



WORLD YWCA AND WORLD YMCA  
WEEK OF PRAYER & WORLD FELLOWSHIP

**7-13 NOVEMBER, 2021**

# BEAUTY FROM BROKENNESS

Although we may be easily broken, the light of Christ within us can heal brokenness and burst through, reaching out to those around us.

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## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS OF WORLD YWCA AND WORLD YMCA

As we steer through the troubled waters of COVID-19 and all the pain and disruption it has caused, we have seen rays of hope and resilience in communities, especially as vaccination is becoming available worldwide. The pandemic has severely affected our YMCA/YWCAs. In parts, we have been broken; in parts, we are putting the pieces back together again. Our ways of doing things may have changed, but our goals remain the same.

“Beauty from Brokenness” is the theme chosen for this year’s World YWCA and World YMCA Week of Prayer and World Fellowship. The story of our Christian foundation is that we are like pots of clay, made from earth, moulded into a beautiful being, sometimes we break. Each of us can contain the light of God within us, a light that can heal this brokenness and reach others.

As Paul the Apostle writes: “... we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that this all-surpassing power is from God, and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” 2 Corinthians 4, 7-9

During the Week of Prayer, we will be reflecting on many aspects of our COVID life: on healing and restoration, on serving our communities, on forgiveness, inclusivity, and dignity. This year, we also reflect on two defining issues critical for us to move towards a co-created future: the need for decent working environments and the need for Climate Justice.

The YMCAs and the YWCAs continue to strive for a just world. We envisage a community of people where each of its members enjoys the fullness of life, living in dignity based on equality, regardless of religion, race, or gender.

We invite all our members worldwide, our friends and partners, to come together in one spirit during this Week of Prayer and Fellowship, reflecting on God’s unconditional love for us and renewing our commitment to love all as our own.

**Mira Rizeq**

President, World YWCA

**Patricia Pelton**

President, World YMCA

## INTRODUCTION

### Join us in a Week of Devotional Activities!

YWCA and YMCA have partnered together since 1904 to organise the World Week of Prayer. Use this booklet and plan to join us this year, 7th to 13th November 2021.

You can take part individually, or form a small group and work through the short devotion each day together. The weeks' activities consist of 6 daily devotions, plus an optional collective worship service for day 7.

### How to use this Booklet

#### Day 1 to Day 6:

Each day explores a different aspect of Beauty from Brokenness and comprises of a bible reading, introduction, interpretation and application, questions/reflection points, and a prayer of blessing. There's also a creative action or activity which you can complete during the day if you have time.

If you are leading a group, take some time to read through, pray and prepare beforehand. Ask different group members to read certain parts (e.g. Bible reading, prayer etc.)

Virtual groups: If you plan to form an online group, you can download a condensed PowerPoint file for each day's devotion, which is available from [www.ymca.int/week-of-prayer](http://www.ymca.int/week-of-prayer) and [World YWCA's website](#).

#### Day 7:

Some YWCAs/YMCAs finish the week with a collective worship service. We've provided the framework for you to plan your own service in your own locality.

Please note there will also be a live worship service broadcast on Friday 12th November at 16:00 CET, on the [World YMCA](#) & [World YWCA's](#) Facebook pages. This live service will also be based on the Day 7 format.

At the last segment of this booklet, we have provided a Daily Bible Reading Plan from December 2021 to November 2022. We hope this will be helpful in your Bible Reading throughout the year.

### We'd love to hear from you!

In the run-up and during the week, post your plans, testimonies and personal or group thoughts and experiences on [#WWOP21](#).

## DAY 1

# BEAUTY IS BEING LOVED BY GOD

*God's love sees us, knows us and extends to us no matter how we feel or where we are.*

*Scripture passage: Psalm 139*

## INTRODUCTION

**“Oh Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.”**

What a wonderful way to start a Psalm. A reminder that God knows all we do, all we feel, and all we think, the good and the bad, and loves us anyway. It's an important part of Christianity to recognise that even though we have fallen short of God's standards, God shows everlasting love to us.

The theme for this week is 'Beauty from Brokenness' and today's specific topic is 'Beauty is Being Loved by God.' Now brokenness could mean one of several things. It could be our sin, which God forgives because he loves us. It could be pain caused by suffering or the sins of others, which God helps us through because he loves us. It could even be from realising how far we fall short of God, at which point God remakes and strengthens us in his powerful love.

Over the course of today's study we'll spend time reflecting on the fact that God knows all about us and nothing about our situation can separate us from the love of God and sees us always, whether we're feeling happy, sad, isolated, angry, or however we're feeling, God is always there with us, loving us in whatever our situation is.

## INTERPRETATIONS & APPLICATIONS

Lots of us this last year have spent time in isolation and lockdown. We may have been told to by the Government or a doctor, or maybe it was just the safest thing to do. Did your habits change while you were by yourself or just with the other people in your house?

Did you get dressed properly every day? Did you do your hair and makeup? Did you get up as early as normal, did you order more takeaway food?

For many of us in isolation or lockdown our habits did change. We spent less time on our outward appearance because no-one could see us, no-one was paying any attention to us. But for us as Christians, that's not true. God sees us. As verse 3 of this Psalm says:



“You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do.”

Now the suggestion here is not that we should all put our best clothes on when we were in the house because God is there, it's a much more positive and joyful idea. When we're by ourselves for a long period of time, we can start to feel unseen, unloved. But God always sees us, and incredibly, always loves us.

Verse 16 reads:

“You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”

Isn't that amazing? God knows what we're going to do and think, he knows how often we're going to stumble and do the wrong thing, and even so, God loves us with the greatest love anyone has ever shown.

There's a popular Christian poem called '[Footprints in the Sand](#)' that uses the image of two sets of footprints walking along the beach, one is God's, and one is ours. In hard times one set disappears, and when we start thinking whether God has abandoned us at our time of need, the poem reminds us that the one set of footprints that can be seen is that of God carrying us through during troubling times.

Verses 7-10 of this Psalm are:

“I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.”

This verse talks about the all-embracing quality of God's love. In the book of Romans we learn that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Even if we fall into a situation where we try to get away from God's love, we can't. That's how powerful he is and how powerful his love is. This pandemic has been hard and put a lot of challenges in front of us both as people and as followers of Jesus but if we remain close to God and remain in his love then we'll be able to overcome them with his support.

There are often reasons for our hardships and it is important to look back and see where God was in difficult times. The footprints poem mentioned above tells us that God is carrying us through, even though we might not see it at the time. For one of the group who put this study together, they recalled a point in their life where they'd dropped out of university after 2 and a half years of study and really felt like a failure. For them at that time it was hard to see where God was and why that path of life hadn't worked out. Looking back though, that difficult situation where they didn't feel loved or seen actually was fully in God's hands and God's love guided them from university to a career they love.

When we look backwards at difficult times there are a few ways we might see God. Maybe God was saving us from a worse situation, or teaching us something about ourselves, or giving us a push to change our behaviour, or something else. When we feel broken God's love is still all around us guiding us, comforting us, and teaching us.

For a final thought on reflecting on God's love, look at verse 14:

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well"

This verse reminds us that we are all uniquely made and precious in God's sight. This recognition that God's love is at work in us, right from the time when we were knitted in our mother's womb gives us the strength to believe that no matter what we are going through, whatever is trying to break us, we can overcome them through God's eternal love.

Whatever others say, each person is a special individual who is known and highly valued by God, with all their struggles, gifts and unique characteristics.

God has promised to walk with us through all the ups and downs of life.

Sometimes God helps us to overcome difficulties and at other times we are given strength and faith to keep walking on.

## QUESTIONS/REFLECTION POINTS

- When was the time you first felt loved by God?
- Have you felt closer or further away from God during the pandemic?
- Is it a good thing or a scary thing that God knows everything we do and think?
- Are we good at trusting God when life becomes hard?
- As you finish the study today, remember always that God loves you, no matter how broken you feel.

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

Father God in Heaven,

We thank you for the love you show us every day, even when it is us who have messed up.

We thank you for the amazing act of sending your son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.

As we continue to move out of this pandemic we are so grateful for how you have provided for so many, and shown your love to us all, even while the world seems covered in darkness.

For we know the darkness is not dark to you, you see through it, you see us and our hearts and our struggles and our personal situations, giving us your light and guidance as we find our way through the dark.

And we're thankful for the eternal hope we have in you that there is a way out of the darkness, and we pray we'd take the steps to get there and help make it even brighter for everyone else.

You are an awesome God, and we thank you for your love every day.

Amen.

### CREATIVE ACTION & ACTIVITY

Choose to complete one or more of the following activities or actions as an application of today's devotion.

1. Put together a personalised message for a friend or neighbour and give it to them in a safe way to show that you are thinking of them.  
This could be a handwritten note delivered to their door if that's Covid safe to do in your area, or a text or even a phonecall if you're happy to have a longer chat.
2. If you're a more creative type of person you could decorate your message like the examples below.
  - Including a Bible verse in your message can be really powerful. It shows you're happy to share your faith and of course messages from the Bible can be more impactful than messages that come from us as humans.
  - Take your time when selecting your verse. If you know the person well think about what they might be struggling with, if not then there's loads of great verses that you could use to send a positive message of love. Some examples could be:
    - “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)
    - “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” (Psalm 23:4)
    - “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Sharing verses like this and showing the love of God to others through simple gestures like messages or letters can be a hugely powerful form of ministry, as when people see that you care about them and love them they'll start to see God's love reflected in you.

Please share any thoughts, insights or recorded actions that come as a result of today's devotions on social media using the hashtag: [#WWOP21](https://www.instagram.com/WWOP21)

**Team:** Matthew Malloch, Scotland; Edwin Mapurisa, Zimbabwe; Franklin Prashanth, India; Ivory Manio, Philippines; Seng Moon Pan Maji, Myanmar

DAY 1: LOVED BY GOD

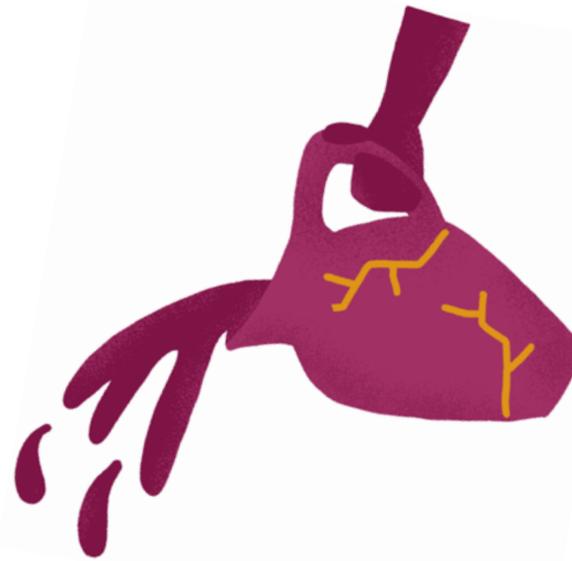


## DAY 2

# BEAUTY IS HEALING & RESTORATION

*When we approach God with our brokenness, God offers rest, restoration and healing.*

*Bible Passage: Matthew 11:28 -30; Psalm 34:18; Psalm 147:3*



## INTRODUCTION

The world has been shaken by the Covid-19 pandemic, in one way or another. Many of us have been exposed to a situation that has likely left us with some degree of trauma and brokenness. Many of us have lost either parents, friends, co-workers, siblings, or at least we know someone that has lost someone. Some of us have been sick, most of us have been locked-in at home, and many have even lost their jobs and businesses. Many women, young girls and children have suffered abuse. Isolation has affected the mental health of many. Our relationships with our loved ones may have been broken by the lockdown situation: The pandemic has prevented us from gathering with family and friends. Strict lockdown restrictions have prevented many from going to our places of worship. We have been broken financially, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

No form of brokenness is worse than another. God wants to restore, heal and carry our troubles. Jesus comforts us in Matthew 11:28-30 when he says:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

## INTERPRETATIONS & APPLICATIONS

This pandemic is much more than a health crisis; it is also an unprecedented socio-political and economic crisis, having an impact leaving scars so deep they will take an extremely long time to fade. But what's next? God loves broken people and is willing to share our burdens with us. The image of the yoke in the bible passage is one of sharing burdens.

In Mathew, Jesus invites us to approach Him directly:

‘Come to me’- is grammatically, an invitation, not an order. Every person in the world can come to Jesus and seek help. Whatever our problem is, Jesus is there waiting to hear us and help us. He promises to walk right next to us all the time. In Matthew the other name for Jesus is Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us’. And God Immanuel Jesus is God who does not let us down. He is the one, who in the words of the writer of the Psalms “is near to all who call on him, to all who

call on him in truth". (Psalm 145:18)

'All you who are weary and burdened' – We are often weary and burdened. You can count yourself fortunate if this has not been your experience. We carry the weight of our failures, our flawed humanity and our sin. Jesus offers the promise of real peace, rest, and identity for our souls. God knows that we are tired. Therefore, in Jesus the promise of rest and restoration is offered. This offer is not forced on anyone, but open to all who may open themselves to it and are willing to risk letting God transform our lives.

'For I am gentle and humble in heart'

Are you currently struggling with something where you feel broken? Share it with God. Seek Jesus' help because He is gentle and humble willing to walk us in our struggles, sharing our suffering. In Jesus we encounter that unconditional love that does not turn anyone away, but rather embraces the least, lost and last among us in ways that are life-giving and life transforming.

'I will give you rest/you will find rest for your souls'

The beauty of God's healing is that God does not just heal our external symptoms as the world may do but our internal brokenness: It is a healing which offers wholeness.

We invite you to reflect on the scars that you still feel. Take a breath and reflect on the marks that COVID-19 may have left on your heart, on your pocket, and on your life, consider where you require God's healing? Just like a car accident, although the car may have been repaired there is still residual trauma that the accident has caused for the passengers. Don't be afraid to accept that you still may need an opportunity to heal.

Jesus did not come to the healthy people; he came to the sick. In Mark 2:17, Jesus said: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." As a sinner, let's ask God to heal and restore us. The Cambridge dictionary defines the word restoration as: 'The act or process of returning something to its earlier good condition or position, or to its owner.'

God can make our broken part whole again. This is the beauty of restoration!

Like the caterpillar that emerges from its chrysalis to become a butterfly, it may hurt, but the result will be worth it!

God works on us and wants us to be better people, stronger and perfected even through our struggles: "Being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

After this pandemic, life may not return to how it previously was, but as Christians, our soul can find peace and joy in Christ. Jesus who works through our

struggles for our good and brings beauty from brokenness. (Romans 8:28)

## REFLECTION POINTS

- When facing different problems, who is the first person you go to, to seek a solution?
- Now that you learned that God is omnipresent and seeks to help you, how does it impact your relationship with God ?
- Are you currently struggling with something where you feel broken? (You may wish to share this with God in prayer).
- Do you have any stories that you can share of God healing your brokenness or that of others?

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

Lord Jesus, we want to thank you because you are amazing and merciful. We thank you because of everything you have done and spoke. Thanks for the invitation you give us in Matthew 11:28-30. You came revealing the kingdom of God and have offered us salvation from sin and its consequences. Please God, give us the courage to admit our brokenness and acknowledge our wounds, and give us a spirit of discernment to identify the things that don't heal on their own. We need you God to heal our hearts and bind up our wounds. We pray for the future, for ourselves, and for communities to get back together. We know that you are always there, willing to heal and carry our troubles. Thank you for the peace and rest you offer to us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY & ACTION

Choose to complete one or more of the following activities or actions as an application of today's devotion.

1. Share which verse gives you comfort when you are feeling weary and burdened? Share it with your friends, family members and colleagues; feel free to use social media, or write letters or a notes to people you know, because someone somewhere needs to hear it and to be comforted too.
2. Take some time to be in connection with God bringing before God your scars and your wounds, you might want to play some music that helps you to think about how God makes us whole.
3. Song suggestion: Casting Crowns – Broken Together

Please share any thoughts, insights or recorded actions that come as a result of today's devotions on social media using the hashtag: [#WWOP21](https://www.instagram.com/WWOP21)

**Team: Mialy Sombiniaina, Madagascar; Rakotondrasoa, Madagascar; Martina Huber, Switzerland; Zinta Akpoko, Nigeria; Santiago Duarte, Colombia.**

### DAY 3

## BEAUTY IS DIGNITY & INCLUSION

*Jesus acts to include and dignify the “outsider,” reaching out cross-culturally and across gender divides.*

*Bible Passage: John 4:4-26*



### INTRODUCTION

#### **Division. Exclusion. Shame.**

All over the world and in our own communities, we see how divided and separated we are. Wherever you go, it seems that there are insiders and outsiders. Sometimes we ourselves have been the outcast and felt the pain of exclusion. What is it that humanity is thirsting and longing for? What will finally fix what is so clearly broken?

God said through the prophet Jeremiah saying: “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” (Jeremiah 2:13)

As long as we insist on our own cisterns, we will continue to struggle as a society and as individuals. Without God, we are broken and cannot put ourselves back together. The good news is that God came to repair our hearts and heal everything that divides us. Through Jesus Christ, God offers living waters of healing and welcomes the outsiders and restores dignity to the outcast.

### INTERPRETATIONS & APPLICATIONS

Have you ever visited a desert?

From the Sahara to the Gobi to Death Valley, deserts dazzle us with their extreme heat and rugged terrain. But deserts are also dangerous. If you have been to the desert, then you know how important it is to have along your water bottle. Dehydration can come quickly and overwhelm the weary traveller. There is a kind of thirst that only exists in the desert.

In the Bible, David was in the Desert of Judah when he cried out to God, “I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.” (Psalm 63:1)

Certainly David knew what it meant to thirst and search for water. And yet he uses this picture to describe an even deeper level of thirst than what he knew in the desert.

The Woman at the Well is just such a story. In John chapter 4 we have a typical scene from the time of the Bible. A woman has come to draw water, and yet that was only the beginning. What we have in today's reading starts with the search for water, but it's so much more than that.

First, it is a story defined by cultural divides and gender barriers. This becomes evident as the woman arrives and a man named Jesus asks her for a drink. She cannot even believe he is speaking to her, since he is a Jew and she is a Samaritan.

Jews and Samaritans had long since despised one another. For hundreds of years they had fought, ignored, and disparaged each other. The Jews in particular held their Samaritan neighbours in contempt. They referred to them as half-breeds and dogs. When traveling, they would purposely detour their trip in order to go around Samaria, rather than travel through it.

Thus, we are surprised that Jesus is at a Samaritan well in the first place, let alone asking this woman for a drink. And that is the other issue. Not only is she Samaritan, but she is also a woman.

In their time and place, women were often treated as second-class citizens. Some Jewish men would even begin their day by praying, "Blessed are you, O God, for having not made me a Gentile, a slave, or a woman." Perhaps the Apostle Paul had this in mind when he wrote, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus". (Galatians 3: 28)

Whatever the case, women were regularly devalued and disregarded by men. Sadly, that is still the case in many places today. We are 2,000 years on from the woman at the well, and her situation is still so familiar.

Yet underneath these initial barriers, there are even deeper wounds and divisions.

This woman has a secret. A part of her story that causes her so much shame, she comes to the well in the middle of the day, when she won't be seen. The heat of the noontime sun kept others away, and this kept her away from their burning glares and comments. We don't know the details of her story, but this woman has had a series of relationships that caused her much ridicule and pain.

We discover this when Jesus asks her to bring back her husband and reveals she has had five.

The true depth of this story is revealed in that moment. She is not just at the well for water. She is not just a Samaritan or a woman. She is someone who is thirsty for love. Real love. The love that can come only from God.

On the surface, we have many problems in today's society. We are divided by race, gender, and a host of other differences. On top of that, we have all experienced a pandemic that has caused great distress, disruption, and despair. Some of us have lost loved ones. Many have endured isolation and loneliness,

much like the woman at the well. Yet Jesus sees our deepest need. His interaction with the woman is profound:

He sees her.

He speaks to her.

And he offers her living water to drink- to restore her relationship to God.

He says, “Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14)

Every barrier is overcome and every longing is satisfied in those words. For the woman at the well, she is completely transformed. Her sins are forgiven, her dignity is reclaimed, she is included as a full member in the family of God.

By the end of the story, this same woman who was rejected will run back to her village and exclaim, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” (John 4:29)

The outsider has become an insider. A beloved daughter of God. An ambassador of God’s love.

As I (Bjorn) pen these final words on behalf of our team, I am writing from the beautiful city of Minneapolis- a place known to many for the death of George Floyd. A place marred by division and violence. And a place that is also my home.

And yet Minneapolis also stands for something else. In the Dakota native language it means “City of Water”- named after its many lakes and the Mississippi River that runs through it.

In this city, even this city, there is reason for hope. And it is found in the Living Water that touches every heart and quenches every thirst.

## REFLECTION POINTS

When you think about your own community, what are the sources of greatest division? What are some examples of people who are often excluded, isolated, and outcast?

When you think about your own life, how have you felt separated from others before? Who is someone who reached out and made a difference?

When you think about your own heart, what are the things that have separated you from God? What are you thirsting and longing for? What does it look like to receive Living Water?

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

Dear God,

Thank you for coming to seek us out and bridge the divide that separates us from you. Thank you for restoring the brokenness of our lives and bestowing dignity on us in Christ. We confess that there are many things that divide us from one another and give rise to hatred or indifference. Lord, give us eyes to see those who are excluded and alone. Give us a heart that is transformed by your grace like the Samaritan woman. And give us the courage to reach out and share your love with others. We ask you for a dramatic shift in our society- that even long-held animosity and strife may be healed. Help us to be instruments of your peace and bringers of Living Water so that others may drink deeply from a relationship with you.

We ask this in Jesus' name,

Amen.

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY & ACTION

Choose to complete one or more of the following activities or actions as an application of today's devotion.

1. Seek out someone who is typically excluded and be a blessing to them. It might be as simple as a smile and a greeting, or starting a conversation. Practice seeing and speaking with those who are overlooked or ignored.
2. Take a walk near a lake or park where you can be close to the water. Reflect on what it means for you to drink from the Living Water of your relationship with God. Be reminded that no part of your story is beyond his redemptive love and forgiveness.
3. Meet with someone over a cup of coffee or tea, or some other refreshing drink. Ask about the ups and downs that they are experiencing. Share about the difference that meeting Jesus has made in your own life. If appropriate, offer to pray with the other person.

Please share any thoughts, insights or recorded actions that come as a result of today's devotion on social media using the hashtag: [#WWOP21](#)

**Team: Rev. Bjorn Dixon, USA; Christine Becker, Germany; Nicole Kaul, England; Matt Merkling, USA; Ephraim Nashaat, Egypt.**

## DAY 4

# BEAUTY IS FORGIVENESS

*Today's sub-theme focuses on the beauty of forgiveness. Yet, forgiveness is one of the most challenging things to do for many people. It is difficult for most people to seek forgiveness. In many cases, it is also hard for many to forgive.*

*Bible Passage: Psalm 51: 1-6; John 18: 25-27; John 21:15-17*

## INTRODUCTION

The biblical readings give us some accounts to help us reflect on the virtue of forgiveness. As a powerful king, David abused his power to exploit Bath Sheeba, a married woman and ensured the death of her husband Uriah in the battlefield. David turned away from God. The prophet Nathan confronted David of his sinful acts. In Psalm 51: 1-6, David confessed and asked for God's mercy and forgiveness. John 18: 25-27 tell us that Simon Peter was in the high priest's courtyard following the arrest of Jesus. One of the men standing around the fire recognized Peter as among Jesus' disciples. Peter denied it. Earlier, a woman guarding the gate asked if he was Jesus' disciple. Peter denied it. Then, the high priest's servant challenged him to confess that he was Jesus' disciple. Peter, for the third time, denied Jesus. In John 21:15-17, after hosting breakfast, the resurrected Jesus called upon Peter.

The call signalled that Jesus had forgiven Peter for his act of denying him in public. However, Jesus asked Peter a tricky question three times: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Three times Peter answered: "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Peter, exasperated, did not seem to understand the implication of Jesus' question.

## INTERPRETATIONS & APPLICATIONS

Bamboos belong to the grass family. Their roots and rhizomes spread widely underground. New culms (stems), break through the ground surface. They are sturdy. They survive in harsh conditions and have a long-life span. In the Philippines, some people follow the past practice of planting a bamboo to remind them of the wrong someone did to them. This made it difficult for them to forgive.

The offender would also find it hard to seek forgiveness for fear of vengeance. In Mindanao, one of the big islands of the Philippines, rido is a practice not only among Muslims but also among Christians. Rido is a "sporadic outbursts of retaliatory violence between families and kinship groups as well as between communities." This usually happens in areas where people do not find or do not trust the existing justice system. The basic need for mediation is not available. The system that helps the offender and the offended party process forgiveness is mostly absent.



Seeking forgiveness and releasing forgiveness is crucial for people to attain healing and finding peace. Yet, the process of forgiving and seeking forgiveness takes time. The offended party tends to dwell on the hurts. The offender would tend to dwell on one's pride and refuse to seek forgiveness. Somehow, both parties face the challenge of processing the hurting actions and events. This is where they have to acknowledge that they need God's help.

While God created human beings in God's own image, the creatures wilfully choose to turn away from the Creator. Sin – big or small– is turning away from God and distorting God's image in us and in others. Humans as we are, we find it hard to confess our sins because of pride. Yet, acknowledging our wrongdoings and forgiving ourselves are the first steps in seeking forgiveness from God and our fellow beings.

Forgiving does not mean completely forgetting the wrongdoings of the offender. There must be justice for the crime committed against the offended, the sinned-against. The contemporary criminal justice system metes out justice by establishing the guilt of the offender and punishing the offender according to the provisions of the law. This is retributive justice. Yet, it is not a guarantee that forgiveness takes place. In restorative justice, a dialogical approach takes place in an attempt to restore the dignity and the relationships between the offended, the offenders, and the community that the crime has afflicted. In the restorative justice system, there is a high probability of forgiveness and healing.

The process helps assuage the fear to seek God's forgiveness. God is a loving God. One only needs to be sincere and truthful in confessing and admitting one's wrongdoings. In confessing his sins, David turned back to God. God forgives no matter how great the sin one has committed. God's desire is for human beings to live righteous lives and truly reflect the image of God in each one of us. One only needs to be sincere and truthful in confessing and admitting one's wrongdoings. In seeking forgiveness, it is important that we, human beings must take God's forgiveness seriously and amend our ways.

The forgiven one must take responsibility for God's grace earnestly (2 Corinthians 12:9). The forgiveness of Simon Peter came with a challenge. Jesus called Simon Peter to put love into action. "Feed my lambs." "Take care of my sheep." "Feed my sheep." This call highlights the gospel writer's understanding of love, not as a noun, but as a verb. The forgiven one must now live in freedom to love, especially the "lambs" of Jesus – the ones who are weak, vulnerable, the abused, the poor, the marginalized, and the disenfranchised.

This is restitution, the "recompense for injury or loss," or "the restoration of something lost or stolen to its proper owner." Restitution is a requisite for full forgiveness. Jesus calls upon the forgiven to live a life for others. This is an echo of the exhortation in the Hebrew Bible to "love your neighbour as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:30-31)

In difficult times like today's coronavirus pandemic, the cases of abuse and

violence against women and children have increased. Many lost their jobs, loved ones, and some have become homeless. Many people, especially the young, have been plagued with mental health issues. Some leaders and unscrupulous people have used the pandemic as an opportunity to exercise power — economic, political, and cultural — over others and amass wealth and power at people’s expense. Some have used military power to subjugate peoples and nations. What is more challenging is how to forgive a sinful social structure that causes so much suffering to communities. Surely, God’s forgiveness is free, but one has to change ways and make restitution. Thus, an abuser, a bully, an exploitative structure, all those that discriminate and destroy — be it within classism, racism, sexism, homophobia, genocide, etc. — must make efforts to restore the damages they have caused. The Japanese art called *kintsugi*, of restoring the broken jar, symbolizes restitution, forgiveness, and healing. Forgiveness restores the damaged relationship, without negating the scars of injuries and brokenness.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why do we need to seek forgiveness and forgive those who have offended us?
- What is your response to Jesus if he will ask you now, “Do you love me?” Would you want Jesus to ask you the same question three times?
- What would it take you to forgive someone who betrays your trust and violates your personhood?
- How can we use our freedom to love and forgive amid a world beset with sinfulness and brokenness?
- How can we love the unlovable – rapist, murderers, oppressors, colonizers, land grabbers, and the oppressive social structures, etc.?

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

God of Beauty and Holiness;

You have created a wonderful universe.

You have fashioned the amazing Earth and the delightful creatures in it.

We bless you and praise you for creating us, human beings, in your image.

And yet, somehow, in our arrogance

We forget our creatureliness.

We behave as if we are the creator of this Earth.

We forget to reflect in our lives your divine image.

We destroy the Earth because of greed.

We destroy our lives and our fellow earthlings.

We nurse our hurts and find it so difficult to forgive.

We nurture our proclivity for vengeance.

We delight in violence, conflicts, and wars.

We refuse to build communities of peace.

We are broken vessels; we wallow in our self-pity and brokenness.

For all our weaknesses, failures, and ugliness we brought into this world,

Help us forgive ourselves, and forgive us, O God.

Help us become instruments of your blessing of forgiveness.

Dear God, as we leave this place,

Bless us with uneasiness with our complacency,

Bless us with courage and steadfastness

That we may strive to restore the beauty of our relationship with each other

And with the Earth.

Amen.

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY & ACTION

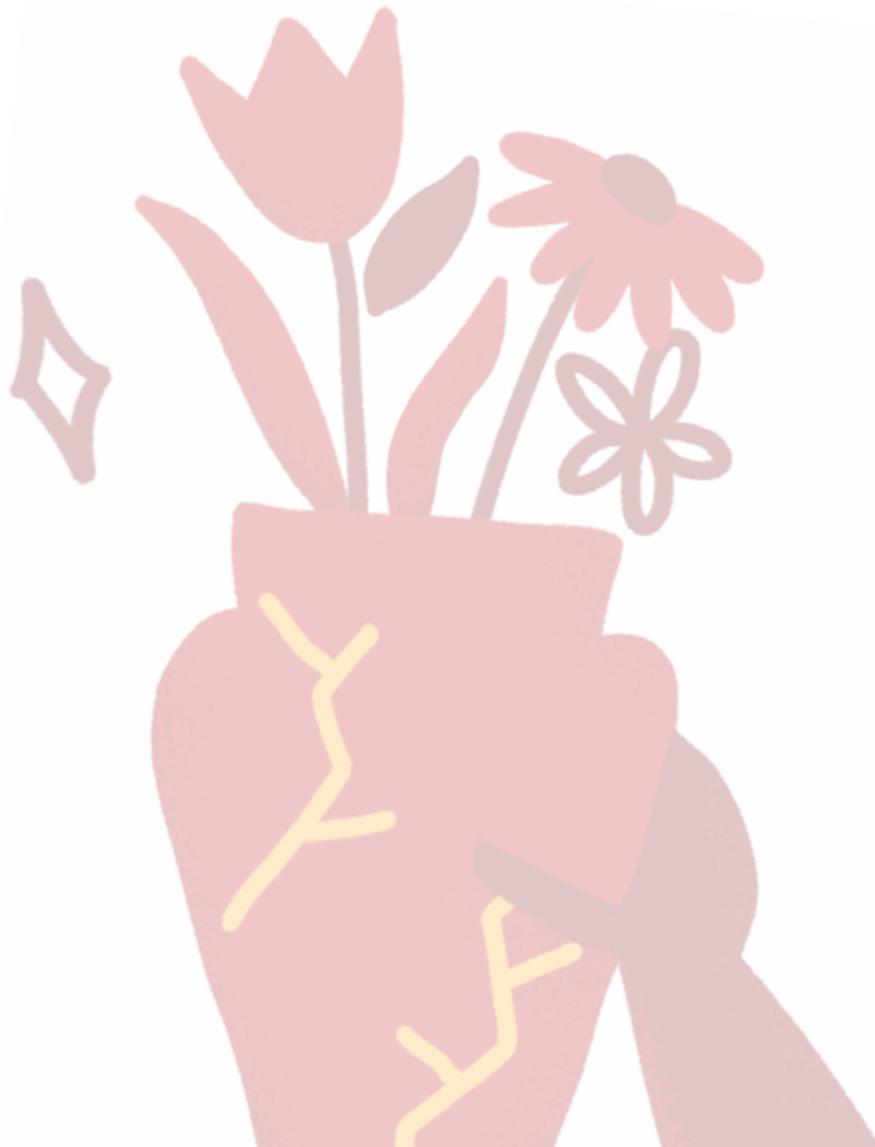
Each one could be both the offender and the offended. At one time, we may have hurt or offended someone; and at another time, we were the object of wrongdoings. One may choose to do any of the following suggestions as applicable.

1. **Buy or give a meal to some to someone who will appreciate and struggle in the margins of society like the street cleaners, garbage collectors, the homeless, the disabled, the abused – especially the women and children – during the pandemic.** Without your knowing, you might have been complicit directly or indirectly to the cause of their suffering – structurally or in other different ways. The meal you give could be a token of the act of seeking their forgiveness for your complicity. You may express your intention to ask for forgiveness if you dare to do so. God will understand your sincere heart.

2. **Make a list of people who have done you wrong or have hurt you.** Get some stones. On each stone, write the name of one person who offended you. Then, put the stones in the bag or backpack that you carry. When you feel the heavyweight of the stone, let go of each stone only when you have forgiven that person. God knows your heart, and helps you through. As you let go of your hurt by forgiving, the burden you carry would be unloaded.

Please share any thoughts, insights or recorded actions that come as a result of today's devotion on social media using the hashtag: [#WWOP21](https://www.instagram.com/WWOP21)

**Team:** Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro, Philippines/Hong Kong; Jacob Palm, USA; Joanna Tan, Singapore; Ololade Aregun, Nigeria; Salem Gin, Nigeria;



## DAY 5

# BEAUTY IS SERVING OTHERS

*Serving others comes in many forms. When we accept others, give them space, challenge negative perceptions and operate in forgiveness we demonstrate the servant heart of Jesus.*

*Bible Passage: Luke 7:36-50*

## INTRODUCTION

“Can you help me?”

Tobias’ daughter is 4 years old. He recounts, how sometimes she runs up to him and says these four words. “Can you help me ?” For her it isn’t difficult to ask if he can help her. When he can help her, she is pleased and goes back to what she was doing. It’s a matter of fact, “daddy can do it!”

However it isn’t always like this, sometimes Tobias wants to help her and then she says, “No Daddy, I can do it by myself.” If helping were a precious metal, then it would be silver, and serving others would be gold.

Today we will discover the beauty of serving others and look at how Jesus lived it out.

## INTERPRETATIONS & APPLICATIONS

The biblical passage is about Jesus accepting an invitation to eat at a Pharisee’s house.

‘The invitation has been given; let’s see what this Jesus has to offer! This will be an evening where He- the newcomer, will be tested. Does he know what he is talking about, or is he just full of hot air and nothing else?’

However things don’t go as planned. A woman enters the scene in the middle of the evening, not just any woman but one who, for those present, is the epitome of a wrong and despicable lifestyle. Yet she of all people will be the protagonist of the story, not with her words, but with her tears. What bravery this woman shows, as she heads into ‘The Lion’s Den’.

Perhaps you know this feeling. You walk into a room and feel that you aren’t welcome there. Nobody says a word, but the eyes of everyone upon you say more than a thousand words.

“What is she doing here?”, “She’s got some nerve, showing up here – she should be ashamed of herself!”

A dead silence, yet everyone knows! So does she, and yet her intent is more



important than this uncomfortable situation. She just wants to get to Jesus. She hopes and believes that He is different, not like the others. She goes out on a limb and ‘gate-crashes’ this gathering with her presence and actions. She doesn’t come full of defiance and aggravation: she looks for acceptance and help. And what does Jesus do? Apparently not much, at first. He lets her serve him! She washes his feet with tears and dries them with her hair. Pretty subservient. And Jesus lets it happen.

Everyone in the room expected that Jesus wasn’t going to put up with this, not from this woman, who leads such a ‘sketchy’ life. But Jesus sees things differently. He knows everything about this woman. Every word spoken would have been one word too many, because she knows what people are saying about her. But she can let her feelings out and isn’t judged for it. She can entrust her most precious thing to Jesus: her heart. The oil is a symbol of that. For Jesus, the use of the oil wasn’t a waste, even though he didn’t need it. He gave her heart a space of acceptance, and met her in her actions. This was worth more than a thousand words.

In truth, she only needed to hear three words: “Go in peace”.

What’s fascinating, is that Jesus doesn’t leave the other people alone in their ignorance. He accompanies them in dialogue and teaches them, that it is not the obvious things that matter, but what goes in our hearts.

The hospitality of the host was polite, but not warm. Simon and his friends wanted to test Jesus. They were focused on themselves and not on their guest. The woman, on the other hand, brought what she had: herself, and valuable oil, as an expression of how important this moment with Jesus was to her. Jesus gave his attention to both the woman and the host.

He serves the woman by accepting her with his whole heart. And he serves the host by challenging him to look at his own heart. Jesus meets both and judges neither. This is a good example for us, who judge others so quickly.

Today is a Thursday and many across the world are part of a campaign called ‘[#ThursdaysInBlack](#)’; a global campaign for a world without rape and violence. The woman represents all those women who have to endure abuse, judgement, ridicule and questioning as a daily routine in their lives. But in this story what comes through is Jesus’ affirmation of the woman, acknowledgement of her generosity and acceptance of the gifts that she shares. Jesus’s response of challenging his host is one example of the need to speak out against attitudes that are harmful and perpetrate discrimination. It is an expression of solidarity and respect. Today the challenge might be to understand service to others in terms of solidarity, standing against injustice and violence, and with all those who are targeted by our attitudes and prejudices. The World YWCA’s online campaign on [#MyBodyMyMind](#) is something that is aimed at challenging prejudices and dominant narratives about the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Mental Health of women and girls, is another example of such solidarity.

True service is focused on the needs of the other, and not on our personal convictions and opinions.

True service seeks a future and a perspective for our fellow humans.

True service places our own needs on the back burner.

But remember! You don't need to save the world; Jesus has already done that.

### REFLECTION POINTS

- Where are you currently challenged to serve your fellow human?
- Is it easier for you to help people or to serve them? What is the difference, for you?
- How do you recognise yourself in the woman and in the host?
- What can help you to focus on the needs of the other person in the future?
- How can you include Jesus in your actions?

### PRAYER OF BLESSING

Jesus, you know us and our hearts.

We thank you because you don't leave us alone, but instead meet us in different ways.

You don't judge. You give new perspectives and look into our hearts in a way that no one else can.

We pray that you change our hearts.

Let us serve our fellow man in such a way, that their needs are fulfilled, that they experience acceptance and appreciation, and that they get to know you as their God.

We pray for the people around us who are excluded. Help us build connections and bridges.

We pray for possibilities, that people have genuine and freeing experiences with you.

Give us a change of heart, so that we love you, God, with our hearts, and love our neighbour as ourselves.

Through you we have hope and confidence for this world and the next.

Help us become people of service, who love you and who change the world for the better.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Amen.

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY & ACTION

Choose to complete one or more of the following activities or actions as an application of today's devotion.

1. Share your experiences with each other, where you were able to experienced God's forgiveness first-hand.

When have you experienced people giving you space so that you were able to make a difference? Maybe it is time to thank these people.

Take some time to get in contact with and thank one of those people for giving you this space or chance. Good things only happen when we do them! Every day is a new opportunity to make the world a better place.

2. Action. Let thanks become your lifestyle.

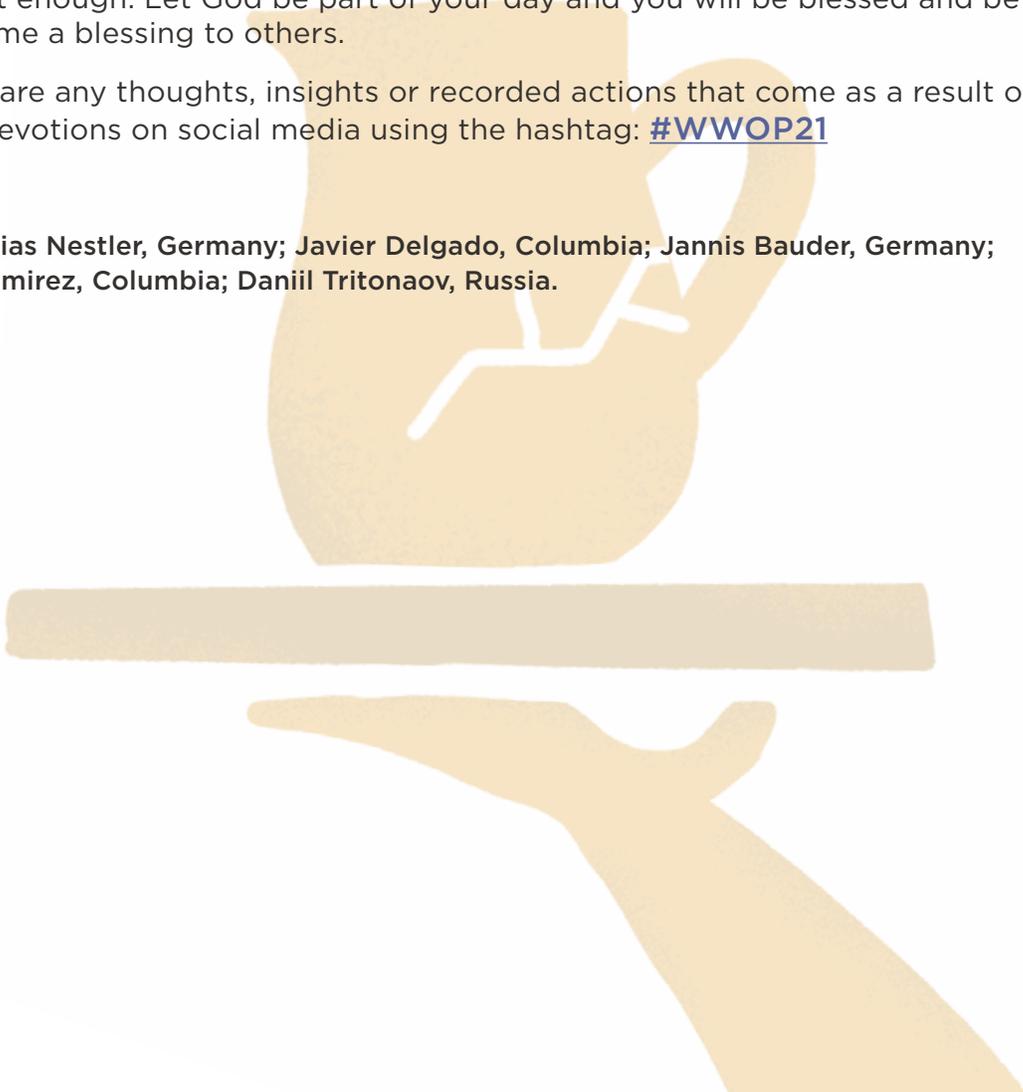
Pray. Take a moment out of your day and ask God to give you opportunities to serve people.

Listen carefully to what God says!

Follow through! Let your thoughts be followed by actions. Repeat. Once is not enough. Let God be part of your day and you will be blessed and be come a blessing to others.

Please share any thoughts, insights or recorded actions that come as a result of today's devotions on social media using the hashtag: [#WWOP21](#)

**Team: Tobias Nestler, Germany; Javier Delgado, Columbia; Jannis Bauder, Germany; Wendy Ramirez, Columbia; Daniil Tritonaov, Russia.**



## DAY 6

# BEAUTY IS RENEWAL

*The despair of Good Friday ends with a sealed and guarded tomb containing the man the disciples thought was the messiah. From this the darkest moment in history God is able to bring light, life, transformation and renewal.*

*Bible Passage: Matthew 27:59-61 and 28:1-10*

## INTRODUCTION

The catholic tradition of celebrating Easter has a very special moment at the beginning of the Easter vigil. The church is dark, no lights are turned on. Then one person brings in the illuminated Easter candle. When entering the church, he calls: "Lumen Christi". And the congregation answers: "Deo Gratias". This Latin call means: "The light of Jesus" and the response: "Thanks to God!"

The Easter candle is brought around to all worshippers so that they can light the candle they have brought with them, all the candles are lit from the flame of the Easter candle. This symbolizes how Christ' resurrection brings light into the world - to every single person, into every single life and how this light changes our surroundings. Light and Life is brought into darkness.

Jesus the light offers to shine into our darkness. With His resurrection God shows his power to bring change, His power to renew. There is always a possibility for transformation.

## INTERPRETATIONS & APPLICATIONS

It seems so final at first. The two women sit in front of the tomb provided by Joseph of Arimathea. He took Jesus' body from the cross and laid it to rest with Pilate's permission. That was not always guaranteed; often crucified people were simply left hanging. But Jesus' body was now in that tomb and a large, heavy stone had been rolled in front of it. For the disciples, it looked like their mutual time with Jesus had ended. The hope for change, for something new, which had continued to grow during their time with him, had been buried. The disciples and the two women have experienced a great shaking.

The next morning the earth really does shake. If they had been shaking inwardly in the days before, the next day they go to the tomb on shaky ground. On the way they see: a bright figure of light at the tomb, rolling away the large, heavy stone! He says to them, "Do not be afraid!" This command had been given to Mary, the mother of Jesus, when the angel came to her and announced the birth of Jesus. Encounters with God's messengers and hearing their message can at first evoke fear, not because the message frightens us, but because we hear and



perhaps also see something that is not yet known to us, something that we cannot explain. Perhaps we are challenged to take steps for which we still lack the courage.

In the narrative of the resurrection, the two women hear these words “Fear not.”

Two women that are distressed and are grieving, they have apparently lost something extremely valuable in their lives. Suddenly they are surprised by a heavenly messenger, whose words bring strength, joy and hope to them. He tells them that Jesus is no longer in the tomb, but He has risen. He invites them to see for themselves and to take a look into the tomb. God takes us seriously with our questions and our doubts, we can give voice to them, and He will respond to them. This was also the experience of the disciple Thomas, he could only believe that it was the risen Jesus standing before him when he was allowed to put his hand into His wounds.

The two women walk away from the tomb with mixed feelings, they are shocked and cannot yet grasp or comprehend what is happening. They are also already full of joy, and so, they do what the angel tells them and set off to tell the disciples about their experience. On the way, Jesus Himself meets them, He greets them, and they worship him. The encounter with the angel has probably prepared them for meeting Jesus again and so they recognise Him. Jesus confirms to them again that they have no need to fear; some things we have to hear several times so that they take root in our hearts and minds. The women still feel the fear, but already joy is taking room. Following the dejection after Jesus’ death comes joy that this was not the end. This is the Joy and hope for renewal, because Jesus has risen and conquered death.

In the resurrection, the power of God is revealed, it is this power in which we can trust. It is this power that gives us hope for renewal, however much has been destroyed before, much has been broken, the witness of this resurrection gives us the strength not to resign ourselves to the suffering of the world.

The hope of resurrection shows us the beauty of renewal. It is a gift that we can always hope for renewal, and for transformation. God opens up possibilities when we think there are none left. This is something that Steve experienced:

“It felt like a bereavement” he says, reflecting on the moment he discovered the land to build a brand new YMCA had been secretly sold by their trusted partner. Years of work, thousands of pounds and hopes for young people, lost. It’s not easy to recover from loss, but there are times God uses such things to create a different outcome. In November 2021, some 3 years later, the same YMCA in Wolverhampton, England, will be celebrating the opening of their new facility, in a different part of the city, offering housing, childcare and training facilities for local young people. “God knew what we needed”, says Steve, “when I thought all was lost, He made a way for renewal.”

God is gifting us with the possibility and the hope for change.

In a local youth centre, in conversations with some young people, this sentence came up again and again: “That’s just the way I am!”

We can resign ourselves and say: ‘That’s just the way it is’, but change is not always easy, it demands strength and often a lot of patience. In Jesus we have hope for change, He has shown us in His resurrection that there is no final status. In the process towards renewal we can rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. We do not have to manage it on our own. God is the one who was creating in the beginning and He is continuously creating now: “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:19).

### REFLECTION POINTS

- What are the situations in your life in which it is important for you to hear “Fear not!”?
- What are your doubts, where do you need reassurance?
- Where are you longing for renewal?

### PRAYER OF BLESSING

Lord, our God,

You are the Creator of Heaven and Earth,

You have created wisely and beautifully.

We praise you for Your creation.

Yet we see so much brokenness and darkness in our world.

This we bring to You.

You are the God of change and renewal.

We thank You for sending Your Son Jesus Christ as our light and our hope.

We praise You for the wonder of His resurrection and that You have shown us that You always open up ways for transformation.

Place in us the hope for renewal, show us Your vision for our world and guide us by Your Holy Spirit to reach out into this world.

Amen.

## CREATIVE ACTION & ACTIVITY

Choose to complete one or more of the following activities or actions as an application of today's devotion. Bring change to your surroundings with these seed balls! Throw them on small patches of earth and watch how colourful flowers grow there!

### For about 20 seed balls you will need:

200 g clay	Water
200 g potting soil	1 small & 1 large bowl
3 packets of different native flower seeds	Newspaper
Water	

### Directions:

1. Mix the flower seeds from the different packets together in the small bowl.
2. Put the potting soil into the large bowl, loosen up any large clumps of soil and remove any remaining bark, roots or small twigs. Then add the clay and the seeds and mix so that the seeds are distributed as evenly as possible.
3. Now gradually pour a little water into the bowl so that the mixture can be formed into small balls about the size of a walnut. Be careful that your seed bomb dough does not become too liquid. If it does, add some more clay and potting soil.
4. Do not roll the balls between your palms as you would with biscuit dough, but take a small portion of the mixture in one hand and gently press it into a ball with the fingers of the other. This will prevent the mixture for the seed balls from crumbling or muddling together.
5. Place the finished balls on newspaper and leave them to dry. Turn them a little every few hours so that they dry evenly on all sides. After about two days your seed balls will be sharp- so ready to "throw out" in the garden and the greenery!

Please share any thoughts, insights or recorded actions that come as a result of today's devotions on social media using the hashtag: [#WWOP21](https://www.instagram.com/WWOP21)

**Team: Steve Clay, England; Phil Gray, England; Purity Wanja, Kenya; Duncan Chowdhury, World YMCA; Claudia Kuhn, Germany.**

## WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER 2021: BEAUTY FROM BROKENNESS

# A COLLECTIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

### SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

The details below have been provided as a guide to help YWCAs/YMCAs create their own local worship service at the end of this years' World Week of Prayer. Additional materials are available from [www.ymca.int/week-of-prayer](http://www.ymca.int/week-of-prayer) and at [World YWCA's website](#) to support preparation.

Please note there will also be a live worship service broadcast on Friday 12th November at 16:00 CET, on the [World YMCA](#) & [World YWCA's](#) Facebook pages. This live service will also be based on the format below.

#### 00:00 Welcome and Introduction

The Leader welcomes the participants and introduces the service in whatever way is appropriate to their context.

#### 00:03 Opening Prayer

Leader: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leaders: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

#### 00:04 [Song - 'I'm Trading My Sorrows,' Darrell Evans](#)

This song choice is a suggestion as to the type of worship content that will fit with the theme of the service. You may wish to use an alternative song. If so, choose an upbeat song about exchanging our brokenness for Christ's peace, joy, grace and love. Some alternative song choices can be found at [www.ymca.int/week-of-prayer](http://www.ymca.int/week-of-prayer)

# WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER 2021: BEAUTY FROM BROKENNESS

## A COLLECTIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

### SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

#### 00:08 **Four Readers: Four Scriptures (chose readers who represent a diverse cross-section of the participants)**

Reading 1: Isaiah 53:1-5

Reading 2: Isaiah 61:1-3

Reading 3: John 3:16-17

Reading 4: 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

#### 00:12 **Prayer for: Stillness, Comfort and Peace**

Leader: Creator God from whom all blessings flow

All: We acknowledge Your presence with us.

Leader: Jesus our good shepherd, in the brokenness of our fatigue.

All: Lead us to the beauty of green pastures and still waters.

Leader: Holy Spirit our comforter, in the brokenness of confusion and despair.

All: Anoint our heads with the oil of gladness and Your blessed peace. Amen.

#### 00:14 **The Brokenness We See (creative art as worship)**

Use this section to perform a selection of creative art to enhance your worship. It requires pre-preparation to produce a montage, reflection, poem or dance focussed on 'the brokenness we see' in our world, juxtaposed by God's grace, with the beauty that has come about as a result.

Please note: Creative material is available at the [www.ymca.int/week-of-prayer](http://www.ymca.int/week-of-prayer) and World WYCA's website, and may be used as an alternative, for those who prefer, or who may lack time or resources.

#### 00:20 **The Sermon: Beauty From Brokenness**

Request a local YMCA leader or Christian minister to speak on the theme using one or more of the earlier readings.

# WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER 2021: BEAUTY FROM BROKENNESS

## A COLLECTIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

### SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

#### 00:30 Prayer for the Nations

Two suggestions are provided below. Choose one.

##### 1. The Cross of Broken Pieces

Make a cross in the centre of the room made up of boxes. (eg. long flower boxes) The boxes should be open so that things can be put inside. Near to the cross participants can find broken pieces (eg. broken tiles or plates etc.). During the prayer participants can lay their broken pieces into the cross.

[Alternatively a bigger cross can be built up and the broken pieces can be collected at the foot of the cross]

Beginning of the prayer session.

**All:** Lord, we come to you with all our brokenness.

You have gone to the cross with the willingness to take all our brokenness on you. We thank you for this sacrifice.

With the assurance of your love we bring to you what is broken in us and in our world.

We thank you for the knowledge that you are willing to carry our burdens, our hurts, our pain.

We thank you that you promised us renewal and reconciliation.

The Leader invites participants to take a broken piece and lay it on the cross as a representation of personal need or a need of the world.

While participants are taking part, instrumental music may be playing, or a psalm may be read (e.g. Psalm 42 v. 1-7).

Throughout this time participants may pray in silence for the need they have identified.

# WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER 2021: BEAUTY FROM BROKENNESS

## A COLLECTIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

### SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

00:30

#### 2. Wall of Praise

While instrumental music is playing, participants are encouraged to write down the ways in which God has brought beauty from their brokenness. This can be done using post it notes, paper and tac, chalk board etc.

They can also give thanks in advance for the beauty they want to see birthed out of current conflicts. e.g. 'Thank you God for bringing a peaceful resolution to the conflict in \_\_\_\_\_.'

00:37

#### Song - 'Blessed be the name of The Lord,' Matt Redman

This song choice is a suggestion as to the type of worship content that will fit with the theme of the service. You may wish to use an alternative song. If so, choose a song of thanksgiving and praise for God's faithfulness in good and bad times. Some alternative song choices can be found at the [www.ymca.int/week-of-prayer](http://www.ymca.int/week-of-prayer).

00:42

#### The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever.  
Amen.

**WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER 2021: BEAUTY FROM BROKENNESS**  
**A COLLECTIVE WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER**

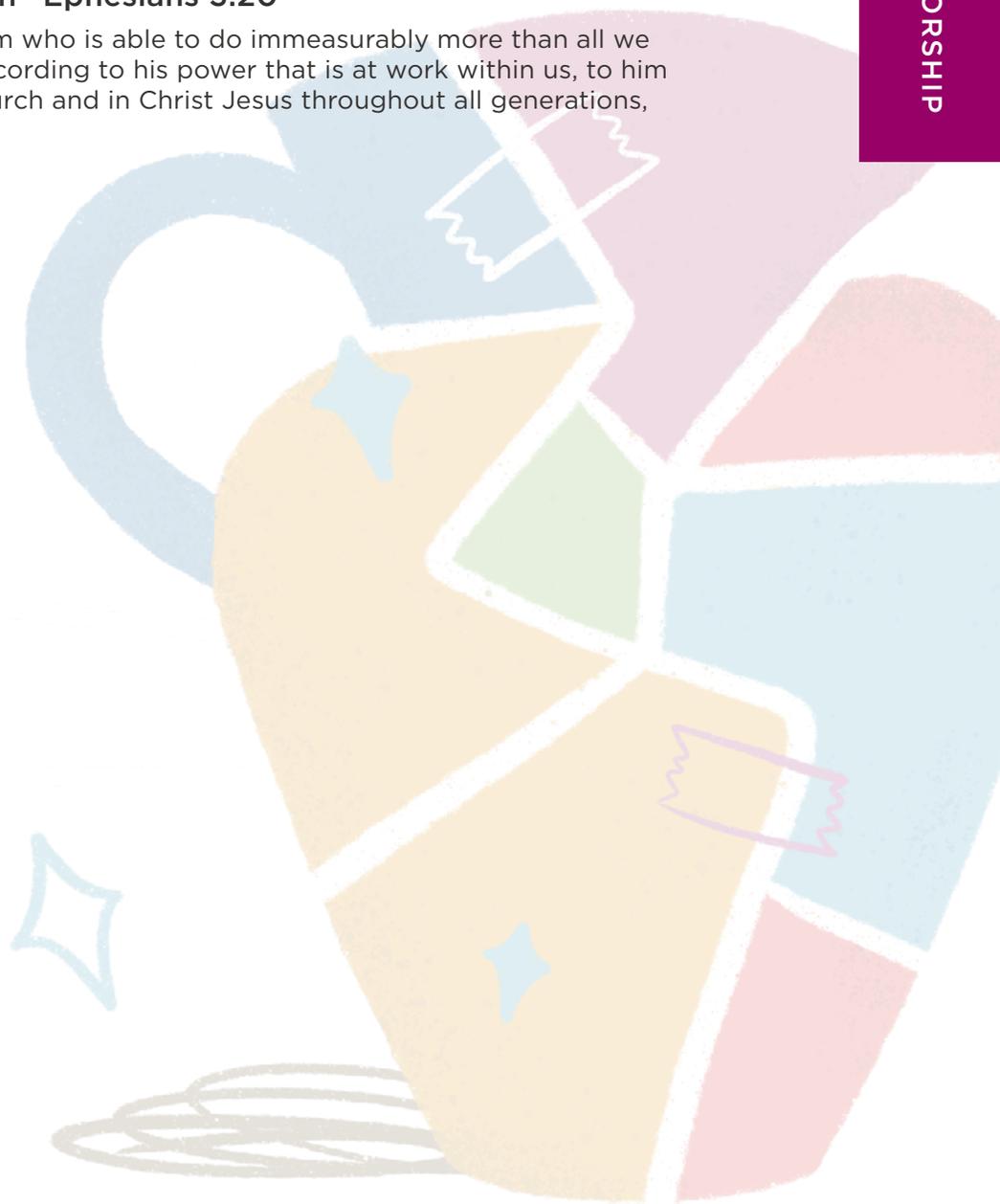
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

**00:44 The Benediction- Ephesians 3:20**

Leader: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

All: Amen

**00:45 Close**



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**Daniela Zelaya Raudales** (Project Specialist, World YWCA)

**Duncan Chowdhury** (Governance Manager, World YMCA)

**John Phillips** (Director of Communications, World YMCA)

**Nirmala Gurung** (YWCA Leader and General Secretary of Nimble Creation Concern, Nepal)

**Matthew Malloch** (Youth Worker, YMCA Tayside, UK)

**Mialy Sombiniaina Rakotondrasoa** (Communication & Youth Officer, YMCA Madagascar)

**Dr. Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro** (Theologian and Coordinator, Interfaith Cooperation Forum, APAY, Hong Kong)

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**Steve Clay** (Chief Executive Officer, YMCA Black Country Group, UK)

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The illustrations included in this booklet must be only used for World YWCA - World YMCA Week of Prayer purposes.

# BIBLE READING PLAN

December 2021 – November 2022

## DECEMBER 2021

- 1 Zechariah 2, 1 -9
- 2 Zechariah 2, 10-17
- 3 Zechariah 3, 1 -10
- 4 Zechariah 4, 1 -14
- 5 1 Samuel 2, 1-10
- 6 Zechariah 5, 1-11
- 7 Zechariah 6, 1-8
- 8 Zechariah 6, 9 -15
- 9 Zechariah 7, 1-14
- 10 Zechariah 8, 1-8
- 11 Zechariah 8, 9 - 19
- 12 Luke 1, 68 - 79
- 13 Zechariah 8, 20-23
- 14 Zechariah 9, 9-12
- 15 Zechariah 10, 1-12
- 16 Zechariah 11, 4-17
- 17 Zechariah 12 , 9 - 13, 1
- 18 Zechariah 14, 1- 11
- 19 Luke 1, 46 - 55
- 20 Malachi 1, 1-14
- 21 Malachi 2, 17 - 3, 5
- 22 Malachi 3, 6 -12
- 23 Malachi 3, 13 - 18
- 24 Malachi 3, 19 - 24
- 25 Psalm 2
- 26 Luke 2, 29 - 32
- 27 John 1, 1 -5
- 28 John 1, 6-8
- 29 John 1, 9-13
- 30 John 1, 14 - 18
- 31 Psalm 46

## JANUARY 2022

- 1 Psalm 92
- 2 Psalm 57
- 3 John 1, 19-28
- 4 John 1, 29-34
- 5 John 1, 35-51
- 6 John 2, 1-12
- 7 John 2, 13-25
- 8 John 3, 1-21
- 9 Psalm 96
- 10 John 3, 22-36
- 11 John 4, 1-26
- 12 John 4, 27-42
- 13 John 4, 43-54
- 14 Josua 1, 1-18
- 15 Josua 2, 1-24
- 16 Psalm 143
- 17 Joshua 3, 1-17
- 18 Joshua 4, 1-5, 1
- 19 Joshua 5, 13-15
- 20 Joshua 6, 1-10
- 21 Joshua 6, 11-27
- 22 Joshua 7, 1-26
- 23 Psalm 41
- 24 Joshua 8, 1-29
- 25 Joshua 8, 30-35
- 26 Joshua 9, 1-27
- 27 Joshua 10, 1-15
- 28 Joshua 11, 1-15
- 29 Joshua 20, 1-9
- 30 Psalm 97
- 31 Joshua 21, 1-3, 41-45

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## FEBRUARY 2022

- 1 Joshua 22,1-20
- 2 Joshua 22,21-34
- 3 Joshua 23,1-16
- 4 Joshua 24,1-15
- 5 Joshua 24,16-28
- 6 Psalm 54
- 7 Joshua 24,29-33
- 8 Ephesians 1,1-6
- 9 Ephesians 1,7-10
- 10 Ephesians 1,11-14
- 11 Ephesians 1,15-23
- 12 Ephesians 2,1-10
- 13 Psalm 51
- 14 Ephesians 2,11-22
- 15 Ephesians 3,1-13
- 16 Ephesians 3,14-21
- 17 Ephesians 4,1-6
- 18 Ephesians 4,7-10
- 19 Ephesians 4,11-16
- 20 Psalm 99
- 21 Ephesians 4,17-24
- 22 Ephesians 4,25-32
- 23 Ephesians 5,1-14
- 24 Ephesians 5,15-20
- 25 Ephesians 5,21-33
- 26 Ephesians 6,1-9
- 27 Psalm 31
- 28 Ephesians 6,10-17

## MARCH 2022

- 1 Ephesians 6,18-24
- 2 John 11,1-10
- 3 John 11,11-19
- 4 John 11,20-27
- 5 John 11,28-45
- 6 Psalm 91
- 7 John 11,46-57
- 8 John 12,1-11
- 9 John 12,12-19
- 10 John 12,20-26
- 11 John 12,27-33
- 12 John 12,34-36
- 13 Psalm 35,1-16
- 14 John 12,37-43
- 15 John 12,44-50
- 16 John 13,1-11
- 17 John 13,12-20
- 18 John 13,21-30
- 19 John 13,31-35
- 20 Psalm 35,17-28
- 21 John 13,36-38
- 22 John 14,1-7
- 23 John 14,8-14
- 24 John 14,15-21
- 25 John 14,22-26
- 26 John 14,27-31
- 27 Psalm 84
- 28 John 15,1-8
- 29 John 15,9-17
- 30 John 15,18-25
- 31 John 15,26-16,4

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## APRIL 2022

- 1 John 16,5-15
- 2 John 16,16-23a
- 3 Psalm 43
- 4 John 16,23b-33
- 5 John 17,1-5
- 6 John 17,6-11a
- 7 John 17,11b-19
- 8 John 17,20-26
- 9 John 18,1-11
- 10 Psalm 55
- 11 John 18,12-27
- 12 John 18,28-40
- 13 John 19,1-5
- 14 John 19,6-16a
- 15 John 19,16b-30
- 16 John 19,31-42
- 17 John 20,1-10
- 18 John 20,11-18
- 19 John 20,19-23
- 20 John 20,24-31
- 21 John 21,1-14
- 22 John 21,15-19
- 23 John 21,20-25
- 24 Psalm 81
- 25 1 John 1,1-4
- 26 1 John 1,5-10
- 27 1 John 2,1-6
- 28 1 John 2,7-11
- 29 1 John 2,12-17
- 30 1 John 2,18-29

## MAY 2022

- 1 Psalm 56
- 2 1 John 3,1-10
- 3 1 John 3,11-18
- 4 1 John 3,19-24
- 5 1 John 4,1-6
- 6 1 John 4,7-16
- 7 1 John 4,17-21
- 8 Psalm 66
- 9 1 John 5,1-5
- 10 1 John 5,6-12
- 11 1 John 5,13-21
- 12 2 John 1-6
- 13 2 John 7-13
- 14 3 John 1-15
- 15 Psalm 98
- 16 Jonah 1,1-16
- 17 Jonah 2,1-11
- 18 Jonah 3,1-10
- 19 Jonah 4,1-11
- 20 Galatians 1,1-9
- 21 Galatians 1,10-24
- 22 Psalm 95
- 23 Galatians 2,1-10
- 24 Galatians 2,11-21
- 25 Galatians 3,1-14
- 26 Psalm 68,1-19
- 27 Galatians 3,15-18
- 28 Galatians 3,19-29
- 29 Psalm 68,20-36
- 30 Galatians 4,1-7
- 31 Galatians 4,8-20

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## JUNE 2022

- 1 Galatians 4,21-31
- 2 Galatians 5,1-15
- 3 Galatians 5,16-26
- 4 Galatians 6,1-18
- 5 Psalm 148
- 6 Song of Songs 1,1-2,7
- 7 Song of Songs 2,8-3,11
- 8 Song of Songs 4,1-5,1
- 9 Song of Songs 5,2-16
- 10 Song of Songs 6,1-7,10
- 11 Song of Songs 7,11-8,14
- 12 Psalm 93
- 13 Judges 1,1-3.17-21
- 14 Judges 1,27-2,5
- 15 Judges 2,6-23
- 16 Judges 4,1-24
- 17 Judges 5,1-31
- 18 Judges 6,1-10
- 19 Psalm 76
- 20 Judges 6,11-24
- 21 Judges 6,25-32
- 22 Judges 6,33-40
- 23 Judges 7,1-15
- 24 Judges 7,16-8,3
- 25 Judges 8,22-35
- 26 Psalm 36
- 27 Judges 9,1-6
- 28 Judges 9,7-21
- 29 Judges 9,50-57
- 30 Judges 13,1-25

## JULY 2022

- 1 Judges 14,1-20
- 2 Judges 15,1-16,3
- 3 Psalm 52
- 4 Judges 16,4-22
- 5 Judges 16,23-31
- 6 Ruth 1,1-22
- 7 Ruth 2,1-23
- 8 Ruth 3,1-18
- 9 Ruth 4,1-22
- 10 Psalm 42
- 11 John 5,1-18
- 12 John 5,19-30
- 13 John 5,31-40
- 14 John 5,41-47
- 15 John 6,1-15
- 16 John 6,16-21
- 17 Psalm 73
- 18 John 6,22-34
- 19 John 6,35-51
- 20 John 6,52-59
- 21 John 6,60-65
- 22 John 6,66-71
- 23 John 7,1-13
- 24 Psalm 139
- 25 John 7,14-24
- 26 John 7,25-31
- 27 John 7,32-39
- 28 John 7,40-52
- 29 John 7,53-8,11
- 30 John 8,12-20
- 31 Psalm 87

# BIBLE READING PLAN

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## AUGUST 2022

- 1 John 8,21-30
- 2 John 8,31-36
- 3 John 8,37-45
- 4 John 8,46-59
- 5 John 9,1-12
- 6 John 9,13-23
- 7 Psalm 48
- 8 John 9,24-34
- 9 John 9,35-41
- 10 John 10,1-10
- 11 John 10,11-21
- 12 John 10,22-30
- 13 John 10,31-42
- 14 Psalm 53
- 15 1 Chronicles 10,1-14
- 16 1 Chronicles 11,1-9
- 17 1 Chronicles 13,1-14
- 18 1 Chronicles 14,1-17
- 19 1 Chronicles 15,1-16.25-29
- 20 1 Chronicles 16,1-22
- 21 Psalm 59
- 22 1 Chronicles 16,23-43
- 23 1 Chronicles 17,1-14
- 24 1 Chronicles 17,15-27
- 25 1 Chronicles 18,1-17
- 26 1 Chronicles 19,1-15
- 27 1 Chronicles 19,16-20,8
- 28 Psalm 145
- 29 1 Chronicles 21,1-14
- 30 1 Chronicles 21,15-22,1

## SEPTEMBER 2022

- 1 1 Chronicles 28,1-13
- 2 1 Chronicles 29,1-22
- 3 2 Chronicles 1,1-17
- 4 Psalm 49
- 5 2 Chronicles 1,18-2,17
- 6 2 Chronicles 3,1-17
- 7 2 Chronicles 5,1-14
- 8 2 Chronicles 6,1-21
- 9 2 Chronicles 6,22-42
- 10 2 Chronicles 7,1-11
- 11 Psalm 39
- 12 2 Chronicles 7,12-22
- 13 2 Chronicles 9,1-12.29-31
- 14 2 Chronicles 10,1-19
- 15 2 Chronicles 12,1-16
- 16 2 Chronicles 18,1-27
- 17 2 Chronicles 18,28-19,3
- 18 Psalm 146
- 19 2 Chronicles 20,1-26
- 20 2 Chronicles 26,1-23
- 21 2 Chronicles 28,1-15
- 22 2 Chronicles 28,16-27
- 23 2 Chronicles 34,1-7
- 24 2 Chronicles 34,8-21
- 25 Psalm 130
- 26 2 Chronicles 34,22-33
- 27 2 Chronicles 35,1-19
- 28 2 Chronicles 35,20-27
- 29 2 Chronicles 36,1-10
- 30 2 Chronicles 36,11-21
- 31 Psalm 87

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## OCTOBER 2022

- 1 2 Chronicles 36,22-23
- 2 Psalm 65
- 3 Esther 1,1-22
- 4 Esther 2,1-18
- 5 Esther 2,19-3,6
- 6 Esther 3,7-15
- 7 Esther 4,1-17
- 8 Esther 5,1-14
- 9 Psalm 138
- 10 Esther 6,1-14
- 11 Esther 7,1-10
- 12 Esther 8,1-17
- 13 Esther 9,1-19
- 14 Esther 9,20-28
- 15 Esther 9,29-10,3
- 16 Psalm 1
- 17 Revelation 1,1-8
- 18 Revelation 1,9-20
- 19 Revelation 12,1-6
- 20 Revelation 12,7-12
- 21 Revelation 12,13-18
- 22 Revelation 13,1-10
- 23 Psalm 38
- 24 Revelation 13,11-18
- 25 Revelation 14,1-5
- 26 Revelation 14,6-13
- 27 Revelation 14,14-20
- 28 Revelation 15,1-4
- 29 Revelation 15,5-8
- 30 Psalm 119,161-176
- 31 Revelation 16,1-9

## NOVEMBER 2022

- 1 Revelation 16,10-16
- 2 Revelation 16,17-21
- 3 Revelation 17,1-6
- 4 Revelation 17,7-14
- 5 Revelation 17,15-18
- 6 Psalm 75
- 7 Revelation 18,1-24
- 8 Revelation 19,1-10
- 9 Revelation 19,11-21
- 10 Revelation 20,1-10
- 11 Revelation 20,11-15
- 12 Revelation 21,1-8
- 13 Psalm 50
- 14 Revelation 21,9-14
- 15 Revelation 21,15-21
- 16 Revelation 21,22-27
- 17 Revelation 22,1-5
- 18 Revelation 22,6-15
- 19 Revelation 22,16-21
- 20 Psalm 90
- 21 Isaiah 1,1-9
- 22 Isaiah 1,10-20
- 23 Isaiah 1,21-31
- 24 Isaiah 2,1-5
- 25 Isaiah 2,6-22
- 26 Isaiah 3,1-15
- 27 Psalm 24
- 28 Isaiah 4,2-6
- 29 Isaiah 5,1-7
- 30 Isaiah 5,8-24

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