

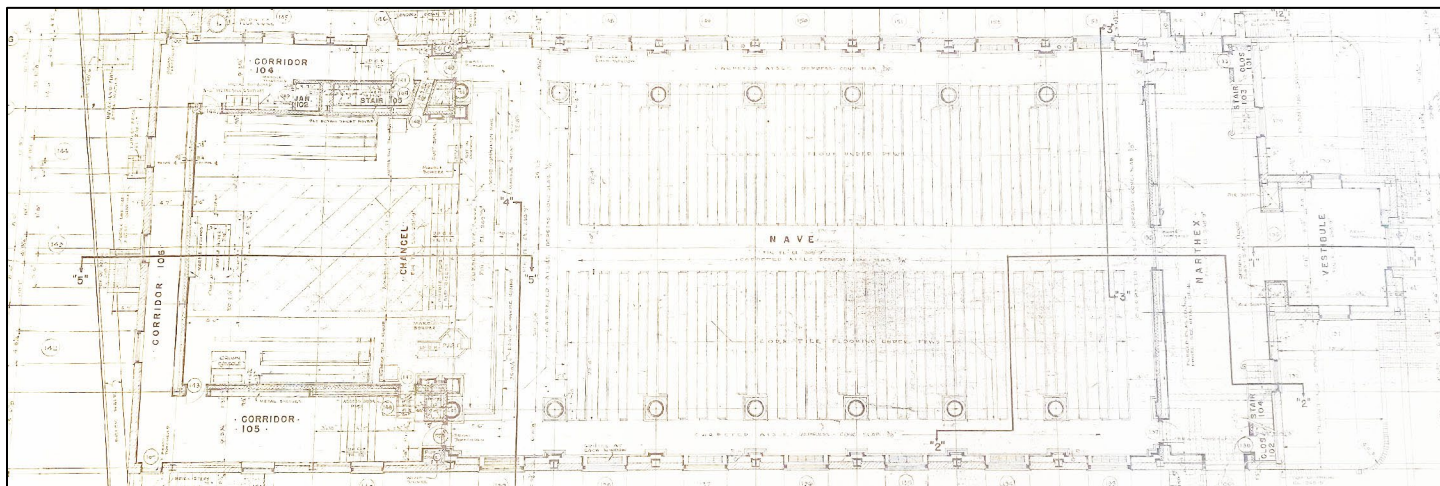
REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc.

September 4-10, 2023 | Sermon Series: "Let's Get Real!"

Week 1 Sermon: "A Real Picture of Faith" by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon

Use the blueprint space of Reveille's sanctuary below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.



Join us for The Compass! This new Sunday school class starts September 10 at 9:30 am (chapel), 10:30 am (fellowship hall), and 4:00 pm (room 206). The class will challenge believers to actively engage, examine, and participate in three core competencies: Relationship, Study, and Discipleship. Inspired by the GPS Weekly Scripture Guide, attendees of The Compass will learn how to more intently and intentionally apply these competencies in their everyday lives and practices. For more information, email Bayo Ogungbade, adultdiscipleship@reveilleumc.org.

- **Relationship:** Opportunities to meet others, relate with one another, learn together, build bonds, and share in the journey of life.
- **Study:** Opportunities to more intentionally engage with the Scriptures and examine how to apply them to your life.
- **Discipleship:** Opportunities to put faith into everyday practice and live out as believers who are grounded in Scripture.

Monday, September 4: Read James 1:1-11, 27

What is the most accurate portrayal of the wonder of the Washington National Cathedral? Is it the beautiful image of the towers and blue sky beyond? Or is it more accurate to look to the blueprints as a better description? While some books of the Bible would point us to the former, the book of James calls us to take a look at some of the details of the construction. For that reason, even though the book was called a "straw of an epistle" by Martin Luther, for centuries readers have celebrated the direct language, the helpful metaphors, and the clear calls to action in James. Today's reading shows a very gritty view of faith as one of perseverance and humility – nothing fancy, but very foundational – perhaps like the blueprint above.

- **Relationship, Discipleship, and Study Opportunities:** *Join us for Kickoff Sunday on September 10 with the return of new programming for all ages, and a four-week sermon series, "Let's Get Real!" with a Sunday school study of videos filmed in DC and weekly class discussions. We invite you to join (or rejoin) a Sunday school class. Get involved. Get connected to one another. One question to ask in your group: Which view of faith speaks most to you? Lofty, inspirational images such as the National Cathedral, or cut-to-the-chase blueprints?*

Tuesday, September 5: Read James 2:14-17

Today's scripture cuts right to the chase on what it means to get real about our faith. Are we just going to send our "thoughts and prayers" to those in need or are we going to roll up our sleeves and actually clothe the naked, feed the hungry, heal the sick, and attend to their "physical needs" as James puts it? In the famous final verse of our reading, James states, "faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Ask someone, possibly from a different denomination from you this: What do you think about James's assertion? Are you on the side of Martin Luther and see James as an aberration that should be removed from the canon, or do you agree that faith must be accompanied by action? Listen for understanding, not judgment, of their answer.*

Wednesday, September 6: Read Matthew 25:31-36

In today's gospel passage, we hear what Jesus said about the importance of action in determining the difference between the faithful ("sheep") and the unfaithful ("goats"). Here, Jesus does not speak in lofty terms about beliefs or dogmas; Jesus asks, "When I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was thirsty, did you give me drink? When I was naked, did you clothe me? When I was sick, did you look after me? When I was in prison, did you visit me? When I was a stranger, did you invite me in?" We cannot help but be convicted when we read these words today. All of us have fallen short of this.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *What is one action you can take today to more faithfully carry out Jesus's commands to do these things to the "least" in our community?*

Thursday, September 7: Read 2 Timothy 1:6-8

It is tempting to focus purely on works at the expense of faith and the source of all our power – the Holy Spirit. This was probably what Martin Luther was most worried about. Today's scripture speaks to the vital partnership between the gift of the Holy Spirit and our willingness to "fan into flame" this gift. Our strength and actions are rooted in the salvation we have been given by God's grace through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. When we firmly plant ourselves in this knowledge and power, our acts of kindness and mercy will have power, purpose, and holiness.

- **Study Opportunity:** *What Bible verses and teachings of Christ are important to remember before we launch into acts of service? What verses give you strength and "fan into flame" the Spirit within you?*

Friday, September 8: Read Colossians 3:15-17

This exquisite passage from Colossians ties together the power of study, relationships, and discipleship firmly grounded in the foundation of faith. It describes a community of love, gratitude, and peace where everyone lifts up and "admonishes" one another in wisdom planted in the knowledge of the scriptures. Rather than judgmental and competitive, all are "members of one body." Rather than a bunch of busybodies, they allow Christ to "dwell" among them. How does Reveille resemble this image? Where does it fall short?

- **Relationship, Discipleship, and Study Opportunity:** *What is one practice you can incorporate this fall to become more knowledgeable in the Bible? What is one small group you can join? What is one outreach ministry in which you will participate?*

Saturday, September 9: Scripture Memorization: James 2:14

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it?"

Kickoff Sunday, September 10: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying our Prayer of Confession: When the busyness of our lives erodes the intentions of our hearts: Merciful God, forgive us. When our personal agendas take precedence over reaching out to others: Merciful God, forgive us. When we keep putting off being more active "doers of the word": Merciful God, forgive us. When we blindly resist change: Merciful God, forgive us. When we only half-listen to those who cry out to be fully heard: Merciful God, by your grace and in Jesus' name, forgive us. - *Written by Moira Laidlaw*