

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team

For the week of August 28, 2016

When You’re Having a Bad Day

The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guide-posts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers.

This week’s focus on enjoying pleasure takes the opposite viewpoint of last week’s concern for being discontent.

READ: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth . . . *Psalm 34:1*

REFLECT: Phillip was not the brightest boy in my Sunday school class, but his imagination was fired up by the stories of King David. Full of enthusiasm, he set out to write his own version of the shepherd king’s life story. Sadly, his abilities were not up to the task. For a long time he chewed his pen; then his face cleared.

“A lot of things happened to King David,” he wrote. “But no matter if they was good or bad he went strate off and made up a plasm about them.”

Phillip’s spelling left much to be desired, but his words made me wonder: Do I bring all the happenings of my life—good and bad—to God? Only as I learn that He cares about the ups and down of my every day can I begin to turn prayers into psalms.

Gladys Knowlton

PRAY: *I choose to praise You, God, in good times and bad.*

DO: Go “strate off” and write a “plasm” about your day.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org/archive). The full Pause to Pray is used in our Wednesday prayer time. An abbreviated version appears in the Sunday bulletin.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message* “Step Aside” (1 Kings 17:3-7, continuing series on Elijah)—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts (Pastor Dave and Jennie anticipate retirement, tentatively late spring 2017). See Pause to Pray for specific prayer requests. See the Succession Planning page on our website, with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process. Pray for the leadership of the church considering the purchase of our property as they commission an appraisal and consider the feasibility of moving forward, a process we expect to take the rest of the summer. {The church name is withheld here, but has been shared with the church family in an email update}.

** A podcast of the sermon and PDF files of other material will be posted on the website by Monday.*

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (zqa041), with printed copies available in the lobby.

To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”