

Marks

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources
Spiritual Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

of Discipleship

Day 1: Psalm 33:1-3

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Note verse 11 in Psalm 32. The same people are spoken to in verse 1 of Psalm 33. Praise is what we admire about God. The upright are those who are following God's way. We are never perfect but we are the ones who choose to follow God. We can praise with words or instruments. It is the motive that is important, not the means. The new song is one of gratitude.

Question: What are four things that you admire about God?

Challenge: Write a prayer of praise that includes what you admire about God.

Scripture: Psalm 8

Day 2: Psalm 33:4-5

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

"Word" and "work" are manifestations of God's own self. We can see all around us the reasons for praising God because we can in a sense "see" God in all creation. The creation does not only mean nature but also principles like justice and love. If we do not often see the work of God, it is because we do not recognize it as such. When we know that all creation is God's work then we can see God even in unusual areas.

Question: Think of the phrase "His work is done in faithfulness." What do you take this to mean?

Challenge: Take a walk in a nature area, stopping frequently to look around you.

Can you see the work of God?

Scripture: John 6:28-59

Day 3: Psalm 33:6-7

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and their entire host by the breath of his mouth. He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deep in storehouses.

The world was created by the "Word of God." Out of nothing, God made all that there is and made things take form by just speaking. There was nothing before God - no lump of stuff that God used to create. If God was all that there was, then out of God came all things. We see God most fully in Jesus Christ but we can see hints of God in the rest of creation.

Question: What can you create by using words?

Challenge: Do a little writing. Describe events where words were said to you that were healing.

Scripture: James 3 and Genesis 1:1-13

Day 4: Psalm 33:8-9

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

The word *fear* can mean love or worship. We are awed by God because God gave to us this great creation. We should never believe that we own the world or that we could have made it. In humility and gratitude, we approach this earth and all that is on it.

Question: What things can you do for yourself and what things must God do for you?

Challenge: How can you express your gratitude for all you have been given?

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34

Day 5: Psalm 33:10-11

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

The focus shifts from the sphere of creation to the sphere of history. It is God's will that justice and peace be in creation and to that end, God will frustrate the nations' attempts to do otherwise. God's will is contrasted with human will by noting that God's will is enduring and unchanging, not like ours, which is transient.

Question: In what ways has God led you in the past?

Challenge: How can you tell God is leading you in something?

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-16

Day 6: Psalm 33:12

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

This is an interesting verse. On the one hand, it says the nation that chooses God as their Lord will be blessed. Then it reminds the nation that in reality God chooses them. God is sovereign. God chose us and we need to respond to that choice. If we do not respond, our lives will not be full because we made the wrong choice.

Question: Why do you think God created us?

Challenge: Have you turned your will and life over to God? If not, take a moment to pray a simple prayer; ask God to forgive your sin, turn your life over to God and make God your Lord.

Scripture: Romans 10:1-13