

knowing



**Christ Redeemer Church
Sermon Series Study Guide
Fall 2020**

Special thanks to Anna Kaye Schulte
for the sermon series artwork!

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INTRODUCTION

Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.
~Jeremiah 9:23 (NASB)

Our fall sermon series is a topical study on "Knowing God." In this series, we will look at the character of God and consider what it means to walk in personal relationship with Him—to know Him and be known by Him.

In the chaos and conflict of our present cultural moment, what we need more than anything else is to lift our gaze heavenward and anchor our souls in the Living God! At bottom, the problem with our souls and our world—whether societal, political, economic, etc.—is sin. And all sin is rooted in our rejecting the true God and worshipping a false god.

Sadly, everything about our secular age drives us put our hope in false gods. We look to Washington and Wall Street instead of God's Word. We look to our wisdom and instead of God's wisdom. We look to society instead of our Savior. No wonder we find ourselves so weak and worthless in the face of trials and temptations! It is not the strength of our faith that saves us, but the strength of our God. Therefore, knowing and trusting the true God is absolutely critical. The prophet Daniel reminds us that "the people who know their God will display strength and take action" (Daniel 11:32).

Like any relationship, though, knowing God requires work. It requires us to dig into what God has told us about Himself. Moreover, since God is our maker, it requires us to respond properly to what He has told us—to trust and obey Him—to live in personal dependence upon Him. We were made by God and for God. He is our source and our destiny.

The Purpose of this Study Guide

The pastoral staff of our Hanover, New London, and Quechee churches have crafted this study guide as a simple and basic way for us to engage in the study of God on a week by week basis. By this we hope to work together on the daily discipline of pursuing God in Scripture and prayer. As Paul commands, we are to let "word of Christ dwell among us richly" (Colossians 3:16).

How to Use the Study Guide

A word about how to use this study guide: The date at the top of each page notes the Sunday for that respective week. The Scripture verse listed under each heading is a suggested memory verse for that week. Below you will find a daily passage of Scripture, followed by "Reflection Questions." In general these readings will allow you to reflect on the previous sermon or prepare you to hear the sermon for that upcoming week. We estimate that each day's "lesson" should require no more than 15 minutes.

In addition to the Scripture reading and prayer suggestions, there is also a suggested reading each week from the book *Knowing God* by the late, British-born J.I. Packer. Each chapter is keyed in such a way that it covers a similar subject but from a slightly differently angle, thus, providing a kind of "cross-pollination" to our study. You can order the books online or contact the CRC office for a copy (\$12 suggested donation).

To be clear, this guide is not intended to be a legalistic requirement. Not at all! Rather, it is a way for us as a congregation to walk together as we explore God's Word. And to what end? Our prayer is that as we grow in our understanding and practice of daily prayer and meditation, we will grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ and so grow in our love for Him and one another.

In the Name of the Living God,

Don Willeman
September 2020
Hanover, NH

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

The Study of God

Memory Verse:

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

~John 20:31 (ESV)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 1

TUESDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:9-16

Reflection Questions:

- How can we learn true information about God?

- What does it look like to seek God and know him?

Prayer:

- Heavenly Father, thank you for your Word, for revealing yourself to us!
- Gracious God, help me to learn about you and to know you personally.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

Reflection Questions:

- What is wrong the kind of knowledge in verse 2? How does this knowledge make us prideful?

- What kind of knowledge is commended to us in verse 3? How does this change the kind of knowledge discussed in verse 3?

Prayer:

- My God, forgive me for taking pride in my limited perspective of myself, you, and others.
- My Lord, teach me the truth so that I can know you truly, and humble me with your truth, so that I might truly love you!

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 9:23-24

Reflection Questions:

- What about yourself are you tempted to boast about, or quietly take pride in?

- What does God boast about? How does knowing him change your view of yourself and others?

Prayer:

- Heavenly Father, thank you for correcting and teaching me, for humbling me and leading me in your ways!
- My Savior, I rejoice in your grace, truth, and patience towards me and my community.

SATURDAY:

Reflections:

- How can I spend time today focusing on God and His Word as I prepare to worship with the church tomorrow?

Prayer:

- Our Lord and God, teach us about who you are as we gather to worship tomorrow.
- Lord Jesus Christ, draw near to us and help us to know and love you as we ought to, and as we long to!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

The Majesty & Greatness of God

Memory Verse:

*"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens."*

~Psalm 8:1 (ESV)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 8

MONDAY:

Reflection Questions:

- What are 3 things you learned in the sermon yesterday?
- How does this shape the way you think and feel about God and your life? How does it shape the way you act?

Prayer:

- Heavenly Father, thank you for speaking to us and revealing yourself to us.
- Please help me to know you and to love you, and for your Word to be deeply rooted in my heart.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 8

Reflection Questions:

- What does majestic mean? Write a list of synonyms. Then write what it means in this passage.
- Why does God desire glory and honor for Himself in a way people should not? Is that prideful?
- What can we learn from David about praising God in our prayers? How do you praise God in your own prayer life?

Prayer:

- Spend some time simply meditating on this passage and the majesty of God.
- Heavenly Father, help me to be in awe of you!
- Heavenly Father, you are majestic, glorious, and beyond our complete comprehension.

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 1

Reflection Questions:

- What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? What stands out to you most? Why?

- Meditate on how the writer describes Jesus here and how you responded in question #1. How do you view Jesus? Would this be the way you normal describe Him? Why do you tend to describe Him in the way(s) you do?

Prayer:

- Heavenly Father may the reign of Christ be thorough and complete in my heart: may He be supreme and majestic and may all else be for His glory and kingdom.

SATURDAY:

Prayer:

- Spend time confessing your sins to God. Ask for forgiveness. Heavenly Father, please show me my sins and sinfulness. Reveal my hidden sins to me. Forgive me.
- Now, meditate on the many ways in which God has blessed you. How has He provided, in addition to salvation, in His Son. Thank you for the unconditional and abundant nature of your love, kindness, and provision! You have provided beyond anything I could possibly imagine.
- Heavenly, Father, please prepare my heart for gathered worship. Help me to be a communicant, not merely a spectator. Help me to see you, know you, and love you more deeply and fully. Help me to love your people. Amen!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

How Do We Know God?

Memory Verse:

"¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

~John 1:1-3, 12-15 (ESV)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 6

MONDAY:

Reflection Questions:

- What are 3 things you learned in the sermon yesterday?
- How does this shape the way you think and feel about God and your life. How does this shape the way that you act?

Prayer:

- Heavenly Father, thank you for speaking to us and revealing yourself to us.
- Please help me to know you and to love you, and for your Word to be deeply rooted in my heart.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 19:1, Romans 1:18-20 and 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Reflection Questions:

- How does the Bible tell us God speaks to us? In other words, how does He make Himself known to us?
- Why does God make Himself known to us? What does He desire?

Prayer:

- Spend some time simply meditating on these passages. Heavenly Father, open my eyes and heart to see you, know you, and love you.
- Write down people you know who do not know God. Pray: Heavenly Father, I pray for _____. That you break through their heart as you did mine. Draw _____ to yourself. Help me to be one who speaks truth and grace. Reveal yourself to _____.

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18 (focal verse: 14)

Reflection Questions:

- How is the Word described (feel free to list attributes)? Who is the Word? What is the significance of this?

- What happens to those who do receive Him (v. 12)? What does this mean to you? How does this hit you, shape you, and alter the way you think?

Prayer:

- Heavenly Father, you make yourself known to me through your creation, through your written Word, and through your Son. And you do all this that I might receive your abundant grace. There is no doubt that I do not deserve you. So, thank you! Thank you for revealing yourself to me. Thank you for showing me your Son and making Him known to me.

SATURDAY:

Prayer:

- Spend time confessing your sins to God. Ask for forgiveness. Heavenly Father, please show me my sins and sinfulness. Reveal my hidden sins to me. Forgive me.
- Now, meditate on the many ways in which God has blessed you. How has He provided, in addition to salvation, in His Son. Thank you for the unconditional and abundant nature of your love, kindness, and provision! You have provided beyond anything I could possibly imagine.
- Heavenly, Father, please prepare my heart for gathered worship. Help me to be a communicant, not merely a spectator. Help me to see you, know you, and love you more deeply and fully. Help me to love your people. Amen!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

The Word of God

Memory Verse:

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

~Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 11

MONDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:9-11, 89-90, 105, 140, 160

Reflection Questions:

- Take a moment to reflect on two or three things stood out to you from yesterday’s sermon.
- How do these things reorient you today?
- What practical steps might you take to respond to what God is saying?
- What do the passages above teach you about the Word of God?

Prayer:

- Pray in response to what you were thinking about above.
- Pray for God to help you grow in knowing the trustworthiness of His laws and promises.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 1

Reflection Questions:

- How are the unrighteous described in this psalm? Where do you see yourself in these descriptions?
- What characterized the righteous? How does this psalm tell us that we develop into those who are flourishing?

Prayer:

- Confess any ways that you've noticed that you've been sitting in the seat of the scoffer, be it in your head or verbally, instead of having the heart of a servant.
- Pray that God would help you to meditate on and delight in His law day and night and bear fruit in your life to the praise of His glory.
- Pray that we would be conformed to the image of the only man who has perfectly fulfilled this Psalm.

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 3:10-4:5

Reflection Questions:

- How is Scripture described in the passage? Spend some time meditating on the different ways that Scripture is meant to be used
- What kinds of ways does Paul encourage Timothy to minister the Word of God with love? Which of these do you feel like you need to grow in?
- What kind of person and lifestyle has the Word of God created in Paul?

Prayer:

- Pray that God would help you depend upon and minister His Word more faithfully fully in the relationships that He has you in. Ask Him for His Spirit to help you grow in wisdom and love that will enable you to minister His Word more skillfully.
- Pray that God would help us to grow as a community in persevering love as He shapes us by His Word.

SATURDAY:

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:1-23

Prayer:

- Pray that when we gather together tomorrow, our worship and fellowship will be deep and real.
- Pray that God would bring His Word with power and conviction as it is preached tomorrow. Pray that He would awaken and deepen faith in Jesus Christ for yourself and everyone else present.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 4, 2020

The Faithfulness of God

Memory Verse:

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”

~James 1:17-18 (NIV)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 7

MONDAY:

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:11-13

Reflection Questions:

- What are two takeaways for you from yesterday’s sermon?
- Is there anything from yesterday’s sermon that you have questions about that you would like to explore further?

Prayer:

- Pray that God would help you incorporate into daily life what you took away from yesterday’s sermon.
- Pray that God would help you grow in faithfulness to God that is grounded in His unshakeable faithfulness to us.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: Exodus 3

Reflection Questions:

- What do you learn from this chapter about who God is from how He identifies Himself?
- In this chapter we see where God’s name comes from. The name the LORD, or Yahweh in Hebrew is a shortened version of how God reveals Himself in verse 14 as “I am.” Of all the ways that God could have chosen to identify Himself, e.g. “I am all-powerful” or “I am all-knowing” or I am “all-loving,” why do you think He chose this name?
- How does knowing the context of Israel’s slavery from which this passage comes, help you think about God’s perfect faithfulness in your own life?

Prayer:

- Pray that God would help you know and trust His unchanging character in deeper ways today for His name's sake.
- Think about who might be given courage by knowing God's perfect faithfulness at heart-level. Pray for God to reveal this to them and ask Him to show you any ways that you might be a means of this.

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:89-96

Reflection Questions:

- What do you learn about the stability of God's Word in this passage?
- What do you learn about what sustains us when we suffer?
- In your own life, what promises of God have been most significant for you and why? How can being reminded that nothing can prevent God's Word from coming true help you trust these promises afresh?

Prayer:

- Confess any ways that you have been failing to trust and delight in God's Word. Pray for His help to remember and trust in His law in specific scenarios you know you will struggle in.
- Pray that God would help you become someone of unshakeable confidence in His Word and be a means of helping develop others in the same way.

SATURDAY:

Scripture Reading: Luke 21:5-36

Prayer:

- Pray for the our worship service tomorrow—that God would be awakening faith in us that would help us to endure in love over the long haul and not get weighed down by the anxieties of life.
- Pray that God would help us to trust God's faithfulness in deeper ways and become people who are faithfully loving even when it seems like the world is being turned upside down.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 11, 2020

The Wisdom of God

Memory Verse:

"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."

~Proverbs 4:7-9 (ESV)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 9 & 10

MONDAY:

Reflection Questions:

- What encouraged you in the sermon or worship service yesterday?
- How were you challenged or corrected? What might you do differently this week?

Prayer:

- Heavenly Father, thank you for my church family and all that we share together in Christ!
- My Lord, help me to encourage others and help them think of you this week.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 104:24, Isaiah 40:28, Romans 11:33-36

Reflection Questions:

- What is true of God's wisdom in creation, in His will and plan, and in redemption?
- What challenges you about God's wisdom? What do you find encouraging?

Prayer:

- My God, I praise you for your wisdom; not only do you know all things, you do all things well!
- Heavenly Father, I entrust myself to you and pray that you would give me all I need to love and obey you.

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 9

Reflection Questions:

- What are the benefits of gaining wisdom for yourself?

- What kind of attitude does a wise person have towards God and others?

Prayer:

- O God, who gives wisdom generously to all who ask, teach me your ways and make me wise in mind, heart, and deeds.

SATURDAY:

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:28

Prayer:

- Heavenly Father, thank you for causing all things to work together for the good of your church. Cause us to grow to be more like our savior, Jesus Christ!
- Our God, draw close to us as we meet for worship tomorrow. Help us to grow in wisdom and love towards one another and our community.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 18, 2020

Knowing & Being Known

Memory Verse:

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

~John 17:3 (NASB)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 2 & 3

MONDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 71:2-3

Reflection Questions:

- What is one significant take away from this past week and/or yesterday’s sermon?
- What do the words of this psalmist reveal to us about the nature of knowing God and being known by Him?
- The psalmist cries out to God to be saved, and then in the NASB we get this: “Be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come.” In what ways are you actively looking to God to be your savior and perpetual refuge?

Prayer:

- Jesus offers Himself to us as a “rock of habitation to which [we] may continually come” (Jn. 15:4, Mt. 11:28). Give thanks!
- Pray for one other person to know God as their savior and refuge.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: John 10:27-30; 17:3

Reflection Questions:

- What are some characteristics that John points out about those who know and are known by Jesus? List them off one by one.
- Jesus boils “eternal life” down to “knowing God” (John 17:3). In what ways does that challenge your own concept about each of those things?

Prayer:

- Ask God to transform your concept of life, and what it means to know and be known by Him, so that it better reflects His (Romans 12:1-2).
- Jesus promises to never leave or forsake those who know Him (Hebrews 13:5). Give thanks!

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139

Reflection Questions:

- What about this psalm stands out to you, and why?

- What do you notice as you compare and contrast the beginning and end of this psalm (v. 1-6, 23-24)?

Prayer:

- Read verses 23-24 over a few times, and then offer them as a prayer to God.
- Ask God to deepen your understanding of Him, as well as your wonder about Him (v. 6).

SATURDAY:

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 9:23-24

Prayer:

- Ask God to encourage and inspire all who will facilitate our worship service tomorrow morning.
- Ask God to fill all who will gather tomorrow morning with a sense of wonder and awe over the realities and implications of His Gospel.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 25, 2020

The Love of God

Memory Verse:

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

~1 John 4:9-10 (ESV)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 12

MONDAY:

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

Reflection Questions:

- What stood out to you from yesterday's sermon?
- What do you feel God calling you to incorporate into your life as a result?

Prayer:

- Pray that God would help you to grow in the places you sense that His Spirit is prodding you.
- Take a moment to give thanks for the fact that you are still able to hear God's Word preached when so many still do not have access to the gospel. Pray that God would be causing His good news to come those who are still sitting in spiritual darkness.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Reflection Questions:

- What do we learn about God's love in this passage?
- What does this passage teach us about what prevents us from loving those around us? Why is this problematic?
- What do we learn about how God's love is expressed in us?

Prayer:

- Pray that God would help you know have deeper experience and understanding of His transformative love.
- Pray that God would help you to grow in loving Him by loving those closest to you.

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12:1-17

Reflection Questions:

- What do we learn about how God’s love works in our lives from this passage? Is this comforting or challenging? Why?
- Where do you feel like you are experiencing the “discipline of the Lord” right now? How does it help you to understand that God disciplines those He loves?
- When you hear people talk about God’s love, do you think that they understand this aspect of it?
- What does this passage teach us about where the source of our endurance comes from?

Prayer:

- Pray that God would reveal the places where He is trying to refine you through His discipline.
- Pray that God would help you to be trained by the ways that He’s disciplining you and praise Him for the peaceful fruit of righteousness that He will bring through it.
- Pray for people around you who you think might be encouraged to understand the disciplining aspect of God’s redeeming love.

SATURDAY:

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Prayer:

- Pray for the corporate gathering tomorrow—that as God’s love was made manifest among us by His Son coming into the world, it would be manifest by the work of His Spirit amongst us.
- Pray that through the preaching of His Word, God would help us to comprehend the extravagance of His costly love in deep, transformative ways.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

The Justice & Wrath of God

Memory Verse:

"Therefore, judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God."

~1 Corinthians 4:5 (NIV)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 14 & 15

MONDAY:

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Reflection Questions:

- How does this passage describe "The Lord's Chosen Servant?" What will/won't He do?
- Are there any noticeable similarities between Isaiah's description of the Lord and his description of the Chosen Servant?

Prayer:

- Pray that we would seek understanding of God's Justice and Wrath. Pray that we would develop proper knowledge of what these things mean in light of who God is.
- Pray that the sermon from Sunday would help inform how we are to live this week.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:14-21

Reflection Questions:

- How are we to respond to evil and persecution?
- In what areas of our lives might we be tempted to act otherwise?

Prayer:

- Pray that we would develop a deep sense of compassion for those with whom we disagree or struggle to live in harmony.
- Ask for wisdom to see where in our lives we might be rushing to judgement or vengeance.

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Reflection Questions:

- Why does Paul not care if he is judged by other people?

- How do you feel about God exposing the motives of our hearts? Is this comforting?

Prayer:

- Pray for freedom from letting a fear of being judged drive our actions.
- Pray for patience and trust that the Lord will act justly at the proper time and in the best way.

SATURDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 33:1-12

Prayer:

- Pray that the service on Sunday would go smoothly, and that any distracting issues would be worked out in advance
- Pray that God's wrath and justice would inspire awe in us
- Spend time praying through the Psalm and asking the Lord for the things the Psalmist asks for – joy, thankfulness, awe, etc.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 8, 2020

The Grace of God

Memory Verse:

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

~Romans 6:23 (NIV)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 13

MONDAY:

Scripture Reading: Romans 6:15-23

Reflection Questions:

- What parts of the sermon last week stood out to you?

- What does this passage say that the Gospel has done for us – God's people?

Prayer:

- Pray that God's grace would bring to mind a fresh sense of love and gratefulness in your heart.
- Thank God for the freedom that comes from Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: Genesis 21:8-21

Reflection Questions:

- How do you see God's grace being displayed in this story?

- What other stories in the Old Testament show God's grace towards his people?

Prayer:

- Pray that we would trust the Lord that His plans are far greater and more magnificent than ours could ever be.
- Ask God to help us show His Son's grace to all those we interact with. Try to think of specific areas or people who might benefit from receiving such grace from you.

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13:8-16

Reflection Questions:

- What does this passage say about Jesus and His sacrifice?

- Why does it matter that Jesus “suffered outside the gate?”

Prayer:

- Use this time to confess to God where you have failed or been led away this week. Afterwards, spend time thanking Christ for having sacrificed Himself for those sins specifically.
- Pray that our minds and hearts would be oriented towards the city that is to come.

SATURDAY:

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:9-15

Prayer:

- Pray through this prayer slowly, taking time to meditate on each verse as you go
- Pray for the service on Sunday, that all who attend would have their hearts and minds open and receptive to God’s Word.
- Pray for wisdom for the speaker.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15, 2020

The Jealousy of God

Memory Verse:

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

~Romans 12:18 (NIV)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 17

MONDAY:

Scripture Reading: Sermon Passage

Reflection Questions:

- What were some of the most memorable points from the sermon on Sunday?
- How do you want to see that change the way you live this week?

Prayer:

- Pray for all those preparing to gather for Thanksgiving this Thursday. Pray that we would be able to recognize and be thankful for all the gifts God has given us.
- Pray that we would be able to celebrate in unity during what might be a particularly challenging time for some.

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 4:15-24

Reflection Questions:

- How does this passage describe why God was angry with Moses?
- Where might you have erected idols in your own life that are getting in the way of worshipping God? When thinking about this, try to list the things that you think/worry about most often during the day.

Prayer:

- Ask God to help you recognize how the idols in your life, whatever they may be, are intruding on your ability to worship God. Ask for faith and trust that He truly is far better and worth dwelling on than any of those things that seem so pressing or important.

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Reflection Questions:

- What does this passage say about our tendency to stray away from the truth of the Gospel?

- What does Paul mean when he says that he “feels a divine jealousy?”

Prayer:

- Pray for guidance in understanding why God describes himself as a jealous God.
- Ask God to help you direct your desires more deeply towards him.

SATURDAY:

Prayer:

- Pray for the person giving the sermon today – that they would have wisdom, compassion, and utter dependence on God
- Pray for everyone returning to school or work on Monday, that they would be able to go in feeling rested and refreshed, and with a deeper understanding of the Gospel’s implications for their lives

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22, 2020

The Goodness and Severity of God

Memory Verse:

"Praise the LORD, all nations; laud Him, all peoples! For His lovingkindness is great toward us, and the truth of the LORD is everlasting. Praise the LORD!"

~Psalm 117 (NASB)

Knowing God suggested reading: Chapter 16

MONDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 117

Reflection Questions:

- What is one significant take away from this past week and/or yesterday's sermon?
- In Psalm 117, God is "lauded" in two particular ways here as it relates to His great and everlasting character. We're directed to His "lovingkindness" as well as His "truth." How do these two characteristics help you to better know and understand God?
- How do you see these two characteristics as being different from one another? What kinds of questions might that raise about the nature of God?

Prayer:

- One aspect of prayer is meditation. Take some time to reflect and meditate on God's "lovingkindness" and the fact that His love is "great" towards those who hope in His Son. Give thanks!
- Take some time to reflect and meditate on the "truth" of God; that it's unchanging and everlasting. Give thanks!

WEDNESDAY:

Scripture Reading: Exodus 34:1-9

Reflection Questions:

- What is your response when you read verse 6 and hear that God is "compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth," and that He "forgives iniquity, transgression and sin?"

- Like a hinge within verse 6 we come to the word: “yet.” We’re then told that “He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished.” What kind of a response does *that* bring about in you?
- How do you resolve or make sense of these two seemingly contrary aspects of God’s character?

Prayer:

- As you consider the things about God that you struggle to understand, pray and ask God to reveal Himself to you in ever deepening ways.
- Pray for one other person in the same way.

FRIDAY:

Scripture Reading: John 1:14

Reflection Questions:

- Coming into the New Testament, we see this same pairing of characteristics (grace and truth) ascribed to Jesus, and we’re told that they represent His “Glory.” How might these two things embody His glory?
- In His “Glory”, how does Jesus resolve the tension that exists between God’s goodness and severity, as it relates to our sin and guilt?

Prayer:

- If you would call yourself a follower of Christ, ask God to fill you with His grace and truth as you attempt to represent Him in all areas of your life.
- Pray for one other person in this same way.

SATURDAY:

Scripture Reading: Psalm 117

Prayer:

- Ask God to guide and support all who will facilitate our worship service tomorrow morning.
- Ask God to prepare all who will gather to hear His Gospel preached tomorrow morning.