

Day 6:

God asked Hosea to be part of a love-less marriage. God asked Hosea to suffer and endure. God asked Hosea after this, to forgive unconditionally. This was God's way to show us how God suffers in our relationship. Think about what God brings to your relationship. Consider why God shows so much mercy, as you read Hosea 2:18-20 and answer the reflection questions. And don't forget to pray. 18 On that day I will make a covenant with all the wild animals and the birds of the sky and the animals that scurry along the ground so they will not harm you. I will remove all weapons of war from the land, all swords and bows, so you can live unafraid in peace and safety. 19 I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. 20 I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the Lord.

Questions for Reflection:

How does God promise that we will be shown compassion and kindness?
Why does God want us to explore our relationship with Him?
What have you learned about God's love and God's judgement?

Day 7:

If we took the time to look, we would see how God shows His love to us in so many ways. In fact we are told to "count our blessings" and even then, they are limitless. The reason we do this is to experience love from our Heavenly Father. However, a blessing we often don't think about is how we are to show love to a God we can't see or touch. You've probably guessed it already; that it has something to do with justice. Meditate on what it looks like to show love to God as you read Micah 6:6 - 8 and answer the reflection questions. And, as always, don't forget to pray.

6 What can we bring to the Lord? Should we bring him burnt offerings? Should we bow before God Most High with offerings of yearling calves? 7 Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? 8 No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Questions for Reflection:

If we are saved by grace, why does God put these requirements on us?
How does grace enable us to complete these requirements (especially when we are not strong enough)?
What role does the Holy Spirit play in doing, loving, and living?
Which learning meant the most to you this week?
How does this fit with your original day-dreams?

Sunday Mornings at Ashland Church

Discipleship Hour 9 AM (infants to adults)

Age appropriate Christian Education for everyone

Fellowship Time 10 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

KIDS Church Elementary children are dismissed during the Worship Service for a multi-media, Biblical & fun lesson during the sermon time.

Pre-School may be in their class from the beginning of the service.

Infant Nursery While their parents worship, infants are cared for in a loving environment. A room for nursing mothers is also available, with a live feed of the Worship Service.

Weekly at Ashland Church

S: Middle School & High School Meeting **6:30 PM**

M: Prayer for our Community 1st Monday at **7 PM**
Open Art Studio **7 PM**

T: Men's Prayer Group **6:30 AM** ~ in the pastor's office
Women In Ministry Meeting - 2nd Tuesday at **7:15 PM**
Deacon's Meeting - 3rd Tuesday of the month at **7:30 PM**
Worship Team **7:30 PM**

W: Children's Choirs & Elective (on break until October 3)
Girls/Guys Youth Small Groups (6th - 12th grades) **7 PM**

Ashland Church Staff

All the congregation - Ministers

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IN ESSENTIALS: UNITY

IN NON - ESSENTIALS: LIBERTY

IN ALL THINGS: LOVE

A PRESENT AND FUTURE HOPE



ASHLAND CHURCH

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

worship • love • serve

Sabbath Devotional Aug. 26 - Sept. 1, 2018

There is a live feed of our Worship Service in the nursing mother's room which is attached to the infant nursery. An additional location is the room across from the kitchen. You may watch the live feed anytime on our website.

Our Vision

To be a Covenant Family in our community which is transformed by the Gospel, empowered by the Spirit, and focused by our Mission.

Our Mission

To seek the lost and grow disciples who worship and enjoy our Lord.

Ashland Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Sabbath Week

August 26 - September 1, 2018

During this week of rest, you may find that the most time-consuming task that you need to get away from is YOU. We often can't help focusing on ourselves. However, during this time of rest, consider that all our worry, concern, planning and shaping for us, doesn't usually produce as positive results as when we simply put US on the back-burner. During this week, consider someone else. Reflect and meditate on God. When we can be quiet and still before God, God can actually speak into our lives. I know there will be those who tell me that there is no revelation from God directly. I disagree. God revealed Himself to us in His Word. Therefore, if you want a new revelation from God, read His Word now. Whatever has already been revealed will speak to you in a new way.

With the exception of Day 1, every day there will be a short introduction, a Bible passage to read and questions to reflect upon. Each day as you read and reflect, don't forget to invite God to join you by praying. Don't be surprised when God shows up and develops the relationship He has with you. Enjoy.

~Written by Joe Carly

Day 1:

Let's begin with some day dreaming. Many of our best inventions began with a dream of the way life should be, a mind picture if you will. There are even some very useful creations that we have today because we dreamed the wrong dream and that led us to what we needed instead of what we wanted. Either way, life got better.

So for today, day-dream about what you think God might show you this week. If you like write these dreams down. Remember, right or wrong, you will still be communicating with God. And don't forget to pray.

Why do you think your day-dreams might also be God's?

Day 2:

If we are going to hear from God, we are going to have to come in contact with his words. Knowing what God thinks of His word gives us a better chance to understand what He is communicating. In this passage, God describes His word using an object. The object is a sword. Think about this as you read Ephesians 6:17 – 20 and answer the reflection questions. And don't forget to pray:

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Questions for Reflection:

What characteristics does a sword have?
What uses does a sword have?
Why do you think God uses this imagery?

Day 3:

It is easy to go through life without ever taking a real inventory of our character and behavior. We simply tell ourselves that we do good works and we tell ourselves how important justice is to us but often we are not being honest. In fact, when you are discussing human beings, we are mostly interested in injustice. If we were to be honest, most of our lives are spent avoiding or failing to be disciplined and obedient. This indeed is a great injustice because we deliberately fall short of God's expectation and then we expect our perfect God to overlook our faults and proclaim us good.

Consider what we deserve as you read Isaiah 59:15 - 17 and answer the reflection questions. And don't forget to pray.

15 Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who renounces evil is attacked. The Lord looked and was displeased to find there was no justice. 16 He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So he himself stepped in to save them with his strong arm, and his justice sustained him. 17 He put on righteousness as his body armor and placed the helmet of salvation on his head. He clothed himself with a robe of vengeance and wrapped himself in a cloak of divine passion.

Questions for Reflection:

Where is God's justice?
What does it look like?
Why is it important?

Day 4:

The day we came to salvation was a day of great injustice and also a day of great justice. Injustice because we no longer were destined to receive the consequences called for by our behavior. We were no longer considered guilty even though we were definitely still sinners. Justice because a great price was paid to redeem us and to secure our freedom. How is it that both happened? Jesus, he found us guilty and paid for our crimes (in fact still does). Our penalty has been paid in full. Think about how this relates to our lives as you read Isaiah 59: 18 – 20 and answer the reflection questions. And don't forget to pray.

18 He will repay his enemies for their evil deeds. His fury will fall on his foes. He will pay them back even to the ends of the earth. 19 In the west, people will respect the name of the Lord; in the east, they will glorify him. For he will come like a raging flood tide driven by the breath of the Lord. 20 "The Redeemer will come to Jerusalem to buy back those in Israel who have turned from their sins," says the Lord.

Questions for Reflection:

What is God's ultimate goal?
What is our ultimate purpose?
How is this passage fearful? Hopeful?

Day 5:

Many people consider the Bible to be a kind of handbook for life. Think about that however. If someone were to actually try to live by just some of the many commands, life would not just be difficult, it would be impossible. If that is the case, then we have to start reading the Bible as if the commands teach us more than living a perfect life. So meditate on what is important to God, what he wants you to know, and what changes this means for us as you read Jeremiah 21:11 - 14 and answer the reflection questions. And don't forget to pray.

11 "Say to the royal family of Judah, 'Listen to this message from the LORD! 12 This is what the LORD says to the dynasty of David: "Give justice each morning to the people you judge! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Otherwise, my anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins. 13 I will personally fight against the people in Jerusalem, that mighty fortress the people who boast, "No one can touch us here. No one can break in here." 14 And I myself will punish you for your sinfulness, says the LORD. I will light a fire in your forests that will burn up everything around you.'"

Questions for Reflection:

What does this type of justice look like?
Why would "giving justice" be impossible to do everyday?
Why should we try anyway?