

Devotional Calendar

MAY 2020

Unit III. Called to God's Work of Justice

3rd

Meditate: Psalm 47

Listen: "Mighty God" by Deitrick Haddon

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OneDIq65eNg)

[watch?v=OneDIq65eNg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OneDIq65eNg)

Pray: Tell the Lord that He Is an Awesome King and that You Praise His Holy Name



10th

Meditate: Zephaniah 8:18-23

Listen: "Change Me" by Tamela Mann

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlgLJEHF30k)

[watch?v=dlgLJEHF30k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlgLJEHF30k)

Pray: Let the Lord Know that You Give Him Your Hands to Use to Do His Holy Will



How to Do a Devotional

Daily devotionals are important to help you grow in your relationship with God. Pray, meditate, and read the Word of God, and you will grow spiritually. Devote ten minutes at the beginning of your day to clear your mind and heart and prepare to receive God. Daily devotions will prepare you for any obstacles that may come your way. Take time each morning to hear from God. Even Jesus used time in the morning to be with God. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35, NIV).

17th

Meditate: Psalm 86:1-13

Listen: "Forgive Me, Lord (It's Me Again)" by J. Moss

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDwXg7nVlyk)

[watch?v=YDwXg7nVlyk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDwXg7nVlyk)

Pray: Ask the Father to Search You and to Forgive You



24th

Meditate: Psalm 72:1-17

Listen: "Take Away" by Yolanda Adams

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afJ8uOkCFLs)

[watch?v=afJ8uOkCFLs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afJ8uOkCFLs)

Pray: Plead with the Lord to Give You a Heart of Compassion for Others



31st

Meditate: Deuteronomy 8:11-20

Listen: "We Offer Praise" by Rodnie Bryant and the Christian Community Mass Choir

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7inK80mS64)

[watch?v=j7inK80mS64](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7inK80mS64)

Pray: Tell the Lord that You Will Never Forget His Goodness and Mercy



Background Scripture: Zechariah 8 • Print Passage: Zechariah 8:1-8, 11-17

KEY VERSE: “These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts.” (Zechariah 8:16)



Early Saturday morning, Sarita and Kareem met with other students from their school to make posters for the “Justice for All” rally. A series of injustices against black youth at the hands of local police officers led people in the community to protest what was happening. Sarita’s family had firsthand experience with injustice and police officers. Sarita’s brother was falsely accused of committing a crime—and when he tried to explain to the officer that he was not the one who committed the crime, he was arrested and taken to jail. Members of Kareem’s family have also had negative experiences with law-enforcement officers. Kareem’s cousins tried to break up a fight at a local club. When the officers arrived, they fired shots to get

control of the crowd. One of Kareem’s cousins was seriously injured by a stray bullet. The officer was never charged for his careless actions. Kareem’s cousin is still in critical condition at a local hospital.

Neither Sarita nor Kareem had ever thought about marching in a rally for social justice. Their grandparents had told them about marches and protests during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Their parents told them that some of the same kinds of injustices from decades ago are still occurring today. Protecting people in our communities requires that everyone in the community stand together and demand change.

Sarita’s pastor, along with many other civic leaders and ministers from the community, spoke at the rally. All the speakers encouraged citizens



to continue with their peaceful protests, always remembering that God is still in control of everything that is happening in the world. Kareem looked at the huge crowd that gathered for the rally. He was encouraged that positive change could happen because people from all different backgrounds were coming together to stand up for the rights of people throughout the community.



WORD UP

Zechariah 8:1-8, 11-17

1 The word of the LORD Almighty came to me. **2** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her.” **3** This is what the LORD says: “I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain.” **4** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each of them with cane in hand because of their age. **5** The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there.” **6** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “It may seem marvelous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvelous to me?” declares the LORD Almighty. **7** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. **8** I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God.”

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11 “But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as I did in the past,” declares the LORD Almighty. **12** “The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. **13** Just as you, Judah and Israel, have been a curse among the nations, so I will save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong.” **14** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Just as I had determined to bring disaster on you and showed no pity when your ancestors angered me,” says the LORD Almighty, **15** “so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid. **16** These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; **17** do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the LORD.



Zechariah encouraged the people to turn away from sin and focus on rebuilding the Temple. The vision God gave Zechariah described how Israel's enemies would be destroyed and blessings to Jerusalem would be restored. Zechariah's message was spoken to a small group of faithful believers who were referred to as the "remnant" because they were among those who had returned to Jerusalem from captivity. Zechariah proclaimed that when God returned prosperity to the land, Jerusalem would be known as the Faithful City. During troubled times, the old people and children were usually the ones who suffered most. Zechariah described a scene where the old people and children would once again be visible in the

streets, visiting with each other and playing. This was a sign of restored prosperity. Zechariah emphasized that the covenant relationship between God and the people would be renewed and the entire community would be filled with God's presence.

Through the years, God used different prophets to motivate the people to continue building the temple. The people lost their focus due to lost hope and lost connection with God. Zechariah urged the people to stay focused and continue building the Temple, knowing that God would be with them and His favor would be upon them to complete the task. God was going to do His part to reestablish Jerusalem, but Jerusalem had an important role to play in the restoration. God instructed the people to tell the truth, exercise fair judgment among the people, and live peacefully with each other.

INSIDE OUT

Zechariah encouraged the people to believe that God would fully restore them, and that prosperity would again be visible throughout the land. This was good news to the remnant of people who had remained faithful to God, despite the opposition and hostile neighbors they had to deal with daily. When you are faced with what seems to be impossible tasks or situations, remember that God can change your circumstances completely and set you on a path of prosperity. How can you strengthen your faith to focus on God during difficult times?

There's an App for That!

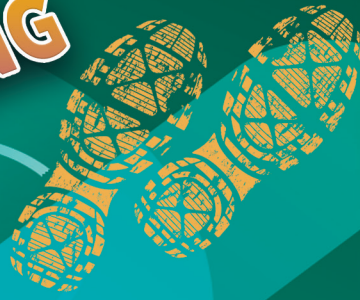
In today's "Wake Up!" story, Sarita and Kareem participated in a rally to protest injustices in their community. People came together to fight for justice for the citizens who were being impacted by violence and unfair treatment. God wants people to live together peacefully. God has always been angered by human injustice and hatred. God gave Zechariah the remedy to promote peace in society, tell the truth, treat others fairly, and seek ways to live peacefully with one another. You can make a difference in the world by following God's remedy for peace.



Walk Out

Today's lesson reminds us that God is powerful, and that He can do anything! Do not spend your time trying to figure out life's challenges on your own. Turn your focus to God, because He knows what is best for you. God will bless you according to His divine plan for your life.

STEPPING OUT!



This week, you are challenged to read the entire Background Scripture for today's lesson: Zechariah 8. Pay special attention to the details of how God was going to return prosperity to Jerusalem. Use the Scripture as a source of encouragement to know that our world can be delivered from sin and restored in the same way. Share the new insight that you gain from reading the Scriptures with your family and/or a spiritual leader at your church.

It's Game Time!

Let's play "I'm Having a Rally." Think: If you could plan a rally to protest for or against a school rule or activity, what would you protest? On the lines below, explain what rule you would want to change and why. Think about how adding or removing a school rule or activity could make a positive change for everyone at your school.

Media Mission

Do you know what your rights are as an American citizen when it comes to peaceful protest? Check out the Web site <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/peaceful-assembly/us.php> to start to gain insight on constitutional laws that protect citizens' rights to protest. Use this information as a starting point to learn more about why many people express their concerns through protesting.

