

## My Prayer Journal

*Use this weekly prayer to help you begin your time with God each day.*

### Prayer of Confession:

*Holy and loving God, we give You thanks for Your grace. It is sometimes hard for us to really believe that You want to save us even while we are dead in our transgressions. Help us to have the faith to accept that in Your great love and mercy, You are reaching out even now to save us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our hope and salvation. Amen.*

### My Prayers this Week:

#### Family Time:

Have you ever sat down in a chair and had it collapse under you? You may not have ever thought about it, but every time you sit down in a chair, you act with what we call “faith”! When you want to sit down, you just do it, because you trust that the chair is going to hold you! But you don’t know for absolute CERTAIN that it’s going to hold you until you try! That’s why the Bible says faith is “being certain of what we cannot see”! We can have faith in God because God promises to ALWAYS hold us up! In fact, the Bible teaches us that the ONLY thing in the whole world we can have absolute faith in is God! The chair might collapse, but God never will!

### MONDAY 6.15.20

### Hebrews 11:1-40

Chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews is often called “the roll call of faith.” As we think about faith this week, this chapter helps us to see more clearly that, as John Wesley taught, faith is a sure trust and confidence in God. Each of the examples cited in this chapter gives an Old Testament example of how someone in Israel’s history took actions that demonstrated their trust in God. In the remainder of our readings this week, we will reach back into the books of Genesis and Exodus to read the stories of several of these people. The writer of Hebrews defines faith as “the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don’t see” (NIV). To have faith is to acknowledge that while we may not have the full picture, we trust that God is actively bringing the world to its goal. When God calls us to act, we can do so in the confidence that God will see us through even when we don’t know what the final outcome will be.

- When have you ever taken a “step of faith”? Why did you decide to take that step when you did not know how it would turn out?
- What personal stories would you share to explain the reasons for your faith in God to someone who did not have it?

### TUESDAY 6.16.20

### Genesis 6:5-7:5

The story of Noah and the flood is very familiar to most people. But while we often might focus on how the story portrays God’s judgment of sin, or on how it portrays God’s grace in saving the human race in spite of sin, we might not always think about how strongly it portrays faith-in-action on the part of Noah. Imagine Noah’s perseverance in building an ark, because God told him to, in spite of the jeers of everyone around him. Hebrews 11:7 says, “By faith Noah responded with Godly fear when he was warned about events he hadn’t yet seen. He built an ark to deliver his household. With his faith, he criticized the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes from faith” (CEB).

- How do you suppose Noah would have behaved without faith?
- What do you think “responding with Godly fear” means?
- How did Noah’s actions “criticize the world”?
- When have you felt like actions you took in faith required Godly fear? Have you ever had to persevere in something God asked of you, when those around you ridiculed you?
- How did your perseverance help to deepen your faith?

### WEDNESDAY 6.17.20

### Genesis 12:1-9

Try to imagine, right now, having a deep conviction that what God needed you to do more than anything else was to pack up your household, take your wife and your nephew, and everyone who worked for you, and drive away ... without knowing where you were heading. We might think that the story of Abram’s departure from Haran was somehow easier for him because he lived in ancient times, but it wasn’t! Abram was as settled and secure in his homeland as any of us, but when he heard the voice of God calling him to something new, he obeyed. No wonder this story is a classic example of acting on faith! Hebrews 11:8 says, “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out without knowing where he was going” (CEB).

- How do you imagine Abram’s family and friends reacting to his decision?
- Have you ever felt called to something completely new? Maybe it was a job change, maybe it was to participate in a mission opportunity, maybe it was to start a whole new mission or small group. Is God calling you to act on faith to try something new right now?

### THURSDAY 6.18.20

### Genesis 22:1-19

It’s no wonder today’s story is called a “test of faith.” We can imagine no harder test of faith. Even the writer of Hebrews uses this language. “By faith Abraham offered Isaac when he was tested. The one who received the promises was offering his only son. He had been told concerning him, ‘Your legitimate descendants will come from Isaac.’ He figured that God could even raise him from the dead. So in a way he did receive him back from the dead” (Hebrews 11:17-19, CEB). In leaving Haran, Abraham had, in faith, surrendered his past. Now, God would test Abraham’s faith to see if it was strong enough to enable him to surrender his future. All of Abraham’s future depended on Isaac. Yet Abraham trusted God enough to believe that God would provide for his future even if he sacrificed the only future he thought he had. And Abraham learned that God, too, is faithful—returning his son to him when he feared all was lost.

- Have you ever made plans for the future that God asked you to set aside to pursue a different path? How hard was that decision?
- How have the sacrifices God has asked you to make ultimately proven God’s faithfulness to you?

