



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

November 2-8, 2020

Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Sermon Title: "A Walk on the Beach"

<p>Notes from sermon on 11/1:</p>	<p>Things For Which to Pray This Week:</p>
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Family Focus Question:

Have you ever noticed when you walked on the beach, the difference in sand? Some sand is loose and hard to walk on. Other sand is hard and makes it easy to walk or run. Where are some places in your life that are solid and firm? Are there places that are more like the loose sand, where walking is just a bit harder?

Questions for Small Groups

1. Psalm 46 famously quotes God saying, "Be still and know that I am God." How do we do that?
2. Describe the God whom we see in Psalm 46. Is that helpful for us right now?
3. The story of Nehemiah is one of rebuilding. Read the story and review his strategy. Is there anything we can learn from him?

Monday, November 2: Read Psalm 46

At the time of this writing, we do not know the results of the election – neither the victor nor the reaction of the public. If you are reading this on November 2, you don't know either. We do not know what lies ahead for our community, city, nation, and world, and we need something firm on which we can stand – something dependable onto which we can hold.

This week we will prepare for anything and everything by turning to God and God's promises. We will find both comfort and purpose in the midst of heartache and helplessness. We will be assured that God is listening, God is in control, God notices us, and God needs us. We are not left leaderless or exposed, for we have a refuge and strength in God, who is an "ever-present help in trouble."

Where are we recognizing God in today's world? Where are the "river[s] whose streams make glad the city of God"? To whose fortress are we retreating during trouble: God's, or one of our own, made by anxiety, addiction, fear, hatred, or anger?

Tuesday, November 3: Read Nehemiah 2:1-5, 11-12, 17-18

What if there is worse to come? What if things we cherish lie damaged or destroyed? What if we experience extreme setbacks in career, savings, health, schooling, racial relations, church membership, and personal goals? We rebuild. Nehemiah is a hero of the Old Testament because he had the courage, tenacity, and hope to return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile and rebuild. We will do the same. No matter what the results of the election, a large portion of our country is going to be angry, disillusioned, and broken. We are that way even now due to the many reasons that have dominated our news and schedules and hearts this year. Going forward, let us all say together, "The God of heaven will give us success."

Wednesday, November 4: Read Matthew 7:24-27

On a day we have been simultaneously anticipating, fearing, and dreading, we know there is one place we can always go to get on solid ground: the person and teachings of Jesus. When we have so firm a foundation, we can withstand any storms that come our way. We find our foothold through wisdom, knowing to which voices we should listen and who to follow to learn right from wrong. When we constantly turn to Jesus's words of love, peace, joy, grace, and forgiveness, we plant our feet in the eternal kingdom which withstands all.

Thursday, November 5: Read 1 Kings 19 (entire chapter)

Elijah believed all hope was lost. He was in danger from the leaders of his day, including the infamous Jezebel. Tired of fighting the good fight and disgusted by his government and its citizens, he fled the city, sat under a bush, and wished to die. We may empathize with Elijah's story to this point more than we ever would have thought possible, but we can probably also relate to what came next: finding God in the gentle whisper. Throughout this year, think of the times you have found joy, comfort, peace, hope, and help in the small things. We may have tales of dramatic deliverance, but more likely, our help has come in the form of the phone call, small favor, well-timed word, quiet moment, and I-just-can't-put-my-finger-on-it-but-I-think-I'm-going-to-be-okay epiphanies. It's happened before, and it will continue to happen again. Let us all look for God in the quiet moments today, tomorrow, and every day going forward.

Friday, November 6: Read 1 Corinthians 15:55-58

Waiting for God in the quiet moments enables us to no longer wallow in self-pity, but rise up, stand firm, and work diligently for the coming of God's kingdom. We have work to do – work that will matter and make a difference. We can work to take the sting and victory out of death, spread thankfulness and grace, and join arms with our brothers and sisters from all races, political parties, socio-economic groups, and nations to create not just a country, but a kingdom. We are all valued, beloved citizens of a kingdom led by a wise, loving, and all-knowing leader – a kingdom that knows no partiality, strife, sickness, or death. Let us celebrate our citizenship in that kingdom today!

Saturday, November 7: Scripture Memorization: Psalm 46:1-2a

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear."

Sunday, November 8: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession: *Almighty God, we have been through a tumultuous season. We have tried to follow you but there have been times that we have not been our best. We have spoken ill of others; we have certainly had thoughts about others that haven't reflected your image for us. In this divided season, continue, we pray, to have mercy. Let us see one another as you see us. Enable us to love as you love, forgive as you forgive, start anew as you do. Hear our prayer for your grace, O Lord, for we ask it in the strong and loving name of Jesus.*