

Sunday, February 22, 2015

Read Psalm 120

Reflect Do you understand God to be a source of help? In times of distress do you turn to God as a first reaction or as a last resort? Does the thought of God watching over you bring peace to your heart and mind? Does it frighten you? Why?

Pray Thank God for being interested in your life. Praise God for God's ability to care and to watch over you. Ask God for help in dealing with a specific situation. Ask God to watch over you and those you care about.

Act Gather with your church family at Lafayette to be reminded of God's love and to be renewed in faith, hope, and love.

Monday, February 23, 2015

Read Galatians 5:22-26

Reflect What is the impact of understanding the fruit listed grows from the Holy Spirit rather than as a result of your pedigree, knowledge, or effort? How does reading this list as a moral check list miss the point of the passage?

Pray Praise God for the beautiful gift of the Holy Spirit living within your heart. Thank God for the way the Holy Spirit works in your heart, slowly, and over time to bring forth fruit.

Act Slow down. Stop demanding instant growth. Take a few minutes to be quiet. Acknowledge the ways in which you have been experiencing the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Where do you see God at work in your life? In your relationships?

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Reflect Our world values outcomes, but God values our motives. What drives your behavior? Worship? Service? Remember these beautiful words about love were not written about a wedding, but about a church struggling with division.

Pray Thank God for love — the love you have experienced from people, the love you have experienced for people. Ask God to purify your motives and fill your heart with love, especially for enemies and people who annoy.

Act Spend some time with the description of love in verses 4-8. Do the words describe you? Do they describe the way you relate with your family? Do they describe the way you behave with your church during difficult times? Ask God to transform you.

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Read Matthew 22:34-40

Reflect How important is love to our Father? How important is love to Jesus? How important is love to the Holy Spirit? How does knowing that the greatest commands are loving God and people transform your understanding of self and church?

Pray Praise God for the way God loves us, everyone, even us sinners. Confess times when your love for God and people has grown weak. Ask God to grow your love for God and people.

Act Who are you finding it difficult to love? Be honest. Pray today, asking God to help you love that person. Do something today to express love to that person. Say something to express love to that person. Let the Holy Spirit grow your love.

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Read 1 John 3:11-24

Reflect John uses strong language — death and life — to underscore the importance of love. After mentioning that Jesus laid down his life for us, John talks about sharing material possessions. Wow! We might need to chew on that for a while.

Pray Thank God for taking us from darkness and to light, from death to life. Thank God for Jesus's laying down his life. Ask God to open our eyes, hearts, and pockets to the needs of others.

Act Look around you today...this week. Do you see, really see the needs of others? Have compassion! Care for people, helping them with their. Generously share your money and possessions.

Friday, February 27, 2015

Read 1 John 4:7-21

Reflect Notice how many times and ways John connects love to God. The story of God's relating to people is a story of love. But look at how John goes on to connect God's people to love. God loves people. People of God are to love each other.

Pray Thank God for sending Jesus into the world for our sake. Thank God for God's amazing love. Confess any times you may have taken that love for granted or failed to translate God's love into your lifestyle. Ask God to grow love for others in your heart.

Act John makes it clear that our love for people is an indication of our love for God. Take time to do a self-check. Does the way you treat people validate your claim to love God? Do your actions toward others agree with your claim to love God?

Saturday, February 28, 2015

Read John 13

Reflect Talk about a "wow moment" — Jesus knows he has been given all power and authority, yet he washes feet like a servant. How would you have reacted to Judas's being present? Peter's presence? Is the fact that Jesus is going to die as difficult for you to understand as it was for the twelve? How does Jesus say people are going to be able to recognize his followers?

Pray Thank God for the servant heart of Jesus. Confess times when you have put yourself ahead of others. Confess times when you have acted as though people would recognize Jesus followers by their church-structure, doctrinal statements, or success. Ask God to help you value love in the same way God values love.

Act Sometime today put someone else's feelings, needs, opinions ahead of your own. Review your week: was there a moment when people would not have been able to tell you were a follower of Jesus by your loving lifestyle? What can you do today and in the week ahead to demonstrate to people that you are a man or woman of love? Make a plan. Do it.



Lafayette Church
of **Christ**

*Spiritual exercises to encourage our relationship
with God and others by*

Bearing Fruit

Part 2



February 22 – 28, 2015