

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

For the week of January 29, 2017

God Can Do It Again! (Exodus 15:23-24)

As Evangel faces change in 2017, we recognize how important prayer has been—and will continue to be—as we participate in the unfolding of God’s plan. Our Touch Points reflections come from “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003).. Today’s reflection is especially appropriate as we have an Open Forum regarding our succession planning.

READ: When they came to Marah, they finally found water. But the people couldn’t drink it because it was bitter. (That is why the place was called Marah, which means “bitter.”) Then the people turned against Moses. “What are we going to drink?” they demanded. *Exodus 15:23-24*

REFLECT: It has been only days since the children of Israel watched the cloud and the pillar of fire hover between them and the camp of the Egyptians who were pursuing them. The cloud had protected the Israelites during the day and the pillar of fire had provided warmth and light at night while plunging their enemies into darkness. Then they watched as the breath of God parted the Red Sea, so they could cross on dry land, and then brought the wall of water crashing down on their enemies. Yet when the children of Israel faced thirst, they complained and murmured, wondering out loud whether God had brought them to the desert to die. How could they so quickly forget God’s miracles?

Perhaps their focus was on their thirst rather than on the God who had proved himself faithful many times over. When you are in a difficult place, find courage and comfort by recalling all the times God has provided for you in the past. Write down one specific moment when God delivered you a miracle in some way, and thank him. Then remind yourself that if God did it before, he can do it again!

PRAY: *Lord, you have proved your faithfulness over and over. Many times when the smoke of the battle has cleared, I can see clearly that you were with me the entire time. Help me to remember your goodness and faithfulness to me no matter what circumstances I may face today. Thank you for never forgetting about me!*

QUOTE: If we have noted the Lord’s answers to our prayers and thanked him for what we have received of him, then it becomes easier for us, and we get more courage, to pray for more.
Ole Hallesby

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).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message* “Days of Elijah—Revive Us Again” (1 Kings 18:30-39)—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, for the Open Forum today and for the Negotiating Team as they meet tomorrow. Thank God for his providence so far, even as we have seen the door close on two seemingly positive options. Rather than be discouraged, let’s “get more courage, to pray for more.”

* a podcast and other materials from the service will be posted on the website by Monday.

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (evbapt.org), 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.”