

The Bible Study for the week of June 3rd - 9th

Reminder: This Study is in two parts. The first part is the lesson that will be discussed on Tuesday at 10:30 am. The 2nd part is THE GO DEEPER section for anyone who has more time or wants more reflection. These studies are to inspire and motivate you; the time invested is completely up to each person.

INTRO: Guess What? We are going to switch things up for this week. When considering that people are different, I am always asking God, "What next?" He knows you better than me, so I pray that I am directed toward each new study. And you won't believe it, the verse I mention often re: God taking care of the birds in the sky and the lilies in the field and how much more will He take care of us, is the Upper Room's for Tuesday the 9th. Also, Ashley's story is perfect for today=all about Trusting God. Just like God's Word, we can open it up and it can be perfectly relevant for where we are that moment.

PART ONE: Our Tuesday discussion, please read Matthew 6:25-34 and Upper Room text I copied below:

Ashley--When my concussion symptoms dragged on, I wasn't able to care for my son or maintain a conversation with my husband for quite some time. I felt useless around the house; I couldn't go to church; I wasn't able to read my Bible. Even praying was difficult. Although God surrounded me with many wonderful people who helped immensely during this time, I still felt cut off from the world and very much alone.

I will never forget one beautiful spring day, when suddenly I could feel God all around me—in the warmth of the sunshine, in the gentle breeze, and through the singing of the birds. When I heard them, the verse above came to me (Matt. 6:26). It seemed as if God were saying, "Give up all your fears, tears, and anxieties and just trust me." It still took another three months before I could read my Bible or have a somewhat normal conversation. But every time I broke down crying or felt as if I couldn't handle the stress any more, I would stop myself and say aloud, "I trust you, God!"

REFLECTIONS:

1. What part of this passage in Matthew hit home? Does it challenge or encourage you?
2. When looking at nature, do you see God's hand? Do you believe that you are more valuable?
3. Isn't God amazing. Ashley's reality feels a lot like ours right now...."cut off from the world." God showed up for her, how about you?

PRAYER TIME: How can we, your church family, pray for you? Do you need more peace, faith or courage?

PART 2: GO DEEPER through the week...Matthew 6 is full of lessons, some easier than others. However, there is a thread in all 5: Giving/serving, praying, fasting, worldly treasures, and worry. Each day take the verses of one and "sit on it" i.e. meditate on what it means in general, then specific.

AFTER YOU HAVE DONE THIS, if you want to know what I got see below.

(When I was reading these, I got hit with the questions, "Whose praise am I seeking? Why am I performing these tasks or actions? Who or what am I truly living for?" FYI-the chapter before is The Sermon on the Mount and chp. 7 continues with instructions on Godly living and discernment.)