

July 6

Mark 9:14-29

These verses tell about Jesus healing a demon-possessed boy.

Question to Consider:

The man had tried everything else, and still his son was not healed. His options seemed to be exhausted. Think of a time when you felt that you had tried everything, and nothing had worked. What were the circumstances, and what did you end up doing?

Prayer:

Loving God, sometimes I get to the end of my rope and don't know what to do. Help me to lean on you in those times, and to trust that all things are possible with you. I pray in the name of the one who healed – Jesus, Amen.

July 7

Matthew 18:1-5

In this passage, Jesus answers the question, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Question to Consider:

Jesus said that unless we change and become like children, we will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Why do you believe he said that? What is it about children that Jesus was lifting up??

Prayer:

Gracious God, help me to have the trusting faith of a child, and also a child's sense of wonder about you, life, and the world. Help me to be like a child, open to receiving your love and blessings. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

July 8

Matthew 18:21-35

In this passage, Jesus tells a parable about an unforgiving debtor.

Question to Consider:

Is it easy or difficult for you to forgive? Is it easy or difficult for you to receive forgiveness?

Prayer:

Merciful God, I know that you love and forgive me. Help me to truly receive your forgiveness, and also to become a more forgiving person. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

July 9

Luke 9:51-62

Jesus turns toward Jerusalem and as he does so, he speaks about the cost of following him.

Question to Consider:

Jesus makes it clear in these and other verses that following him will be costly. What is the cost of following Jesus? Do you believe you have paid a price to follow him?

Prayer:

Almighty God, you do not promise that a life of faith will be easy, but you do promise that a life of faith is worth the cost. Help me to willingly pay the cost of surrendering my life to you. I pray in the name of the one who gave it all – Jesus, Amen.

July 10

Luke 10:1-12

Jesus sends out his followers to proclaim the gospel and prepare the people for his coming.

Question to Consider:

Jesus said that he was sending them out “like lambs among wolves.” What do you suppose he meant by that? Is that still the case today for people who live and serve in the name of Jesus?

Prayer:

Gracious God, I know that there are those who believe I am a fool for giving my life to Jesus. I know that the time may come when someone actively opposes me because of my faith. Give me the faith and the courage to stay strong, to stand with you and with Jesus. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.