Word and she catches Jesus in His own words. If she is a dog, fine. But even the dogs eat the crumbs. In the midst of her weakness, the Canaanite woman finds an eternal and immovable comfort: Christ's promises. Christ tests her faith by taking away every earthly support. This woman has nothing to trust in except Christ's promises. In these promises, we too trust. *Lord Jesus, graciously hear our prayers because of Your mercy and love toward unworthy sinners. Amen.*

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