



## Grow. Pray. Study.

### Greensburg UMC – Weekly Guide

**January 9, 2020— Just a Closer Walk with Thee: *I am no longer my own, but thine.***

#### **DAY 1: Ephesians 2:1-10**

**Prayer Focus: “I am..”**

We are deliberately and intentionally created with meaning and purpose by the living God. Purpose tells us who we have been created to be, and meaning tells us the significance and worth we find in the repetition of living out our purpose. Knowing this, when we live according to purpose and meaning, we find peace. Wesley wants us to know that God is love, and in that love, we are God’s representatives of God’s love – symbolizing God’s grace, mercy, and justice with all those we come in contact.

- What is my purpose for life?
- Where do I find meaning for life?
- In what ways do I best represent God to others?

#### **DAY 2: Challenge for the Day: REPRESENT**

Today, at least three times, within your sphere(s) of influence, choose the best method and course of action to represent God to others. The best way to do this might be to take action once in the morning, once in the afternoon, and once in the evening.

**Prayer:** *God, help us to remember who we are and whose we are – and to represent you as an emblem of love wherever we live, work, study, or play. Amen.*

#### **DAY 3: Genesis 3**

**Prayer Focus: “No longer my own...”**

The admission that “I am no longer my own” in Wesley’s prayer gives us a new or renewed vision for our life, a vision of a paradise restored in which God dwells with God’s people and one in which there is no

more darkness, only the light of God. When we pray, “I am no longer my own,” we resist the urge to have our individual desires and interests prevail. In their places, we surrender ourselves to God’s good work of restoring the world toward its intended wholeness and work attentively to represent God with our entire lives.

- If I am honest with myself, how do I answer the question, “Do I live as ‘my own’?”
- With what three areas in my life do I have a hard time trusting God?
- In what ways do you intentionally temper your individual desires or self-interest?

#### **DAY 4: Challenge for the Day: BE BOLD**

Make a list of at least three struggles of self-interest that keep you from trusting in God more fully. Share the three struggles with family, friends, or others in your small group. Ask them to hold you accountable to purge them from your behavior or lifestyle.

**Prayer:** *Teach us to trust you, God. Help us to use our freedom of will to allow you to truly be the only God in our lives. Help us to resist what is “pleasing to the eye” so that your will might be done. Amen.*

#### **DAY 5: I Samuel 3:1-19**

**Prayer Focus: “But thine.”**

As participants with God in God’s mission, we strive for a deep level of dependency upon God. Through intimacy and vulnerability, we choose to persistently place our lives in God’s hands, trusting God for our every need – spiritually, emotionally, relationally, financially, and so forth. To depend on God is to live with a bias of hope that God is who God says God is. To live with dependence on God is to trust the mission of God. To live with dependence on God is to trust the will, the way, and the work of God is true and active. Because of a commitment to those beliefs, it produces within us a confident expectation that in our work, no matter how overwhelming our daunting it may be, God’s will for a whole world will prevail and all things will one day be made new.

- On a scale of 1-10, 10 being no room for improvement, how fully surrendered am I to doing God's good work in the world?
- How would I describe God's will?
- Where do you find your "substance" for life?
- What does it mean to depend on God? How am I depending on God?

#### **DAY 6: Challenge for the Day: PROXIMITY AND TIME**

Intimacy in any relationship requires proximity and time. Set your alarm on your phone, watch or other clock at the top of each hour from 9:00 am through 9:00 pm. At the top of each hour, as the alarm reminds you, spend 2 minutes talking with God, reading a verse, listening, writing a prayer, or another activity. At the end of the day, take 5 minutes to journal your experience.

**Prayer:** *Guide us into holiness as we seek to draw near to you, share our lives with you, and learn to more deeply depend on you for all our needs. Amen.*



## **GROW. PRAY. STUDY.**

**Weekly study, prayer  
and reflection points**

**For the series**

***Just a Closer Walk with Thee***

If you would like to have further reading and reflection, please read *The Wesley Prayer Challenge*, by Chris Folmsbee.

Material for this weekly reflection  
has been resourced from this book.

You are invited to Coffee Hour and Class  
Sundays at 11 am on Zoom.  
All ages are welcome.

**Meeting ID: 861 0404 1274**

**Passcode: 445979**