



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

**ENCOUNTER GOD TODAY!**

*Living a life of purpose in these unprecedented times*

**CONTENT:**

**Week 5: A void that only Christ can fill** – Rev Kamogelo Monoametsi  
 Matthew 6: 25-33 The (Best Life) **Sunday 29 August**

**BIBLE READING:**

Matthew 6: 25-33 the (Best Life) **Sunday 29 August**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP:**

Let's worship our God with the following You Tube song: **Seek ye first the kingdom of God.**  
<https://youtu.be/S1Y8Naj3RFk>

*Reflection* by Rev Kamogelo Monoametsi

The novelist Alexander Black was fond of asking “If you were to receive a million dollars tomorrow, what would you do with it?” It was his way of finding out what came first in a person’s desires. What does come first? It is a leading question. Human beings can think about food and clothing but should not think about them first. Which desire dominates the most in our hearts? Desire for God or for earthly things?

The emerging culture of consumerism and accumulation of material possessions seem to be the main influential factor of people’s spiritual identity. Apart from many challenges we are facing as a society, the most difficult one is that of inner unsatisfactory desire that leads people to various forms of destructive behavior. We should ask a question, why many people feel the need to chase success, quick fix life, instant gratification, and easy lavish lifestyle. Certainly, there

is nothing wrong in accumulating material possessions, but we need to interrogate the cause of the desire. Is it about being wealthy, acquiring a particular social status, to belong to a particular class? Or is it about embracing the giftings of life entrusted to us and be good stewards of God's creation. Reflections on prevailing life realities is indispensable I given the worldly pressures that are exerted on us.

Are we going to experience spiritual paradigm shifts due to these unprecedented challenges, culturally, spiritually, religiously, and socially? Seemingly people have ceased to prioritize spiritual blessing as a way of life, to put God at the center of life and the rest follow later. Instead spiritual blessings are measured through accumulation of material possessions and not surrendering to Christ, showing commitment to the Lord and his Kingdom.

Matthew 6:25-33 challenges our life priorities and hierarchy of needs. Matthew suggests that we can live our lives successfully by firstly seeking God's kingdom, finding our souls a place of belonging in the Kingdom of God. It implies that following Christ and his teachings, living according to his will, is the most indispensable, noble, and central prerequisite of life. But neither Christian church that Matthew sought to address understood it in that manner, they were mainly concerned about their material possessions than focusing on the things of God.

One of the Isixhosa hymns (Hymn 249) often sung in our vernacular services says  
"Eyona not inexabiso kobu bomi sibudlayo, (*The valuable thing is life*)  
Asikudla nezambatho, (*is not food and clothing*)  
Asimpilo nakonwaba, (*It is neither good health nor being merry*)  
Komceda ni na, (*What shall it profit anyone*),  
Ukuzuza lonke ilizwe? (*To gain the whole world?*)  
Uze umphefumlo wona ulahlelwe emlilweni" (*Yet the soul be thrown in the burning furnace*)

Cicero once wrote on the attitude of Gentiles towards prayers "We do not pray to Jupiter to make us good but to give us material benefits...We must pray to God for the gifts of fortune, but wisdom we must acquire for ourselves" Be careful not lose your soul in the process of chasing material possessions.

### SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. We interpret scripture differently. What does the following verse mean for you and how do you feel about it "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat and drink or about your body, what you will wear. Is it not life more important than food?"
2. If you were to be given an opportunity to write down your desires, what will be on top of the list?
3. What does seek God's kingdom mean for you? And how do you do that?
4. What is your attitude towards accumulation of material possessions by Christians?



### DAILY BIBLE READING:

#### Monday

**Memory Verse: Proverbs 8:17** "I love those who love me, and those who diligently seek me will find me."

**Prayer:** Spirit of Trinity bestow upon us the spirit of diligence to seek you with all our hearts, minds, and souls. **Amen**

#### Tuesday

**Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 4:29** "But from there, you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul."

**Prayer:** Loving God you are always waiting for us to come back to you, to be reconciled and restored in your image. Help us Lord in our search for intimate relationship with you. **Amen.**

#### Wednesday

**Memory Verse: 2 Chronicles 16:9** "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

**Prayer:** Merciful Lord we long for a faithful relationship with you and the spirit, help to be committed to your kingdom and let our eyes be fixed on you. **Amen**



### Thursday

**Memory Verse: Psalm 40:16** *“Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let those who love Your salvation say continually, ‘The LORD be magnified!’”*

**Prayer:** Lord God you imbued on us your joy, joy to live in you with deep sense of contentment and serenity. **Amen**

### Friday

**Memory Verse: Lamentation 3:21-25** *“The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.”*

**Prayer:** God of patience and hope, help us your servants to possess the spirit of patience in order to learn to wait patiently on you and seek your guidance in all circumstances. **Amen.**

### Saturday

**Memory Verse: Isaiah 49:23** *“Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who hope in me will not be disappointed.”*

**Prayer:** Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, redeemer of humankind. Bless us with a hopeful spirit so that our fallen disillusioned spirits can be renewed through your hope. **Amen**



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 29<sup>th</sup> August

**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:** Matthew 6: 33 Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

### Activity/Family Moment:

This scripture wants us to worry less and seek God.

- What does it mean to worry?
- Do you have anything worrying you?

This pandemic has turned our lives upside down and that can be very scary to children as children, and adults, need stability.

### Activity:

Have a bunch of things that can stack but aren’t breakable (eg. Tin cans, Lego, blocks, pillows, Jenga blocks etc)

- Build up a tower of stackable things.
- Say out loud a worry, maybe an upcoming test or what we will have for dinner etc. and take away a piece of the tower.
- Sometimes the piece doesn’t make the tower fall other times it would.
- Carry on until everyone has had a turn or until all the pieces have fallen down.

Bad things happen but it’s alright, because if we seek God first in all we do God will provide for us. God gives us the strength and power to rebuild our tower when it gets knocked down and God also has the power to take away our worries if we hand them over to God!