

Saturday, May 17, 2025 (by Lisa Trigg)

John 10:22-30 <https://tinyurl.com/54t8whh8>

PONDER: Today's scripture has sometimes been used to point an accusing finger at "the Jews" who are portrayed as the flawed religious leadership determined to have Jesus killed in order to silence him and his objection to their collusion with the occupying Roman Empire. Have you ever heard someone lump all Jewish people into that group? Such blaming overlooks the truth that Jesus and many of the early followers of "The Way" were Jews. Still, some people use this scripture to justify antisemitism or Christian persecution of Jewish people. Jesus called his followers to love all people. To break bread with them. To reach out with comfort, compassion and service. He wasn't focused on blame, even as he died, or even as he returned to encourage his followers to continue sharing the love of God with others. He encouraged people, including us, to examine our own hearts and to love our neighbors. How would this world change today if we got to know people of another faith rather than view them as strangers or the enemy? It can be difficult to release our prejudices because we make it difficult. Remember that Jesus did not fear or avoid people who were different. He loved. As followers of Jesus, we also are called simply to love others.

PRAYER: Dear God, help me to love others and to be lovable, not hateful, to people who I do not understand. Expand my heart in ways that might be painful to me now, but are helpful to growing your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

ACTION: Read about or learn about a different faith tradition or culture today.

Daily Prayer Meditations are a project of Gobin Memorial UMC, Beech Grove UMC, and Brick Chapel UMC in Greencastle, Indiana; Fillmore UMC in Fillmore, Indiana; Rosedale UMC in Rosedale, Indiana; and Grace UMC in Franklin, Indiana.



DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

May 12 to 17, 2025

Monday, May 12, 2025 (by Marilyn Culler)

Psalms 53 <https://tinyurl.com/mr4yp54y>

PONDER: David addresses the God-denying person as a fool. And what is to become of such a person? Rejection by God. While this sounds severe, what other choice does God have? Then again, I imagine that in the great, massive caverns of God's heart, mercy is there for all because we all fall short of perfection. Even when we run from God, God continues to seek us. The wideness of God's Love seeks us all the days of our lives. Left to ourselves and our own devices, we are, indeed, fools. To God be the glory for continuing to seek us!

PRAYER: God of mercy, thank you for continuing to love and care for me in my humanness. One day, may all people know Your Love. Amen.

ACTION: Instead of judging someone as a fool today, try sharing the Love of God with them. Offer support, a helping hand, a scripture verse about God's Love.

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 (by Ashlee Vitz)

Acts 9:32-35 <https://tinyurl.com/4zpfmex8>

PONDER: Peter's healing of Aeneas reminds us that sometimes faith begins not with words, but with presence and compassion. The transformation of one life can ripple outward and lead others to turn toward God.

PRAYER: God of healing, thank you for the quiet miracles that still unfold among us. Use my hands, my words, my presence to bring hope and strength to those who need it. Amen.

ACTION: Visit, call, or message someone who is sick, discouraged, or alone today. Offer a moment of comfort or encouragement.

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 (by Ashlee Vitz)

John 10:31-42 <https://tinyurl.com/4vru9x9j>

PONDER: Jesus' works speak even when his words are misunderstood. He points people not to arguments but to the fruit of love, healing, and mercy. Actions born of compassion will always be louder than words.

PRAYER: Christ, Word made flesh, let my life speak when my voice falters. May what I do reflect who you are – gentle, bold, and faithful. Help me sow goodness wherever I go. Amen.

ACTION: Perform a small act of kindness for someone who does not expect it today.

Thursday, May 15, 2025 (by Teddy Shuck)

Psalm 32 <https://tinyurl.com/yc76z6pz>

PONDER: This psalm shows the psalmist as relying on the certainty of the Lord's forgiveness for one who humbly

confesses guilt. It counsels all to come to open up to God with their true feelings without fear, but with the assurance that God will listen and love you with understanding. Give him your trust. He will love you no matter what you need to tell him. He will speak to you. Now what do I need to do to face him, confessing my sins and asking his forgiveness?

PRAYER: Thank you Lord, for showing me your mercies. I come before you unafraid, knowing that if I confess my sins, you will forgive me and show a better road. Amen.

ACTION: Share and discuss the teachings of Jesus with a friend.

Friday, May 16, 2025 (by Lisa Trigg)

Psalm 23 <https://tinyurl.com/3d4ad53r>

PONDER: Have you ever rested in a grassy meadow? Laying down in a field of tall grass, listening to the birds and feeling the bugs crawl onto my skin, those were good times for me as a child. Looking at a blue sky and wondering about a God who created natural beauty. Trying to stay so still that the butterflies would land on me before they realized I was not a flower. Reciting this Psalm to myself takes me back to that meadow, near the creek. And walking through the woods now will bring these verses to mind again and again, even when the path becomes rocky, steep and rough. At the end of the day's trail, a jug of water and a check for ticks are welcome rewards for the time spent among nature. Being thankful for our blessings, and allowing ourselves to enjoy God's goodness and loving pursuit of us, brings us home to God's house.

PRAYER: Loving God, your house is where I long to dwell. Thank you for open doors and welcome us always into your loving arms. Amen.

ACTION: Go on a nature walk with someone and talk about God's creation.