



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

October 8-14, 2018

Sermon by Lead Pastor Doug Forrester:

## ***The Next Faithful Step: "Peter - On Not Being Good Enough for God"***

Notes from sermon on 10/7:

Prayer requests:

### **Family Focus Questions (before sermon):**

Why does God so often call broken people into service to God's kingdom?

### **3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):**

1. Jesus talks to Peter in Luke 5 about "catching people." What are ways we do this at Reveille?
2. How has God called you to "let down your nets" a second time?
3. Jesus commands Peter to "not be afraid." How have you received reassurance from God?

### **Monday, October 8: Read Luke 5:1-11**

*Does God really need me? Do I really need to give my time, talents, and resources to others and to God's church? I have so much work to do and so little time as it is. I can't cram in a single extra thing. I can't spare anything at the moment. Besides, there are so many people who are more talented, more intelligent, more holy, and more wealthy than I. Let God use them. I have enough of my own worries to think about.*

If we believe these thoughts belong solely to the modern psyche, we have not read our Bible. Throughout the Old and New Testament, God calls and uses people who are certain they do not enough of what it takes for God to use them to change the world. Abram wasn't young enough. Moses wasn't eloquent enough. David wasn't old enough. As we read in today's scripture, Peter wasn't holy enough. Yet we know from history that God was able to transform the elderly Abram into Abraham, the father of a nation, Moses into an emancipator, David into a mighty king, and Peter into the rock upon which Christ built his church. What could God do with us at Reveille? Are we willing to put down the "nets" in our lives we are frantically casting in all the wrong places and allow God to transform us into agents of a higher purpose? What kind of harvest might God be able to produce with our humble gifts then? Could anything we do on our own even compare?

**Tuesday, October 9: Read Matthew 6:19-24**

*I feel pulled in so many directions. The world is telling me I need to be successful at work, own and maintain a beautiful home, sign my kids up for a myriad of sports and clubs, stay in shape, and volunteer on lots of committees. I crave simplicity and peace.* Today's scripture from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount shows us the way to peace and fruitfulness. When we focus purely on God and God's calling on our lives, we can tune out the voices of competition, distraction, greed, insecurity, and darkness. And those voices are everywhere. When we spend time in prayer, meditation, and scripture reading, we will be increasingly led to lives of peace and generosity. Today, let us make a commitment to turn off one of the voices in our lives that's telling us to buy more, spend more, and acquire more (Facebook? TV? The Joneses?) and fill that void with God's word that calls us into peace, love, generosity, and eternal life.

**Wednesday, October 10: Read Matthew 6:25-34**

*But what if I don't have enough time or money or energy left over if I give my first fruits to God? I need to be thinking about real-world problems, like my bills and my son's college application and my giant to-do list. I need Sundays just to catch up on everything and get a jump-start on my week. It seems I never have enough...of anything.* When we approach our daily needs like this, it's like refusing a car ride from a trusted friend with a map because we believe we will reach our destination faster on foot, blindfolded. God knows exactly what we need (which is not always what we want), where we should be headed, and the best way to get there. What's more, we will be able to bring a lot of other people along with us. Where in our lives are we holding back our time and resources from God because we are trying to build up stores of accomplishments and safety nets on our own? What worries are stealing our time and joy?

**Thursday, October 11: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-12**

*I will give, but only as much as I can spare to lose. Someone has to look after my future. I will attend church when I can, but I don't have time to join a connect group. That's got to be enough for God.* When we first look at our schedules and expenses, we just can't find the space for God. However, when we put God first, everything else just seems to fall into place. When we generously sow seeds of love, hope, and justice through our gifts, we find that these become our most fruitful endeavors, leading to countless blessings. Slowly, we begin to stop budgeting and start seeing abundance. Everywhere.

**Friday, October 12: Read Matthew 9:35-38**

*But I still don't see why God needs me. Surely God and the church can get by without me.* God works through us, and there is a lot of exciting work to be done. There are ministries within our church that are desperate for volunteers and support. God has plans for feeding the homeless, stopping hunger worldwide, transforming struggling neighborhoods, mentoring children, caring for our elderly, and helping youth transition out of foster care...a truly wonderful harvest. But the workers are few. Let us all spend time before this Sunday in prayer, asking God's Holy Spirit to lead us to the place where we will produce the most fruit for God's exquisite cornucopia.

**Saturday, October 13: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Matthew 6:21**

"For where your treasure is, your heart will be also."

**Sunday, October 14: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of**

**Common Confession:** *We know your commandments. We are sure we follow them, but instead, we cannot let go of the things we think we need or what we think is important. We do not follow you, or love you, O God, with all our hearts, our minds, our strength. We refrain from giving our whole selves to you. Forgive our disobedience, our lack of commitment, and our desire to focus on material things instead of on your will for us. In the name of our Teacher, Jesus Christ, who gave his whole life for the sake of the Gospel. Amen.*