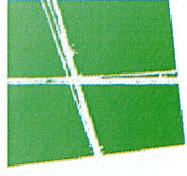


GOSHEN

First Brethren Church



Goshen First Brethren Church
215 W Clinton St.
Goshen, IN 46526

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Guide for Small Group, Family, and Individual Worship & Spiritual Formation

WORSHIP @ HOME

NOTES FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

USING THIS RESOURCE

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hi Friends,

I'm glad you're joining us in worship! Wherever and with whomsoever you find yourself with today, it's an encouragement to know that we've got brothers and sisters joining us elsewhere in the common call to give praise to our wonderful Savior.

To get started:

1. Grab a Bible and pen/pencil. You'll want some means of reading God's Word and jotting down some thoughts.
2. If you have kids with you, take a look at the special resources we have available via the link provided below and make sure you have everything on hand.
3. If there's 2 or more of you, select one person to be the "leader" of your time together. This individual will read the non-bolded portions and lead the group through the instructions listed.

Once you have all of those details figured out, you should be set!

For video resources, you can go online to www.gobrethren.org/worship.

Together, let's set our hearts on things above, and center our attention and adoration upon the person of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Pastor Cory

DISCUSS/REFLECT

Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked will I return.

**The LORD gives, and the LORD takes away.
Blessed be the name of the LORD.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Sing "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Pray

1. Read Psalm 121:1-8. Prayerfully reflect upon your week and note when God has been at work in your life and in the world.
2. Share prayer concerns and pray for one another.

3. Give Share a word of testimony or praise as an offering to God.

HABITS FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

This week, regularly examine your days in prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to make you aware of God's presence. Review the last 24 hours, thanking God for the day and noting the emotions that surface. Choose one feature of the day and pray for God to speak to you from it. Look toward tomorrow: What is God inviting you to do in preparation for what is ahead?

Scripture Meditation

Read Luke 18:35-43 and reflect using the questions provided under the heading "DISCUSS/REFLECT." After sharing initial reflections, visit the "DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS" page, or watch Pastor Cory's video devotional message on our website.

Sing "Be Thou My Vision"

Pray Our Father...

LORD, may our eyes be fixed always upon you. Amen.

Continue to glorify God through your week!

With a group or on your own, reflect on Luke 18:35-43 using the following questions:

1. What do you like? Why?
2. What do you dislike? Why?
3. What is confusing or strange?
4. What do you learn about God?
5. How will you live differently in response to this scripture?

FAMILY CONNECTION + KID CORNER

Check out www.gobrethren.org/kids for helpful resources to involve your kids in worship and learning at a level suited for them. It's best to explore those resources ahead of time and prepare beforehand to include them during your time together. We'd advise placing any kids activities between prayer & giving, but you can get creative!

HEART VERSE

Read several times to memorize; reflect upon its meaning to commit God's Word to heart:
"Humble yourselves before the LORD, and he will lift you up." - James 4:10

198 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Louisa M. R. Stead

Wm. J. Kirkpatrick

 Just in sim - ple faith to plunge me 'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!
 Just from Je-sus sim - ply tak - ing Life and rest, and joy and peace.
 And I know that Thou art with me, Wilt be with me to the end.

Refrain

Be Thou My Vision

Text from book of poems *Gael*
Selected and edited by
Eleanor Hull

Unison

Traditional Irish melody

Devotional Thoughts *Pastor Cory Smith*

As part of our reflection on persistent prayer last week, I encouraged you all to identify a desire of your heart and bring it before the LORD on a regular basis throughout the week. Sometimes I come up with these challenges or habits for spiritual formation and then I'm surprised by the results in my own life.

When I sat down to pray this week, I asked the LORD to search my heart for my own desires - what would justice and restoration look like for me in the world? At first, I thought of all the ways this virus and our responses to it are disrupting life and making things difficult. I almost began to pray for the Coronavirus to be eliminated and all to go back to normal...but then I felt a check by the Holy Spirit.

“Would returning to normal life bring us closer to the restorative life of God’s Kingdom?”

I was jarred by the question, but I immediately knew the answer: “No.”

Two items piqued my interest from our text on Jesus’ healing of this blind man (Luke 18:35-43). First, I noticed the man’s initial request, “...have mercy on me” (18:38-39). Mercy, by definition, is undeserved. This man does not necessarily blame himself for his condition, but neither does he claim healing is his right. It is not God’s fault that he is blind. Blindness - and all conditions of brokenness - are a result of humanity’s sin as a whole. And so the man cries for mercy, not because he believes he deserves it, but because he believes in the mercy and power of this man named Jesus.

Second, I noticed the man’s clarified request, “I want to see” (18:40). Mercy could have taken any number of forms - a charitable gift, hospitality, an encouraging word, etc. Yet Jesus stopped everything to ask this man what he *really* wanted. When confronted with this question, the man did not hesitate, “Lord, I want to see.” In other words - *I want to be whole*. Jesus immediately granted his request, and the man responded with praise and faithfulness - following Jesus from that place and leading others in praise.

So what do you really want today?

Back to my prayer time: Life before all of this started was comfortable, but not God’s kingdom. Do we want the comfort of familiar everyday life? Or do we want the full restoration life that Jesus has to offer? Because the answer to that question will determine how you pray and respond to Jesus today. Scripture teaches us, “Humble yourselves before the LORD, and he will lift you up” (James 4:10). What does it look like today for you to humble yourself before Jesus and be lifted up in mercy? What would it mean for you to be made whole?

The GOOD NEWS of Jesus is that he has made a way for us to find real and whole life in him. He has saved us from our sin. He will accomplish the final victory when he returns in glory to establish a new heaven and earth, wiping away death. And he is currently saving us through the power of his Holy Spirit which renews us, heals our spirits, and conforms us to his image. Let us follow the example of the blind beggar and find Jesus, so we might respond with faithfulness and praise.