



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

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September 14-20, 2020

Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Sermon Series: 2020: *What Have We Learned?* Part III

Sermon Title: "Maybe We Aren't In Control"

Notes from sermon on 9/13:

Things to Pray For This Week:

### Family Focus Question:

Can you name a time when you thought more of yourself than you should have and were somehow humbled?  
What did you learn from that?

### Questions for Small Groups

1. Can you name a time when you or your group sought to "make a name for ourselves"?
2. Describe a time when you had a plan that you thought would be a blessing but God had different ideas.
3. During COVID, we have found ourselves together quite a bit. In the Genesis story, God intentionally scattered the people. How can scattering be a blessing?

### Monday, September 14: Read Genesis 11:1-9

It is a scary thing to come into something that we cannot control. COVID has taken over, especially here in America. Despite our best efforts, the disease has shut us down. It has taught our children that grown-ups don't really know what they're doing and that everything we took for granted can disappear in an instant. We have all seen how our leaders, school systems, government, and health system are not in control or in charge. How do we respond?

This week's scriptures will challenge us to consider that perhaps it is helpful to face our limitations as humans instead of turning only to our Babel towers. Maybe we have learned that material things are not as essential as we thought. Maybe we have learned that our planet really does matter and that we have not been responsible stewards of our home. Maybe it is a good thing to realize our mortality and that our health is tenuous. Has this season of COVID helped us to know that we aren't as great as we thought and that we need God?

**Tuesday, September 15: Read 1 Peter 5:5-7**

We feel helpless and panicked when we are not in control. Our society has taught us to be strong, assertive, and focused. What if, instead, the key to peace and victory was “letting go and letting God?” Let us consider that this moment in history may be the place where, as Peter says, we “humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand,” allowing God to lift us up. What could change for the better in our lives if we let go of not only the material things, but the need to be right, to know what’s going to happen next, and the need to lead? Today’s scripture tells us spiritual power typically comes to those who know they need the help, and the key to peace is casting our cares on God because he cares for us. How does having faith that God cares for all of us, and this world, help us let go? What is God calling you to let go of today?

**Wednesday, September 16: Read Genesis 16:1-12**

But we get tired of waiting on the promises of God. It’s been over six months since we have been in quarantine, and we would much rather create an alternate reality for ourselves where the economy is fine, the pandemic is not really a big deal, and we can go back to doing what we want. Sarai, Abram’s wife, felt the same way in today’s ancient scripture. Tired of waiting on the promise of a child of her and Abram’s own, she came up with a plan that would speed things up – a plan that caused incredible strife and heartache for many. Where are we acting like Hagar, rushing our short-sighted plan instead of waiting for God’s omniscient solution?

**Thursday, September 17: Read Matthew 28:16-20**

We feel doubtful, scattered, and alone. In other words, we feel exactly how many of the first disciples felt at the moment Jesus gave them the Great Commission, which launched possibly the greatest period of religious growth and transformation the world has ever known. Two key components exist in the success of the Great Commission: the humility and obedience of the disciples and faith in the constant presence and guidance of Christ. Today’s scripture did not come during a time of peace, prosperity, and security for Christ’s followers, yet it launched an incredible new era. What era could God launch right now through faithful Christ-followers ready to obey God’s commandments with the assurance of Christ’s eternal presence and power among them? How might our “scattering” be used for God’s purpose?

**Friday, September 18: Read Psalm 137:1-6**

It may seem strange that we end the week with a psalm of lament rather than a psalm of empowerment and praise. It’s important, however, not to sweep our genuine grief under the rug. We are allowed to ask, “how do we sing songs of joy when we are in isolation...when we remember the good old days when we were together?” Today’s psalmist laments the exile from his beloved Jerusalem. We lament our exile from our beloved sanctuary at Reveille. Yet God was still at work...is still at work...rebuilding and reshaping God’s people for their return. What lessons and growth and healing will we bring with us when we are called back?

**Saturday, September 19: Scripture Memorization: 1 Peter 5:7**

“Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.”

**Sunday, September 20: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession:** *Lord, so often we as humans yearn to build our own towers. We tend to rally around our own efforts instead of yours. We gather together with like-minded people instead of being willing to be scattered to serve you in new ways, with people who think differently from us. By your grace free us to trust in your work, your ways and in your presence no matter where we are sent. In Christ’s name we pray, AMEN.*