

## **December 11**

### Ephesians 2:1-10

Paul writes that we are not saved by our works, but rather by the grace of God.

*Question to Consider:*

Paul says that we are saved by grace, but he also says that we are “created in Christ Jesus to do good works.” Since we are saved by grace, not works, what do you think Paul means when he says we are created to do good works?

*Prayer:*

Father God, I thank you for my salvation, the eternal gift from you for which I will always be grateful. With your help and guidance, I will – with a spirit of gratitude – do the works you have created me to do. I pray in the name of my Savior, Jesus. Amen.

## **December 12**

### Ephesians 4:1-13

In these verses, Paul writes about the different work that we do, and how all of us working together contribute to unity within the body of Christ.

*Question to Consider:*

Each of us has gifts and talents, given to us by God. What are your God-given gifts, and how are you using them to give honor and glory to God?

*Prayer:*

Almighty God, you have created me for a reason – to live life abundantly, and to live for you. I pray that I do both. Please guide and strengthen me to do your will and to serve in ways that please you and help bring about unity within the body of Christ. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **December 13**

### Ephesians 4:25-5:2

In this passage, Paul gives instructions for living that will set Christ followers apart from the rest of the world.

*Question to Consider:*

Paul says, “Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.” That is sound advice. Is there someone with whom you are angry? What step can you take *right now* to reconcile?

*Prayer:*

Loving God, I need your help to reach out to (*name the person*) and remove the barrier that separates us. Please help me with that. Help me to be a person of reconciliation and peace. I pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus. Amen.

## **December 14**

### Philippians 2:1-11

In this beautiful passage, Paul writes about the humility of Christ and the incredible thing he did when he came and dwelled among us.

*Question to Consider:*

Re-read verses 5 through 11 slowly. What strikes you most as you read this poetry about Jesus?

*Prayer:*

Merciful God, I long for the day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Help me to live my life in such a way that people are able to see Jesus alive in me, and help me to reach out to others who do not yet know Christ. I pray that they, too, will bow down and confess Jesus as Lord. In His name I pray, Amen.

## **December 15**

### Philippians 4:4-13

This is a joyful passage in which Paul urges us to a continual spirit of thanksgiving, and then reminds us that with Christ, anything is possible.

*Question to Consider:*

Paul writes that he can do everything through Christ who gives him strength. Is there something you are struggling with right now? What is it?

*Prayer:*

Eternal God, right now I am struggling with (*name something, or several things, that you are struggling with*). Fill me with the presence and strength of the risen Christ so that I can successfully face this challenge. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.