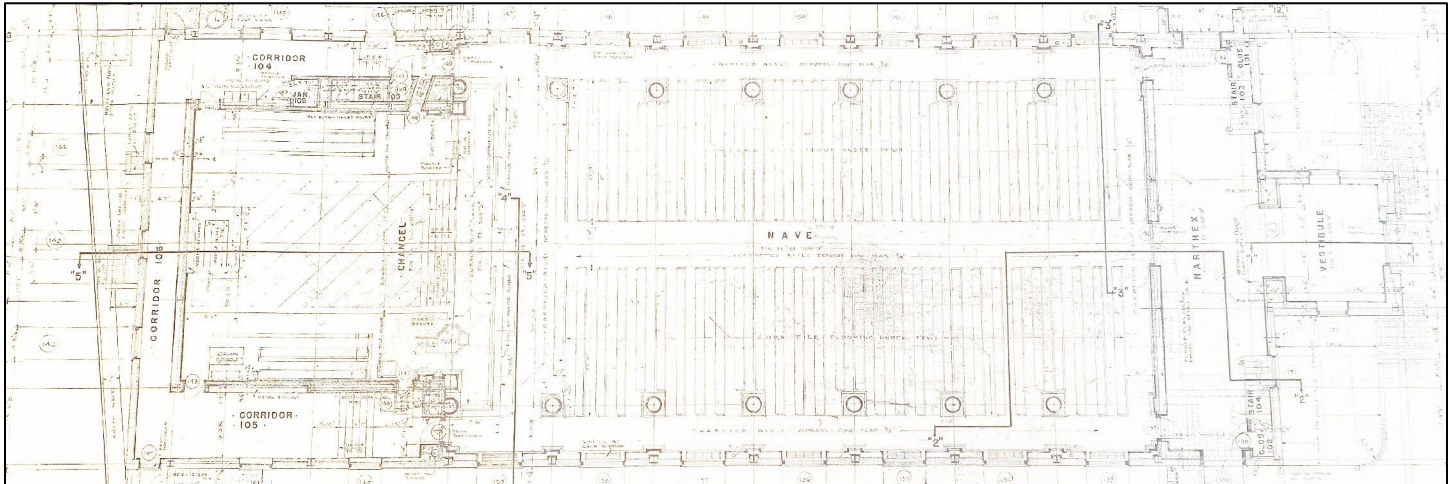


REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

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 11-17, 2023 | Sermon Series: "Let's Get Real!"
Week 2 Sermon: "A Real Picture of People" by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon

Use the blueprint space of Reville'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 meets 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 11: Read James 2:1-7

We are now in the second week of our fall sermon series, and we are going to "get real" about people...and the biases we hold against them. Continuing our dive into the book of James, we begin this week with a very convicting passage around favoritism, describing the very different reactions congregations often have between greeting well-dressed, clean, and wealthy people who walk through their door compared to those without means who come in underdressed, disheveled, dirty...different. Let's get real - who among us is not guilty of showing favoritism like this? We have all struggled with the sin of sizing people up according to an internal filter that places people into categories according to earthly categories God never uses. Let us compare the "filter" we use to judge people against the image of Arlington Cemetery. Grave markers have a way of reminding us of God's view, for we are all basically equivalent in death. If God sees people in such unmasked terms, maybe we should too. Our study and Pete's sermon this week will help us to not see wealthy people or those similar to us as "better" and others as "less." In so doing, we will embrace God's "real" view of us and our neighbors.

- **Relationship, Discipleship, and Study Opportunities:** We invite all to participate in a small group, such as one of our existing Sunday school classes, our new Compass group (Sundays at 9:30, 10:30, or 4:00), or one of the many weekday or Sunday evening opportunities to gather to learn, love, and serve one another.

Tuesday, September 12: Read James 2:8-13

It is no secret that much of the world views Christians as judgmental, holier-than-thou hypocrites who select certain sins as intolerable while permitting more egregious ones in themselves and their church. We have been fighting this image, and this painful truth, for millennia, and never more so than today. Today's passage brings us back to one "royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Is this the primary way we are judging our own behavior and beliefs? Or are we using another metric that may have strayed from God's original purpose? Could we, like the Jewish Christians to whom James is writing, be judging people according to laws we have bent to our own convenience, rather than showing love and mercy to all?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** Discuss the following questions with at least one person: *What "metrics" should we be using to judge one another and ourselves? Where should we be showing more mercy? Where are the best examples of mercy in our world today?*

Wednesday, September 13: Read Matthew 22:1-14

We will hear today's scripture read in worship this Sunday. Jesus's Parable of the Wedding Banquet is not as direct and clear as James' more straightforward writing – it makes us think – interpret – question. Upon first reading, Jesus's words may seem harsh and even contradictory to James' message of not judging people according to their clothes (after all, a man was thrown out of the banquet for being underdressed!). Jesus's message is perhaps speaking on several levels – of our sense of complacency we may have for believing ourselves "on the guest list" without the need to respond or prepare, and our own sinfulness in willfully turning our backs on the person, teachings, and divinity of God's son. *Where do we see ourselves in today's parable? What part of it is most convicting? Most terrifying? Most confusing?*

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *The next time we host an event, can we invite someone we originally would not have included on the guest list? The next time we plan a ministry opportunity at Reveille, can we do one extra step of outreach to invite a new neighbor or neighborhood?*

Thursday, September 14: Read Acts 15:5-9

We don't just show partiality to other believers; we show partiality to other believers who believe and worship just like we do. How often do we restrict the definition of a "true believer" to incorporate behaviors, traditions, and laws we have incorporated and adopted, rather than bringing it back to the "Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself?" Today, let us read Peter's incredible, history-changing testimony exhorting us to not place the "burdens" of our traditions and interpretations on others as stumbling blocks, but bring ourselves back to the fundamentals of a faith seated in love and inclusivity open to all.

- **Study Opportunity:** *How much do we know about the variety within our own faith? Other faiths? Let us spend at least a few minutes studying and appreciating others' alternative ways of loving Jesus and God.*

Friday, September 15: Read Romans 10:5-13

Who are the "righteous"? Paul spent much time addressing this question including in today's passage. Christians have spent even more time addressing, fighting, and judging one another over this question ever since. What if we all let go of our judgment and focused more on mercy? If we admitted we couldn't see the inner workings of one another's hearts, nor the battles we are fighting to keep up the faith in the midst of incredible challenges?

- **Relationship, Discipleship, and Study Opportunity:** *Let us reach out to someone who demonstrates faith within circumstances different from our own. Ask them, "What gives you your strength?"*

Saturday, September 16: Scripture Memorization: James 2:13b

"Mercy triumphs over judgment"

Sunday, September 17: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying our Prayer of

Confession: *Almighty God, forgive us. All people have been created in your image. Yet we do not see them that way. We judge by appearance and status. We fail to see as you see. Forgive us for our rush to judgment. We fail to recognize that we fall short in ways those whom we judge do not. By your grace, give us your eyes, and do not judge us as we judge others, for we ask this in the name of Jesus.*