

Wake Union Baptist Church Sunday School Devotion



Opening Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We praise and thank you for the love, blessings, and mercy which you show us. Thank you for the privilege of prayer and for providing for our needs. We pray for all those that are sick to be healed and for those that are sorrowful to know your comfort. We pray for the lost to seek you and give their heart to Jesus our Savior. Help us today as we consider your Holy Word to understand and grow according to your will for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Our in-person 11:00 am worship services resume this week. We would love to see you there.

Memory Verses

*⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: ⁷Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. **1 Peter 5:6-7***

Today we'll consider how we're able to confidently cast our burdens upon God as we focus on the care that God has for each of us.

The Love and Compassion of God

*¹⁵But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering (slow to anger), and plenteous (abundant) in mercy and truth. **Psalm 86:15***

These attributes of God are reasons for our comfort, confidence and trust.

*¹I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. ²Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. **Psalm 116:1-2***

God faithfully hears and responds to our prayers for help. Experiencing this strengthens our faith and encourages us to love and depend on Him.

*¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth (drives) out fear: because fear hath torment (involves punishment). He that feareth is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love him, because he first loved us. **1 John 4:18***

God's love is perfect. It quiets our fears and provides confidence through Jesus our Lord.

*⁷How excellent (precious, priceless) is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust (take refuge) under the shadow of thy wings. **Psalm 36:7***

*⁷Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice (sing for joy). **Psalm 63:7***

God's lovingkindness is indeed precious. We trust, find refuge, and rejoice under the loving care of our God. We are kept as chicks under the wings of a hen (Matthew 23:37) where we trustingly come for comfort.

³⁵And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted (were distressed), and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Matthew 9:35-36

Jesus shows great compassion through healing and comforting our sorrows. Sheep are easily scattered, and without a shepherd are in grave danger. Similarly, people can stray away from God and suffer as the result.

The Good Shepherd

⁷Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door (gate) of the sheep. ⁸All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. ¹²But he that is an hireling (hired hand), and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth (abandons) the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. ¹³The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. ¹⁵As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. ¹⁷Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. **John 10:7-18**

Jesus is the only source of eternal and abundant life, which begins when we acknowledge our sinfulness, believe that he died on the cross for our sins, and confess him as our Savior and Lord. In his fold we experience great love and forgiveness, and he provides us with protection and guidance as our Good Shepherd of whom Isaiah prophesied: “*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young*” (Isaiah 40:11).

Children of God

²⁶For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. **Galatians 3:26**

When we accept Jesus in faith and believe on his name (John 1:12), we become the children of God.

⁷Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ⁹Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? **Matthew 7:7-11**

Most of us were blessed with parents that loved and cared for us, but they were still imperfect. God, because of who he is, shall love and provide so much more for his children. He hears our prayers, understands what we need, and gives us the necessary cares and comforts.

¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage (making you a slave) again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:14-17

In this passage Paul uses adoption to illustrate our becoming the children of God and heirs to his kingdom. With this adoption into the family of God comes both privileges and responsibilities. The indwelling Holy Spirit provides guidance and helps us to live as we should even if we should face persecution for our faith.

Eternal Care

*¹⁸Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by (forgives) the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy. ¹⁹He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. **Micah 7:18-19***

Sin led to captivity, but here Micah rejoices in the pardoning mercy and deliverance of God. God has great compassion and delights in mercy. He is ever ready to forgive us when we repent and turn to him. While we may regretfully remember our failures, God casts them into the depths of the sea, erasing them completely. *“Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18). “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 8:12).*

*²⁵Jesus said unto her (Martha), I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? **John 11:25-26***

For God so loved us (John 3:16). He provided atonement for our sins and eternal life through Jesus (Romans 6:23). God helps us with the cares of our present lives and uses them to help us mature in our faith. *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).*

Conclusion

*³Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; ⁴Who comforteth us in all our tribulation (troubles, affliction), that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4***

God loves us and provides comfort, strength, encouragement, and hope when we deal with the problems of this life. Every difficulty that he brings us through, helps us to comfort others who may be suffering similar hardships. May we ever demonstrate God's love and point others to the "*Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.*"

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the compassion and care that you show us. Forgive us when we let pride and sin keep us from fully trusting and casting all our cares upon you. Thank you for loving and receiving us as your dear children through faith in Jesus. Help us each day to extend your love to others, and keep us according to your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.