



SMALL GROUP WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL



Week 6
11 - 17 July 2021

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A MID-FAITH CRISIS?

CONTENT:

Sunday 11 July	Week 6	The church will never fulfill God's mission!
Sunday 18 July	Week 7	God sees me as a disappointment.
Sunday 25 July	Week 8	God don't call me



Sunday 11 July

Week 6

The church will never fulfill God's mission!

BIBLE READING:

Sunday 11 July Num 13:17-26; Luke 10:1-11; Col 1:18-20

PRAISE AND WORSHIP:



Let's worship our God with the following You Tube song: Way Maker by Darlene Zschech & William McDowell - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uIFK2tv4GWQ>

Reflection

by Keagile Moloabi

Beloved, we live in very different and difficult times, times almost like those Israelites who found themselves in transit from Egypt to the promised land, Canaan. Yes, they had left the land of hardship



and slavery behind, yet they were not yet in the promised land, there was despair, anger, discontentment, battles, and many other challenges they had to overcome.

We are fighting through the scourges of Covid-19, GBV, poverty and unemployment and have lost all hope in institutions that are supposed to be helping us. The government, which is supposed to provide leadership at a time like this, does not seem to have our best interest at heart, but only to line up the pockets of the rich and connected. The church, which is supposed to provide the moral compass, seems to have just blended in and are very mute on very important issues that affect its people. Many have as a result lost hope even in the church as they feel it will never be able to fulfill God's mission, part of which is to be the light in these times of darkness.

In the book of Numbers 13:17-26 we meet Moses, who on God's instruction, sends men to go and explore the land of Canaan. God had already told Moses, when he called him at the burning bush, that the land is flowing with milk and honey in Exodus 3:8, a message he also conveyed to the children of Israel in Exodus 13:5. However, God senses uncertainty and anxiety in the children of Israel at this point, much the same anxiety many have towards the church, and he wanted to give them some assurance.

Moses mentions certain characteristics that many look for in the church, that would bring a level of comfort; is the church weak or strong, are there many carrying the faith or just a few? What sort of environment is the church cultivating, is it good or bad? What kind of church are we, are we unwalled or truly fortified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ? Is our faith and actions poor or fertile to stand up in the face of trials and persecutions like Jesus Christ did when He was sentenced to a death of sinners on the cross?

When those who went to explore the land came back, they came back carrying a cluster of grapes, which was so big that it had to be carried by two men, they also brought figs and pomegranates. This was a sign that God was giving them, that nothing has changed in the 40 years that they have walked in the wilderness from Egypt to Canaan. The earth is still very much fertile and rich, the promised land still flows with milk and honey.

However, Luke 10: 1 – 11, points out that even though the land is rich, fertile, and full of harvest, the workers are few. Here Jesus is calling on every one of us to take an active part in ensuring that the Peace that the world so seeks is spread to each corner by sending workers out into his harvest because the kingdom of God is near. As the book of Colossians 1: 18 - 20 says, Jesus is the head of the body, which is the church. We are the many parts that make up the body, I Corinthians 12: 12 – 27, and that means we are the church.

Beloved, for the church to fulfill God's mission, it's up to each one of us, trusting God, to come together, work as one and use the many talents that God has blessed us with to bring Peace, Love and be a blessing to each other and the world around us. We need to stop being silent and to take deliberate action on issues that affect us and those around us, we need to make a difference every chance we get.

In closing; John 13: 34-35 says; "*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" This way my beloved brother and sisters in Christ, the church will fulfill God's mission. For He is the way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper and light in the darkness, that is who He is!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. How has the church failed you in your moment of need and vulnerability and what do you think it could've done differently?
2. What mission do you believe that the church is meant to fulfill?
3. What is it that the church needs to strengthen it to fulfill this mission?
4. What do you think is your role and contribution in the success of the church in fulfilling God's mission?



DAILY BIBLE READING:

Monday:

Memory Verse: Acts 1: 8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem.”

Prayer: Father God, fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit so I am strengthened to fulfill your mission in this world, Amen.

Tuesday:

Memory Verse: II Cor 5:18 “Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation.”

Prayer: Dear God, please give me the guidance and wisdom to actively participate in building your church for the betterment of your people, Amen.

Wednesday:

Memory Verse: Mt 28:18 “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth”

Prayer: Dear God, help to never forget under who's authority I am preaching the gospel, so that I never buckle under pressure nor retreat amid challenges, Amen.

Thursday:

Memory Verse: Eph 2:17 “He came and proclaimed the good news of peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near”

Prayer: Father God, thank you that You never gave up on me when I walked far from you. Help me to proclaim the good news to those who are far from you. Amen.

Friday:

Memory Verse: Rom 5:10 “For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.”

Prayer: Father God, thank you for reconciling us back to you through your Son Jesus Christ. Help us to always be shining beacons of your grace in the world. Amen.

Saturday:

Memory Verse: I Pet 2:9 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his possession, so that you may proclaim the praise of the one who called you...”

Prayer: Dear God, as we walk through the journey of life, help us to always remember who we are to you!



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 11th July

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: Num 13:17-26

Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

Activity/Family Moment: This activity is a treasure hunt. Moses sent out men to scout and find things so let's do the same. At the end of the treasure hunt there should be a prize. This could be movie tickets for the whole family, chocolates, a family activity you all enjoy etc.

Cut out or rewrite, before your family devotions and place in the appropriate places.

Reference: <https://wondermomwannabe.com/treasure-hunt-clues-for-kids/>

