

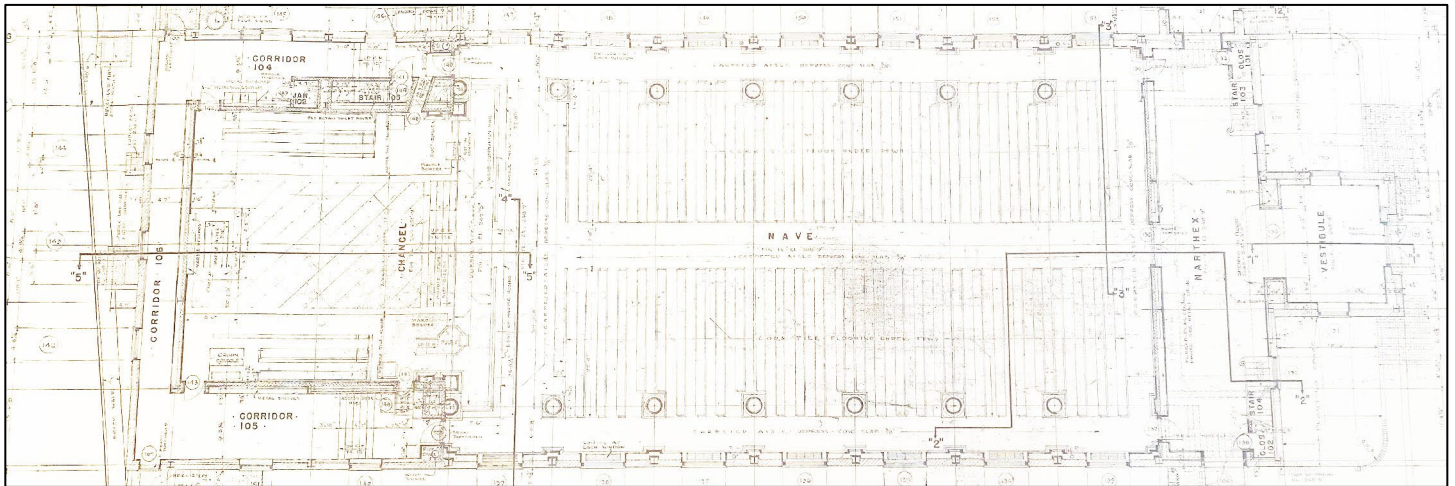
REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

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 25 - October 1, 2023 | Sermon Series: "Let's Get Real!"

Week 4 Sermon: "The Very Real Possibilities of Prayer" 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 25: Read James 5:13-18

When we gather this Sunday for the final installment of the sermon series, "Let's Get Real!", Pete's sermon will bring us again to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, where in 1957 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke, in a pulpit robe, in front of 25,000 people at what was called a Prayer Pilgrimage. We hold onto this incredible image of the power of prayer as we journey through the scriptures this week, beginning with these verses in James exhorting us to pray when...*ever*. Are we in trouble? Pray. Happy? Pray. Sick? Have people pray for you. Did you sin? Pray. Afraid? Pray. There is no human condition in which it is not "powerful and effective" to pray (verse 16). If we can incorporate prayer into the fabric of our daily lives, we can find peace, community, grace, love, redemption, freedom, and power. Isn't this everything we are working so hard to achieve in our lives, often without turning to the one place where it truly exists?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Set multiple reminders on your smart phone or watch that will prompt you throughout the day to say a quick prayer, regardless of what you are doing. Pray whatever is in your heart and on your mind at that moment.*

Tuesday, September 26: Read James 1:2-8

Trials and uncertainty surround us every day. Sometimes they are in the form of minor inconveniences or relatively inconsequential choices, and sometimes they turn our life upside down and require life-altering decisions. The book of James opens with an acknowledgment of this fact and urges us to turn to God in prayer in order to gain perseverance and resolve. If we pray to God and believe in the power of that prayer, we tether ourselves to the God “who gives generously to all without finding fault” and can avoid being “tossed by the wind” whenever circumstances are uncertain or painful.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Spend time with God today, acknowledging God as the One who gives generously to all without finding fault. Is this how you have always viewed God? Is there anything you need to work out with God that's keeping you from trusting in God's generosity or love?*

Wednesday, September 27: Read Psalm 22

If we ever feel uncomfortable with the idea of using prayer to work through our more negative feelings with God, all we have to do is read psalms like this one. The writer is obviously struggling through many emotions, including frustration with God, fear, and depression, all while maintaining an open dialogue with God. Take time to read through the whole psalm, noticing the almost bipolar nature of it, switching back and forth between praise and lamentation. This should give us confidence that we never have to censor ourselves when we pray to God; God can take it!

- **Study Opportunity:** *Google “different types of psalms” and see what comes up, including the wide range of opinions on the number of categories. Follow your curiosity for a few minutes until you learn something new and useful to you. Be prepared to share your discovery with someone.*

Thursday, September 28: Read Colossians 1:9-14

Some of us are wonderful at keeping a list of everyone who needs our prayers, then incorporating those concerns into a daily prayer practice. Others of us may need a better system – or any system at all. In today's scripture we read one of the most beautiful examples in the entire Bible of how to pray for others. Imagine the power of praying like this for each and every child and youth at Reveille, each new member, each loved one, and each other. Imagine if this is how we prayed for our enemies, or that grouchy stranger who cut us off in traffic. What could change in the world and our lives if we all did this?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Create your own prayer based on today's reading and look for opportunities this week to use it for people you know and people you don't know. Reflect on how it affected you, your attitude, and your relationships.*

Friday, September 29: Read John 17:6-25

Today we read how Jesus prayed for his disciples. When we think of the work the disciples were able to do after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, we more clearly see the power of Jesus's prayer. As we get to verse 20, we see how Jesus also prayed for all his believers. He prayed that we may be one. He prayed the world will believe and know God's love. What power still lies in these words? What power can we embrace knowing Jesus prayed for us, and continues to empower us today?

- **Relationship, Discipleship, and Study Opportunity:** *What is one act of faith God has been calling you to do that you have been avoiding? How can embracing Jesus's prayer help you do it?*

Saturday, September 30: Scripture Memorization: James 5:16b

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (NRSV)

Sunday, October 1: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying our Prayer of Confession: Today, God, we confess fumbblings and failures in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.

From the Africana Worship Book, Year B, (Discipleship Resources, 2007) Used with permission.