

Family Fitness: Knowing Your Limits

Proverbs 1:8, Galatians 5:1, 13-15

Prayer Link**Prayers for the Community**

American Troops and their families; all families, tribes and nations to know and experience God's peace.
Additional Requests: _____

SUGAR RIVER'S PRAYER MINISTRY IS SEEKING REQUESTS

Did you know that Sugar River UMC has an active E-Prayer Chain? A group of people have covenanted to pray for special requests they receive periodically via email. If you have a request you would like the E-Prayer Chain to pray for, please send it to: amberw@wisconsinumc.org. Amber will send out the request as soon as possible to activate our circle of prayer.

If you would like to become a "Link" on our E-Prayer Chain, please send your email address to Amber at the address listed above. New "links" are always welcome!

Inspirational Link**Thoughts and Insights from Worship**

This week we will look at several passages in the scripture in which we can see the intersection between faith and politics.

Monday, February 25 - Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14 In this passage of scripture you will find the words of Nathan the prophet to King David. In these verses we read of the political ruler, King David, being confronted by a religious prophet, Nathan. Nathan has strong words for David and his actions, but also calls him to repentance for committing adultery with Bathsheba and sending her husband Uriah to his death (You can find this story in 2 Samuel 11). Where are the intersections of faith and politics today? Nathan delivered a message from God to King David. What message do you think God has for political leaders today? What message might God have for you today?

Tuesday, February 26 - Read Psalm 51:1-12 Yesterday we read the story of the prophet Nathan delivering a strong message from God to King David. The scripture for today is often understood to be David's response to God's word from Nathan. This passage contains passionate words of regret and a desire to be made clean by God. We find the words of the prophet have made a great impact on the king. Yesterday, we considered God's word for political leaders and for ourselves. Today ask yourself - How do you think political leader's today would or do respond to a message from God? How do you respond to God's message for your life?

Wednesday, February 27 - Read 1 Kings 3:4-15 Solomon has just become king. One of the first things he does as a political leader is offer sacrifices to God. That night, God converses with Solomon in a dream and responds to Solomon's request for wisdom. These are important events in the life of the new King, Solomon, and shape his life as a political leader. Do you think religious practices shape the life of political leaders today? If so, how? If not, why not?

Thursday, February 28 - Read 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12-16, 20-22 Bringing the ark into Jerusalem was a great event in the life of the people of Israel. King David dances before the ark as it is entering the city. This decreases Michal's view of him and his leadership. How do you respond to a political leader talking about or publicly practicing their faith? Is your reaction different if the faith is of a different tradition than yours?

Friday, February 29 - Read Isaiah 58:1-9 Verse two of this passage reads, "For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of God" (TNIV). As you read the rest of the passage consider this question - Is the nation seeking to do what is right? Is the nation keeping to the commands of God? What about in this country - what are your responses to these questions?

This study guide was written by Rev. Andrew Conard, for thoughts from Pastor Andrew about faith, life and ministry visit - <http://thoughtsofresurrection.wordpress.com>.

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