

DAILY READING PLAN

Words – Week of July 30, 2017



Day 1 - Words of Truth

- When we're with another person or a group of people and we're sensing that we should consider our words, as yourself these questions: Is what I'm about to say out loud to this person or these people actually true? Am I making this up, or is there corroboration from other sources? Read Philippians 4:8. Paul gives us a fabulous litmus test for judging whether our words are helpful or not.

Day 2 - Words of Helpfulness

- Just before you're about to "speak your mind" ask yourself some questions: Is what I'm about to say going to build someone up and encourage them? Is what I'm about to say going to make the world a better place or not? If it doesn't "build it up" then "close it down" immediately. Another question to consider: Will my words give glory to God—will my words illuminate, highlight, point others to God? Will my words make the world a better place for all people? Consider Ephesians 4:29: "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear."

Day 3 - Words of Importance

- Sometimes when we think we have something to say that is "important" it's really only important for us. Good questions to ask ourselves are these: Do I have some hidden agenda that I want to put forward, or is what I'm about to say really important for those to whom I'm speaking? Does what I'm about to say bring value and clarity to the lives of others around me? Read Ephesians 4:15 and ask yourself "What does it mean to speak the truth in love?"

Day 4 - Words of Necessity

- Ask yourself: "Is what I'm about to say ... Necessary?" Or is it just verbal fluff. Does what I'm about to say further love, does it bring joy, does it create peace, does it develop patience? Read Proverbs 18:21—words from King Solomon, one of the wisest leaders who ever lived. How have you experienced either death or life through the words of another person?

Day 5 - Words of Kindness

- Think back over the past few day and bring to mind an experience of hearing someone speak words of kindness to you or someone around you. What was it that seemed especially kind to you? How can you pass that experience on to someone else? In Proverbs 15:1-2 we read this: "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly." How have you experienced this in your life?

PRAYERS

Pray for: Megan, Grant, Dave, Don, Bev, Noelle, Ryan, Jason, Julie, Vickie, Molly, Chuck, Kristen, James, Kathryn, Carolyn, Gina, Brian, Rosemary, Jim, Susan, Lorraine, Justin, Merlyn, Mark, Sandy, John, Chris and Jennie, Kirby, Pat, Kendra, Jesse, Beatta.

Pray for those with long-term illness: Jerry Holding, Naomi Edwards, Claude Johnson, Jenny, Lucas Lamontage, Sandra Jundt, Stella Mae Aaby, Harold Johnson, Janice Wake, Karen Axeen, Gloria Swanson, Chloe Checco, Jean "Yaya" Welch, Tim Ivers, Corey "Lovely" Samuel, Greg Wendorf, Vicki Nordaune, Bob Pelton, Emma Olson, Kerstin Bryall, Kathy G., Kate Drost, Evan Marian, Judy Wenner, Kurt Gartland, Dan Ward, Gavin Lyman, Judy Knutson, Bobbi Braun, Jen Cockerill, Mark Reinsmoen, Carissa Vincent, Adele Schoen, Sandy Brunen, Lorna Hansen, David Odegard, Judy Furstenaus, Duane Thoms, Sandy Robertson, Tami Allen, Bernie Wagnild, Maria Hurni, Julia Nicol, Doug and Carol Silkey, Bryan Akkerman, Ed O'Connor, James Alsip.

Prayers of sympathy and support for: Kathy & Handt Hanson and family, on the death of Kathy's mother, Ruthie Midboe; Keith & Trudy Koepsell and family, on the death of Keith's mother, Lorraine Koepsell.

Pray for those serving in the military: Andy Klein, Tristan Purcelli, Brian Fedde, Colin Heintzeman, Maurice McKay, Dave Booth, Josiah Ellingson, Jason Wilck, Jason McClure.

If you have a prayer request: Fill out a Connection Card at the tables in the Sanctuary or at the Welcome Desk, e-mail your request to prayer@popmn.org or contact Jody Slaughter at jslaughter@popmn.org or 952-898-9312.