



## REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

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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](http://www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc).

**March 24-30, 2025**

### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Sermon Title: "Prayers of Jesus: Between a Rock and a Hard Place"**

**by Rev. Bayo Ogungbade**

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

#### **Questions for families, small groups, and individual reflection:**

1. Do you find it hard or easy to pray for yourself and/or loved ones? How about those you disagree with? Why or why not?
2. How often do you pray about matters that are beyond yourself?
3. Do you struggle to focus when you pray? Where does your mind tend to wander off to?
4. Is it hard for you to acknowledge the areas of brokenness in your life when praying to God?
5. What is your model for prayer? Do you have a specific space, location, and/or posture that you take when you pray? Why do you pray in this way?

#### **Monday, March 24: Read John 17:6-19**

Have you ever felt stuck between a rock and a hard place when navigating family dynamics? Maybe you were a middle child who naturally played the role of "peacekeeper" in your family and struggled when you felt you needed to choose a side in a family argument. In our increasingly polarized nation and world today, we can often feel stuck between a rock and a hard place when navigating the differences between opinions and beliefs, not just between people of opposing religions and cultures, but within our own families and faith traditions. In today's scripture, Jesus prays for the protection of all his followers, calling for them to be "one as we are one" (verse 11). Is this how you view all of Christ's followers – as one with you? Is this how you pray for them?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss what you believe to be the state of unity of Christianity and Christians today. What lessons can we glean from Jesus's prayer in today's passage?*

## **Tuesday, March 25: Read John 17:20-26**

Jesus doubles down in his message for unity within the church today. But where do we draw the line when we truly disagree with one another's beliefs, actions, and values? When is it important to draw the line and when is it more important to compromise? This week, as we continue our Lenten journey into Jesus's teachings of prayer, let's spend time reflecting on how we can turn to prayer to navigate the "messy middle" when we struggle to balance the realities of the world and the ideal kingdom of unity proclaimed in the Word.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss a time when you have struggled with conflicting beliefs and principles. What happened? Where did prayer come in (or forget to come in)?*

## **Wednesday, March 26: Read Romans 12:14-21**

Let's face it – our news feed thrives on chaos and conflict. Algorithms are set up to bait us into clicking on salacious headlines that support our inherent biases and thirst for righteous indignation. We don't want to hear about the success of our enemies; we'd rather rejoice in their downfall. Today we turn to this painfully challenging scripture passage that calls for us to pray for our enemies, rejoice when they rejoice, and mourn when they mourn. How well are we doing this? Where are we struggling, and why?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Today, spend time in prayer for those in leadership positions who may have opposing political views as you, and those around the world who think, worship, and act differently than you. Reflect on your feelings and the message God sends to you.*

## **Thursday, March 27: Read Matthew 5:43-48**

As if yesterday's missive wasn't hard enough, today we are told to "be perfect." Seriously? Now, our culture is no stranger to perfectionism. We love to be 100% right, present a perfect image on social media, and execute a flawless performance at work, school, and on stage. Yet look at what perfection means in today's verse. It means perfect love. How are we doing with that?

- **Relationship and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Discuss how you view "perfectionism" from a Christian perspective, given today's passage. What is one way you can change your pursuit of "perfection" in the upcoming week?*

## **Friday, March 28: Read Luke 6:27-36**

Just in case we are tempted to let ourselves off the hook with this "perfect love and unity" message, today we read Luke's account of Jesus's message on loving our enemies in which he famously goes so far as to tell us to turn the other cheek. This is hardly the behavior our world is calling us to today. What are we supposed to do with this? Where does fighting for justice come in? Where do we hold the line? And what does love have to do with it?

- **Relationship and Study Opportunity:** *Look up scripture passages about justice. Then look up passages about mercy. Discuss where and how you do both.*

## **Saturday, March 29: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: John 17: 20-21a**

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."

## **Sunday, March 30: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying a prayer Personal**

**Confession and a prayer for Enlightenment:** *Lord God, we confess that we have fallen short as your church. You called us to care for our world, but we have been consumed with our own worldly matters. You called us to come together in unity, but we have chosen to let our differences divide us. You called us to love always, but we have made our love conditional. Forgive us, O Lord, and help us to become unifiers of the world instead of dividers. Help us to look beyond ourselves and pray more for others. Help us to come together through prayer so we can share your Good News across borders and boundaries. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*