



**ENTER**

**IN**

**CONNECT  
EXPERIENCE**

**(2025)**

**This journal belongs to:**

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# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Remember the spiritual growth and community we experienced during Connect Experience 2023 (CE'23)? Those eight weeks proved to be valuable for many of you who signed up to CE'23 and prepared you to pour your lives into others.

We're excited to bring back **Connect Experience** in **2025 (CE'25)** - marked as the **Year of Release** for BRMC. To be **Released to Proclaim the Good News**, we must also be **Connected to Love Christ** and **Equipped for Spiritual Maturity in Christ**.

Through CE'25, we are providing another opportunity for BRMC members and visitors to commit or re-commit to a Connect Group (CG) - the ideal platform to get Connected and Equipped.

Come - experience the transformative journey for yourselves. Let's **make a fresh start in the new year by:**

## INVITING

Invite friends, family, and colleagues to experience the love and support of God's transformative love.

## LISTENING

Tune your heart to God's Word and His Spirit.

## STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

Embrace challenges and opportunities to share God's love with others.

To prepare our hearts and renew our minds, we'll gather in CGs and read the book of Revelation. It may seem daunting, but this book holds profound truths that can change our lives and others around us.

As we embark on this new CE journey, let's remember the **purpose of BRMC CGs** -

***Discipleship through authentic and accountable relationships grounded in God's Word and empowered by the Holy Spirit.***

Let's continue to live out the **4As of biblical koinonia** -

## **AUTHORITY**

Grounded in God's Word.

## **AUTHENTICITY**

Being real and honest with one another.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Speaking the truth in love and carrying each other's burden.

## **ACTION**

Embracing the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

Let's allow God's love to transform us, affirming that Jesus is our Light in the darkness and Lamp in every home.

*We can't wait to see what God will do through CE'25!*

**Blessings,**

***Pastor Kai Ming, on behalf of our pastoral team***

# GUIDE ON HOW TO USE THIS JOURNAL

This journal is to help you pen your experience with God and with His people.

Here you will find:

## **Daily Bible Reading Plan (except Sat and Sun)**

The daily readings have been specially chosen to help you prepare for and reflect on the weekly sermons. For the Revelation sermon series, the first reading will begin on 14 Jan(Tues), in preparation for the first sermon on 18/19 Jan.

The “4Rs” (Read, Reflect, Relate, Rest) are provided as a guide to help us journal our daily encounters with God. Refer to “Journaling using the 4Rs” for more information.

## **Quotes**

Within these pages, we have interspersed quotes from John Wesley’s sermons to help us grow in appreciation of our Wesleyan heritage.

## **Examen**

The Examen, a time for intentional prayerful reflection, is scheduled every Saturday so that we can reflect on the week that has passed and commit to the week that is ahead. The examen serves as an opportunity to allow the Holy Spirit to surface significant experiences from the past week in preparation for sharing during our Connect group sessions.

## **Transformation Guide**

For use during Connect Group sessions, the Transformation Guide provide a means for the Holy Spirit to work Christlikeness in our lives. The Guide uses the 4As (Authority of God’s Word, Authenticity in Relationships, Accountability for Good Works, Acts of the Holy Spirit) as a framework to facilitate the weekly group time. Each session is designed to last no longer than 90 minutes.

*Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.*

*- Mark 1:35 (NKJV)*

## JOURNALING USING THE 4Rs



**READ**  
(10 mins)

- Go to today's Bible readings and read as much as you are able to.
- Pick out a verse(s) that captures your attention. Write it in your journal.



**REFLECT**  
(10 mins)

- Re-read the verse(s) a few times; listen to what the Father is saying.
- Pen down what comes to mind. Draw a picture if you like.



**RELATE**  
(5 mins)

- How does the verse(s) relate with your life/relationship right now?
- What is one way you can live out the Word today?



**REST**  
(5 mins)

- Spend a minute or two in silence. Rest in His love and goodness.
- Pen your prayer to God for today.

# TRANSFORMATION GUIDE

## Informal Conversations (20 mins)

### Sermon Recap (20 mins)

- Invite participants to take turns to read the biblical text aloud. If time permits, read the text again after a time of silent reflection.
- Is there something in the text/sermon that particularly touched or troubled you?
- What would be the main lesson for you from the sermon?

### Daily Readings (10 mins)

- Share a verse from this week's devotional readings that God used to speak to you. In one sentence, describe what the Lord might be saying to you.

### Life Application – 4As (30 mins)

- Authority of God's Word: If we take the Bible's authority seriously, we will obey what it says. Share an area in your life that God is calling you into obedience.
- Authenticity in Relationships: As Christians saved by grace, we are not afraid to share honestly about our hopes and fears, joys and sorrows. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your awareness of God's loving presence and gracious work in your life right now? Describe briefly on why you gave that number. (1 = not aware, 10 = fully aware)
- Accountability for Good Works: Biblical koinonia is God's gift for our spiritual growth. Share an area in your life that you would like your group to speak into your life about and to keep you accountable for.

- Acts of the Holy Spirit: The Spirit is actively working in the believer's life. Name a specific event/place in the past week when/where you experienced the Spirit's presence, guidance, or empowerment.

### **Prayer for one another (10 mins)**

- Invite everyone to share a prayer item (or seek prayer for needs shared previously). Remember to pray for our church, our nation, and our world as the Spirit leads.
- Record prayer requests in the space provided.

## **EXAMEN GUIDE**

### **1. Become aware of God's presence.**

Take your time to settle yourself. Close your eyes and breathe in deeply and out. Allow yourself time and space to get into a posture to be in tune with the Holy Spirit.

### **2. Review the week with gratitude.**

Ask the Holy Spirit to review the week that has passed. Recall some of the high and low points of the week.

### **3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.**

Pay attention to your emotions. Take a moment to give thanks for each of these experiences, be they "highs" or "lows". Ask God for forgiveness in areas where you have fallen short. Pray for grace, wisdom, and new opportunities to glorify Him.

### **4. Look toward the new week.**

Pray and commit the coming days to the Lord. Be as specific as you can.

### **5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)**



# 14 January

## Lectio 1: Rev 1:1-11



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 15 January

## Lectio 2: Rev 1:12-20



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 16 January

## Lectio 3: Dan 10:5-11



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 17 January

## Lectio 4: Dan 7:9-14



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

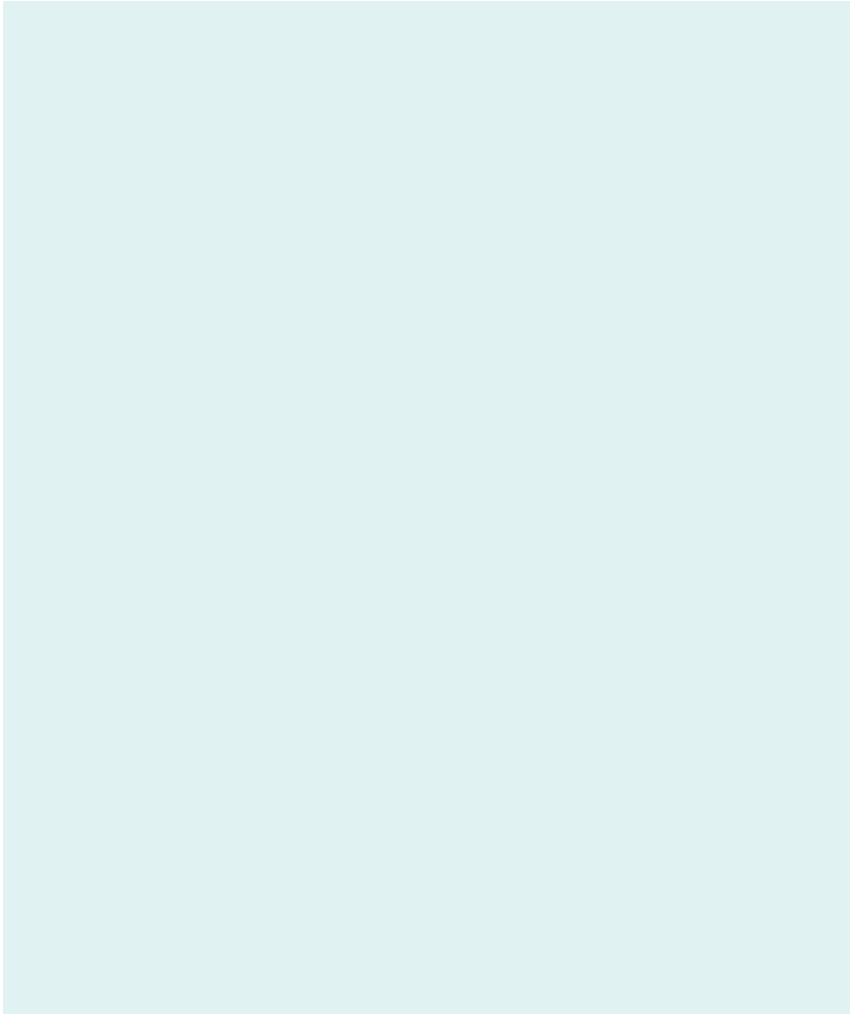
Pen a prayer



# 18 January

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



## Weekly Prayer Items



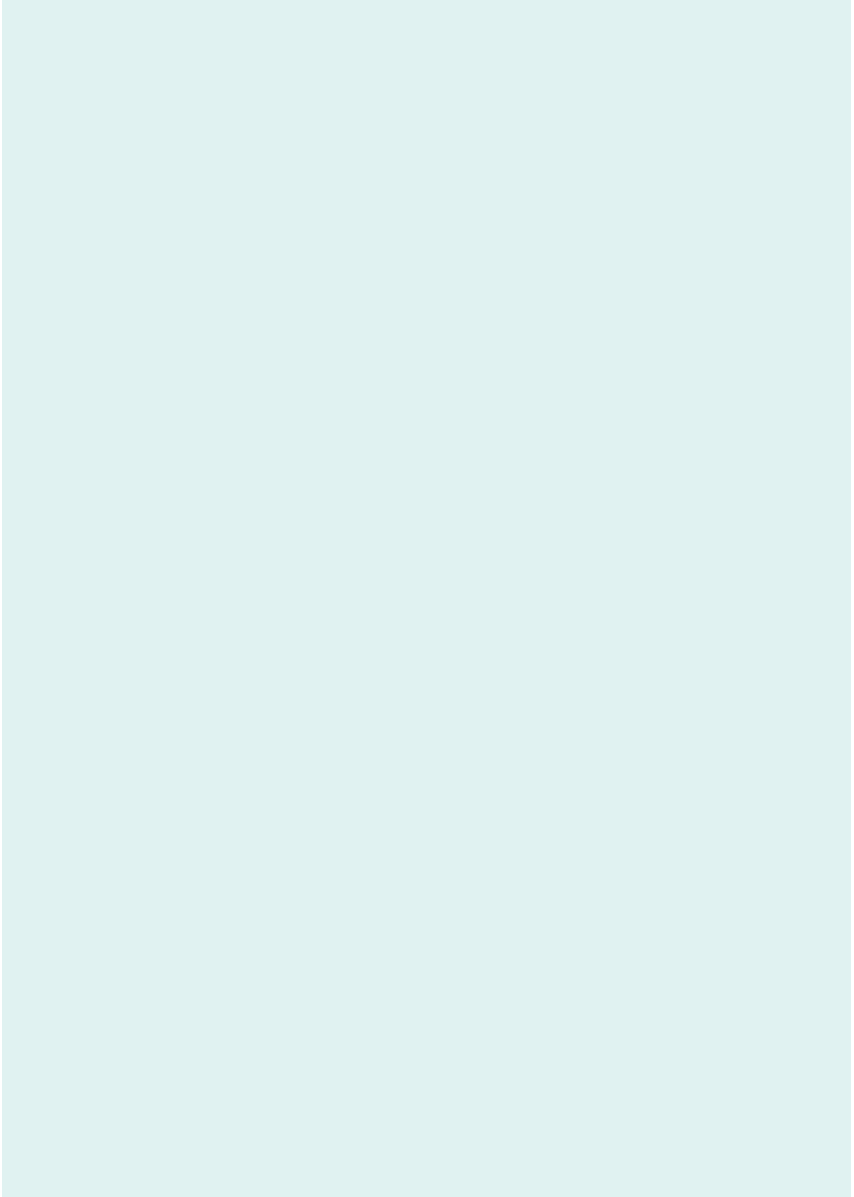
*It must be allowed that after all the researches we can make, still our knowledge of the great truth which is delivered to us in these words is exceedingly short and imperfect. As this is a point of mere revelation, beyond the reach of all our natural faculties, we cannot penetrate far into it, nor form any adequate conception of it. But it may be an encouragement to those who have in any degree tasted of the powers of the world to come to go as far as we can go, interpreting Scripture by Scripture, according to the analogy of faith.*

**John Wesley, Sermon 64, The New Creation**

**19 January**

Sermon Text:

Title:



# 20 January

## Lectio 5: Rev 2:1-7



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 21 January

## Lectio 1: Rev 2:8-11



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



# 22 January

## Lectio 2: Rev 2:12-17



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 23 January

## Lectio 3: Rev 2:18-29



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 24 January

## Lectio 4: Rev 3:1-6



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



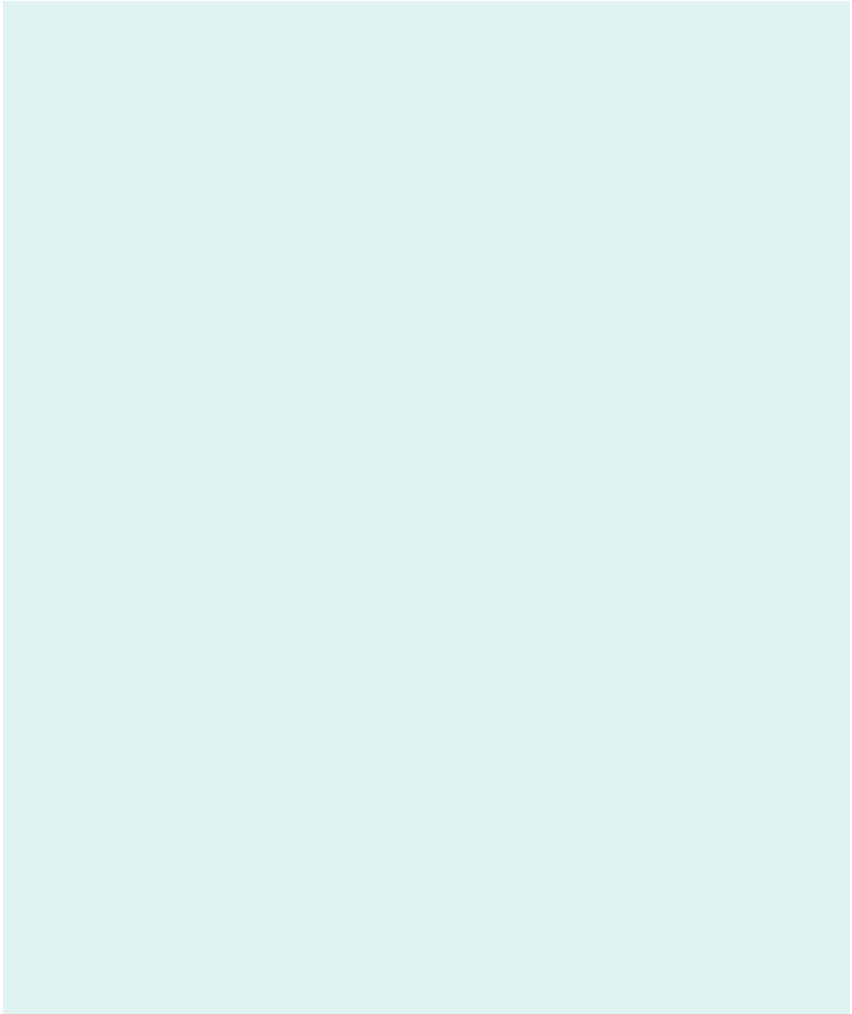
REST

Pen a prayer

# 25 January

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



# Weekly Prayer Items





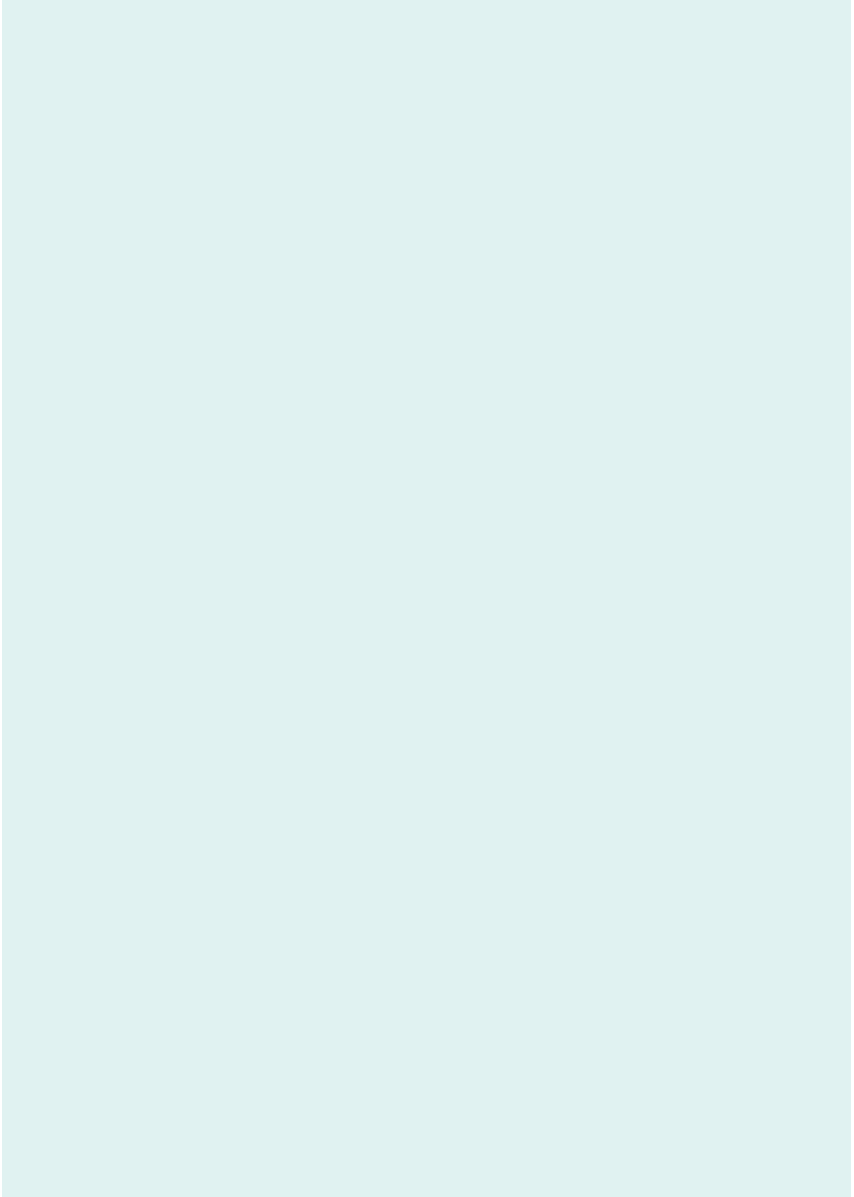
*But suppose perfect obedience, for the time to come, could atone for the sins that are past, this would profit thee nothing; for thou art not able to perform it; no, not in any one point. Begin now: Make the trial. Shake off that outward sin that so easily besetteth thee. Thou canst not. How then wilt thou change thy life from all evil to all good? Indeed, it is impossible to be done, unless first thy heart be changed. For, so long as the tree remains evil, it cannot bring forth good fruit. But art thou able to change thy own heart, from all sin to all holiness to quicken a soul that is dead in sin, -- dead to God and alive only to the world. No more than thou art able to quicken a dead body, to raise to life him that lieth in the grave. Yea, thou art not able to quicken thy soul in any degree, no more than to give any degree of life to the dead body. Thou canst do nothing, more or less, in this matter; thou art utterly without strength. To be deeply sensible of this, how helpless thou art, as well as how guilty and how sinful, -- this is that "repentance not to be repented of," which is the forerunner of the kingdom of God.*

**John Wesley, Sermon 7, The Way To The Kingdom**

**26 January**

Sermon Text:

Title:



# 27 January

## Lectio 5: Rev 3:7-13



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 28 January

## Lectio 1: Rev 3:14-22



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 29 January

## Lectio 2: Rev 4:1-11



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



**30 January**

Lectio 3: Eze 1:4-14 & 22-28



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 31 January

## Lectio 4: Rev 5:1-7



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



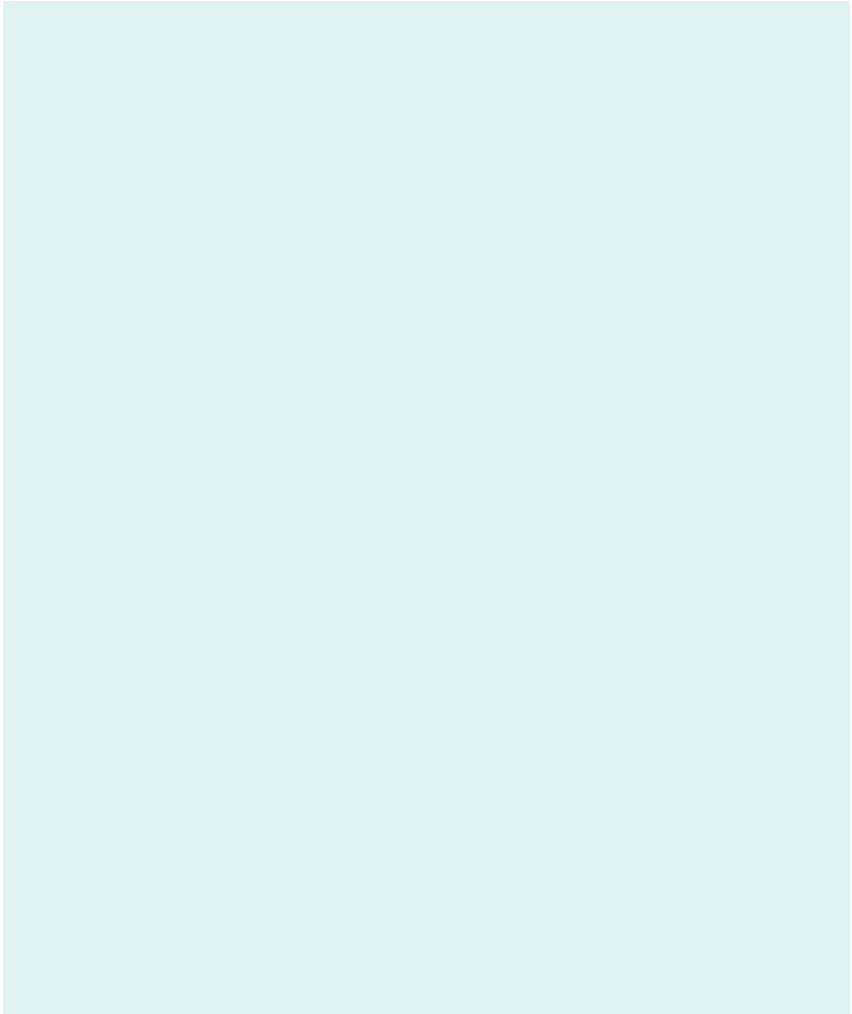
REST

Pen a prayer

# 1 February

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



# Weekly Prayer Items



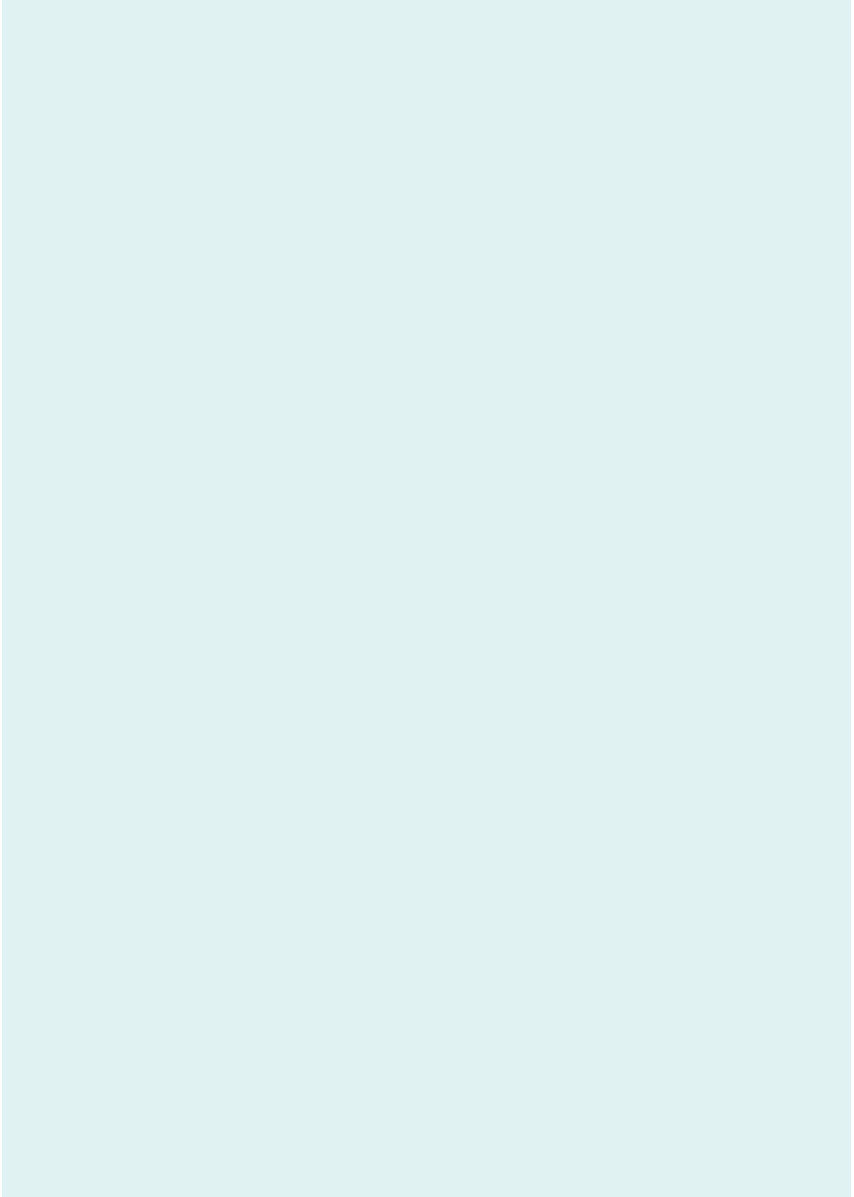
*The True God is the Governor of all things: “His kingdom ruleth over all.” The government rests upon his shoulder, throughout all ages. He is the Lord and Disposer of the whole creation, and every part of it. And in how astonishing a manner does he govern the world! How far are his ways above human thought! How little do we know of his methods of government! Only this we know, Ita praesides singulis sicut universis, et universis sicut singulis! “Thou presidest over each creature, as if it were the universe, and over the universe, as over each individual creature.” Dwell a little upon this sentiment: What a glorious mystery does it contain!*

**John Wesley, Sermon 77, Spiritual Worship**

## **2 February**

Sermon Text:

Title:





# 3 February

## Lectio 5: Rev 5:8-14



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 4 February

## Lectio 1: Isa 11:1-10



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 5 February

## Lectio 2: Rev 6:1-8



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 6 February

## Lectio 3: Rev 6:9-17



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



# 7 February

## Lectio 4: Eze 9:1-11



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



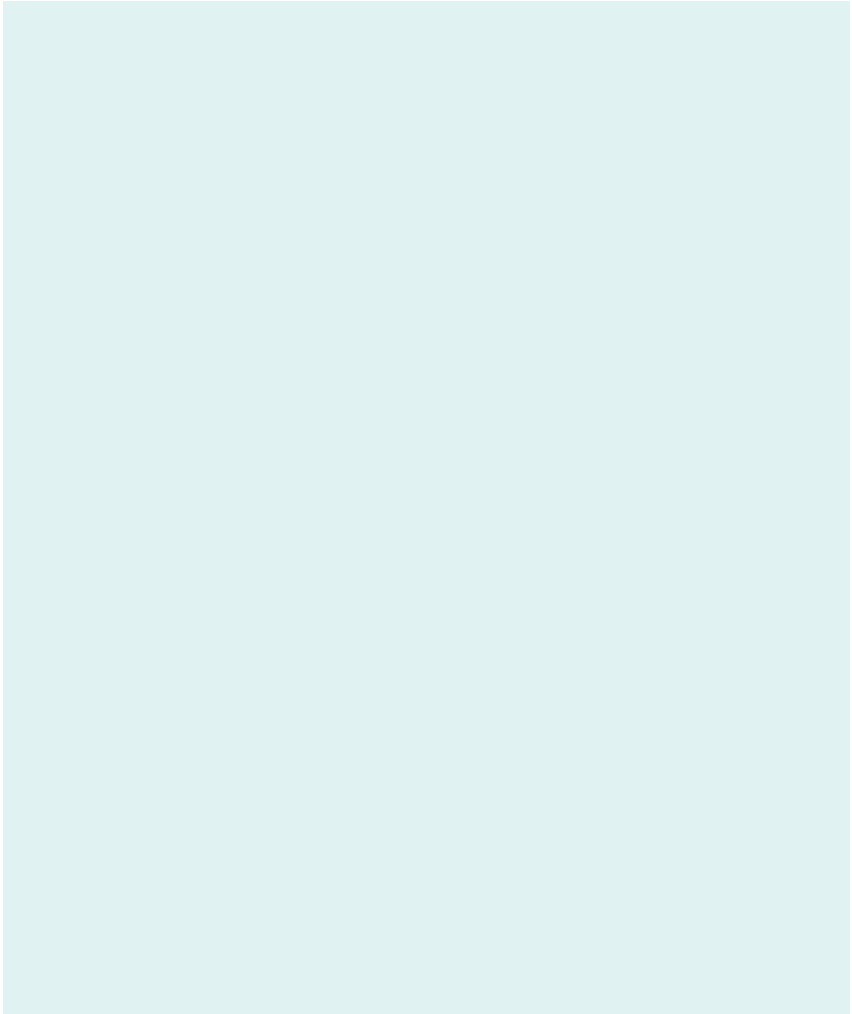
REST

Pen a prayer

# 8 February

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



# Weekly Prayer Items



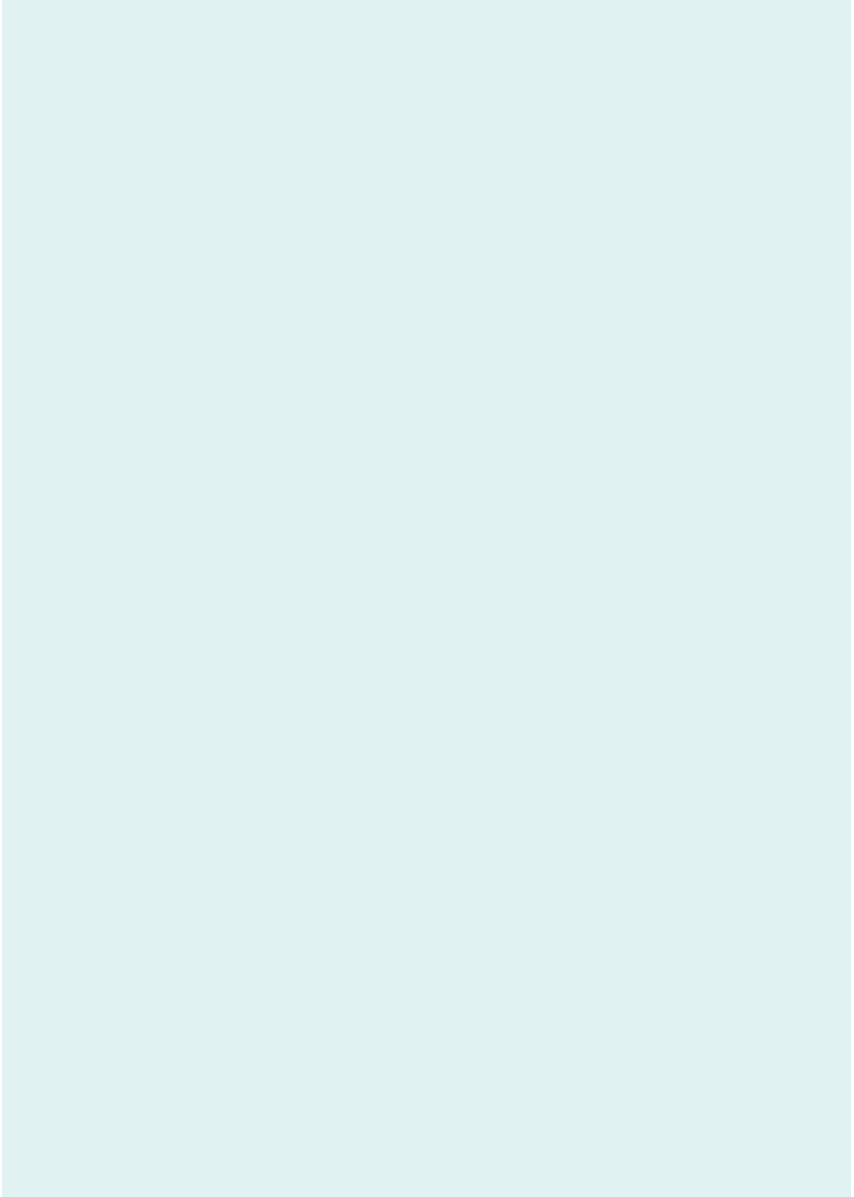
*Neither say in thy heart, "I cannot be accepted yet, because I am not good enough." Who is good enough -- who ever was -- to merit acceptance at God's hands? Was ever any child of Adam good enough for this or will any till the consummation of all things? And as for thee, thou art not good at all: There dwelleth in thee no good thing? And thou never wilt be, till thou believe in Jesus.*

***John Wesley, Sermon 6, The Righteousness of Faith***

# 9 February

Sermon Text:

Title:



# 10 February

## Lectio 5: Rev 7:1-8



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



# 11 February

## Lectio 1: Rev 7:9-17



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 12 February

## Lectio 2: Rev 8:1-5



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 13 February

## Lectio 3: Rev 8:6-13



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 14 February

## Lectio 4: Rev 9:1-12



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

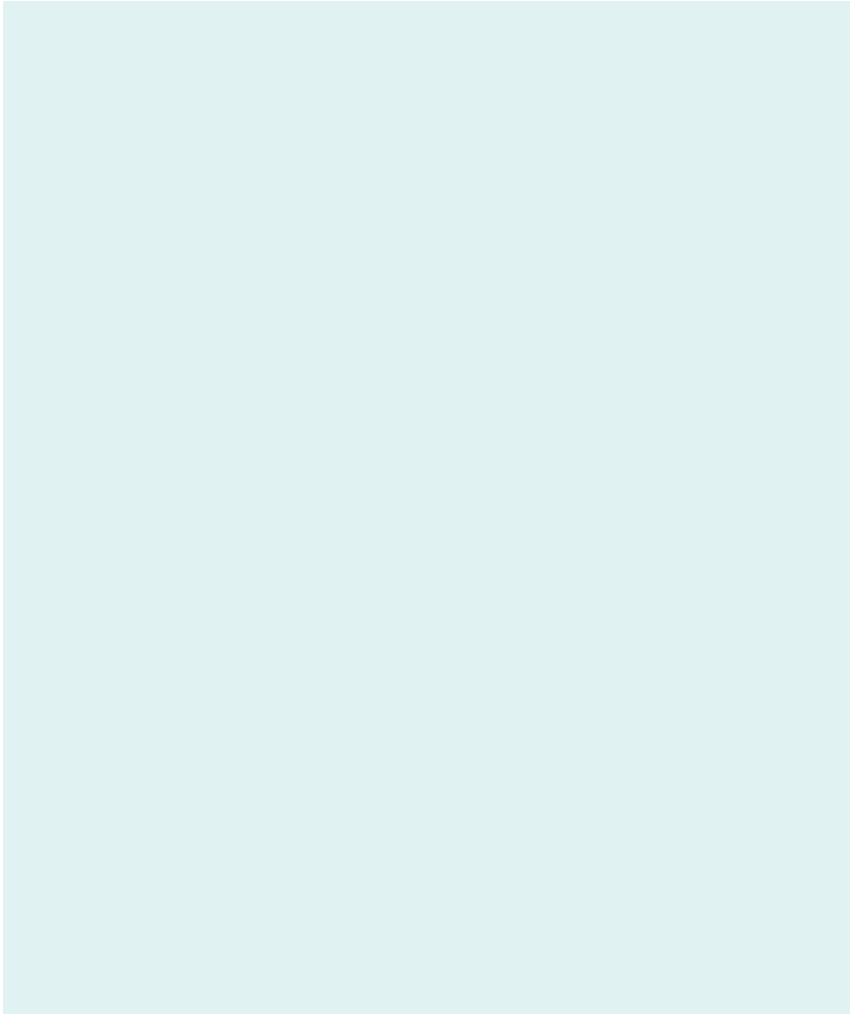
Pen a prayer



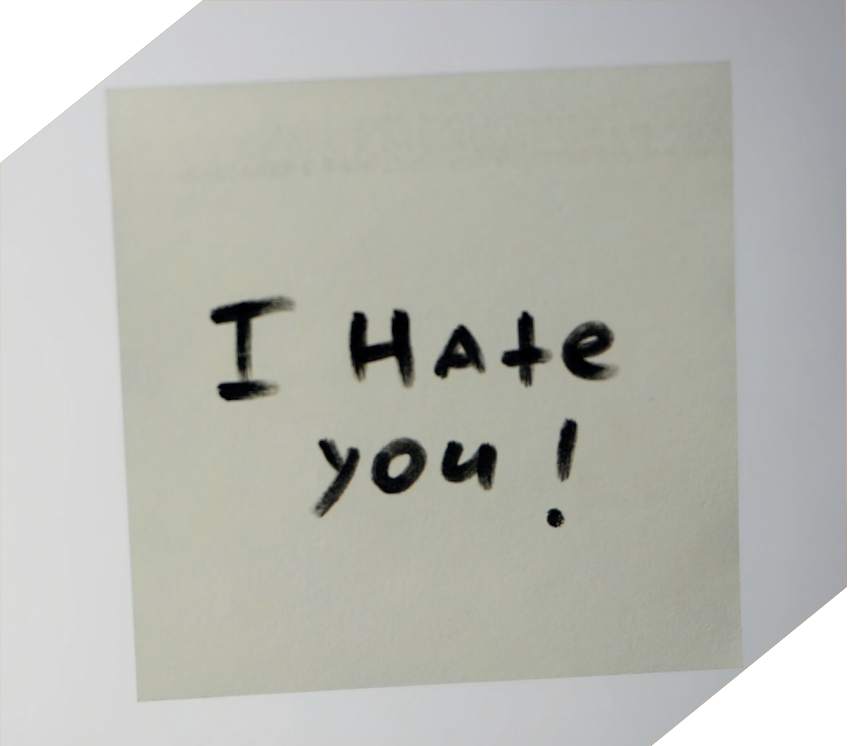
# 15 February

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



# Weekly Prayer Items



I Hate  
you!

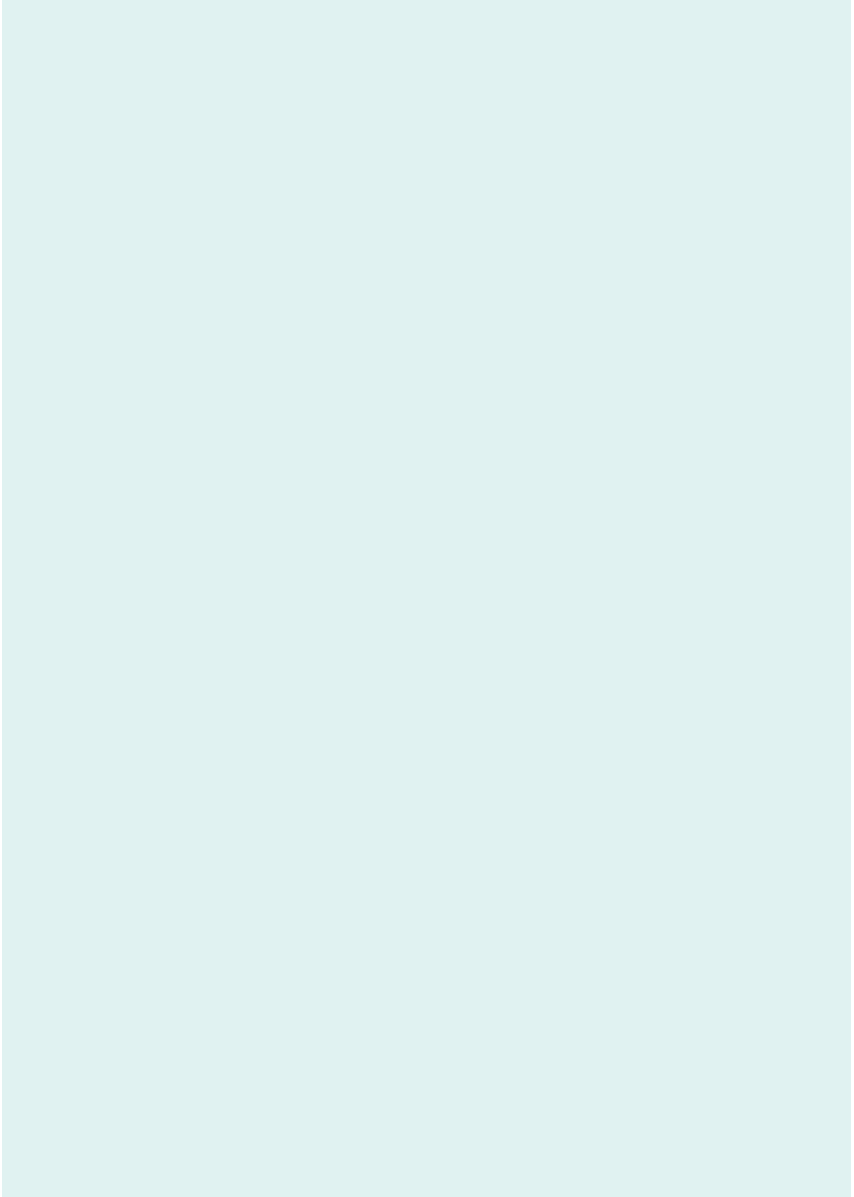
First. Wicked men trouble those who serve God, by the injuries they do them. As at first, “he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.” And so it must be, till all things are fulfilled; “till heaven and earth pass away,” “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” For there is an irreconcilable enmity between the Spirit of Christ, and the spirit of the world. If the followers of Christ “were of the world, the world would love its own: But because they are not of the world, therefore the world hateth them.” And this hatred they will not fail to show by their words: They will “say all manner of evil against them falsely;” “they will find out many inventions” whereby even “the good that is in them may be evil spoken of;” and in a thousand instances lay to their charge the ill that they know not. From words in due time they proceed to deeds; treating the servants as their forefathers did their Master; wronging and despitefully using them in as many ways as fraud can invent and force accomplish.

**John Wesley, Sermon 127, The Trouble And Rest Of Good Men**

# 16 February

Sermon Text:

Title:



# 17 February

## Lectio 5: Rev 9:13-21



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 18 February

## Lectio 1: Rev 10:1-11



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



# 19 February

## Lectio 2: Eze 2:8-3:3



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 20 February

## Lectio 3: Rev 11:1-10



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 21 February

## Lectio 4: Rev 11:11-19



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



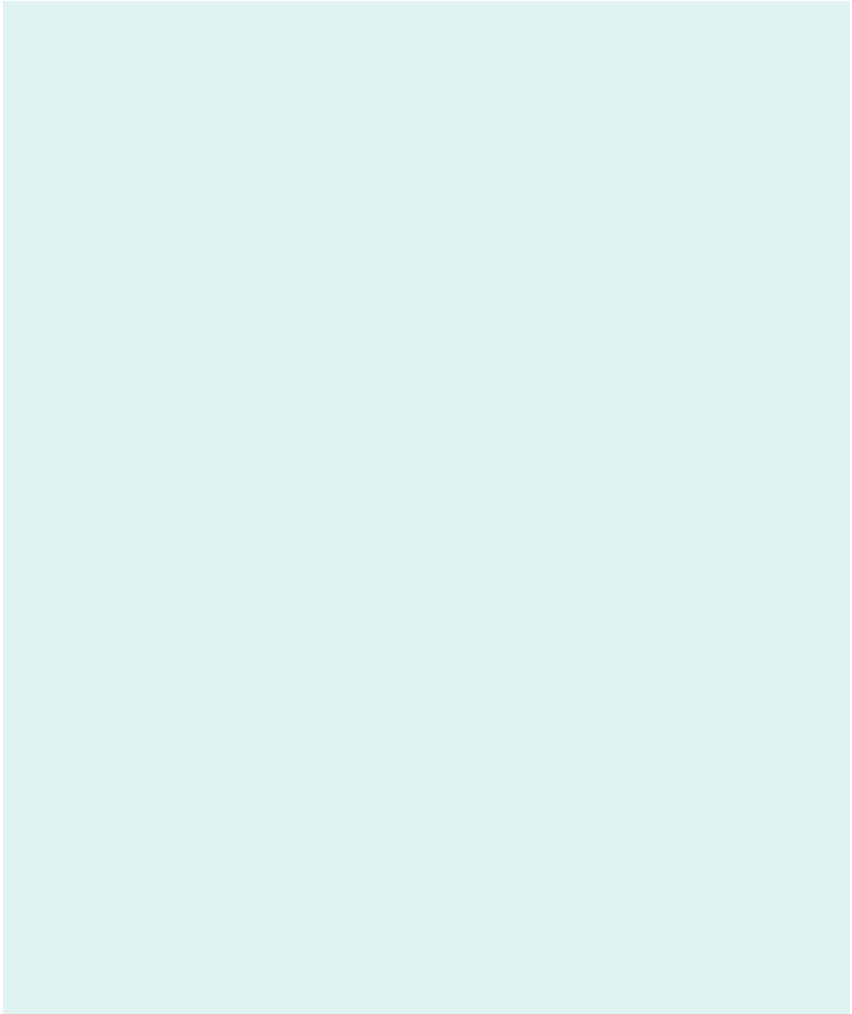
REST

Pen a prayer

# 22 February

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



# Weekly Prayer Items





*This enemy of all righteousness is equally diligent to hinder every good word and work. If he cannot prevail upon us to do evil, he will, if possible, prevent our doing good. He is peculiarly diligent to hinder the work of God from spreading in the hearts of men. What pains does he take to prevent or obstruct the general work of God! And how many are his devices to stop its progress in particular souls! To hinder their continuing or growing in grace, in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ! To lessen, if not destroy, that love, joy, peace, -- that long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, -- that fidelity, meekness, temperance, -- which our Lord works by his loving Spirit in them that believe, and wherein the very essence of religion consists.*

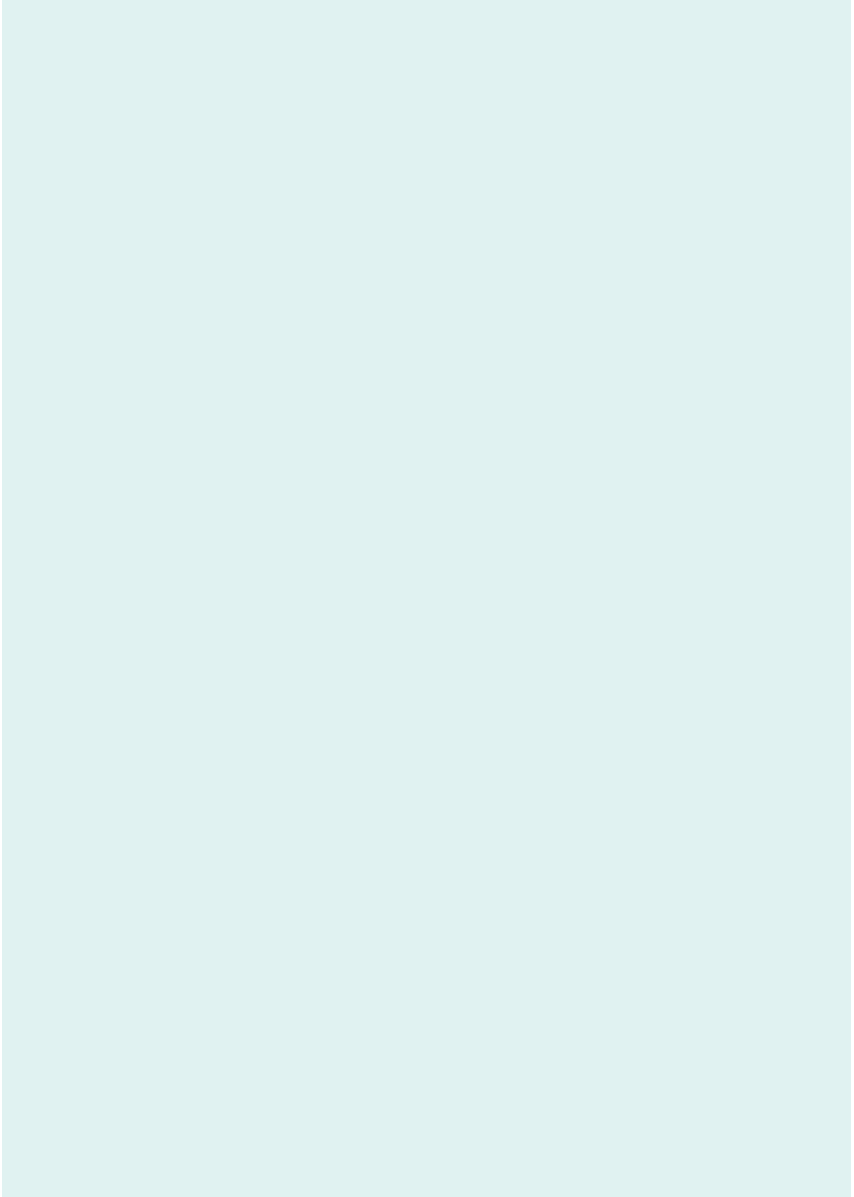
*To effect these ends, he is continually labouring, with all his skill and power, to infuse evil thoughts of every kind into the hearts of men. And certainly it is as easy for a spirit to speak to our heart, as for a man to speak to our ears. But sometimes it is exceeding difficult to distinguish these from our own thoughts; those which he injects so exactly resembling those which naturally arise in our own minds.*

**John Wesley, Sermon 72, Of Evil Angels**

## **23 February**

Sermon Text:

Title:



# 24 February

## Lectio 5: Rev 12:1-9



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 25 February

## Lectio 1: Rev 12:10-18



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 26 February

## Lectio 2: Rev 13:1-10



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



# 27 February

## Lectio 3: Rev 13:11-18



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 28 February

## Lectio 4: Rev 14:1-13



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



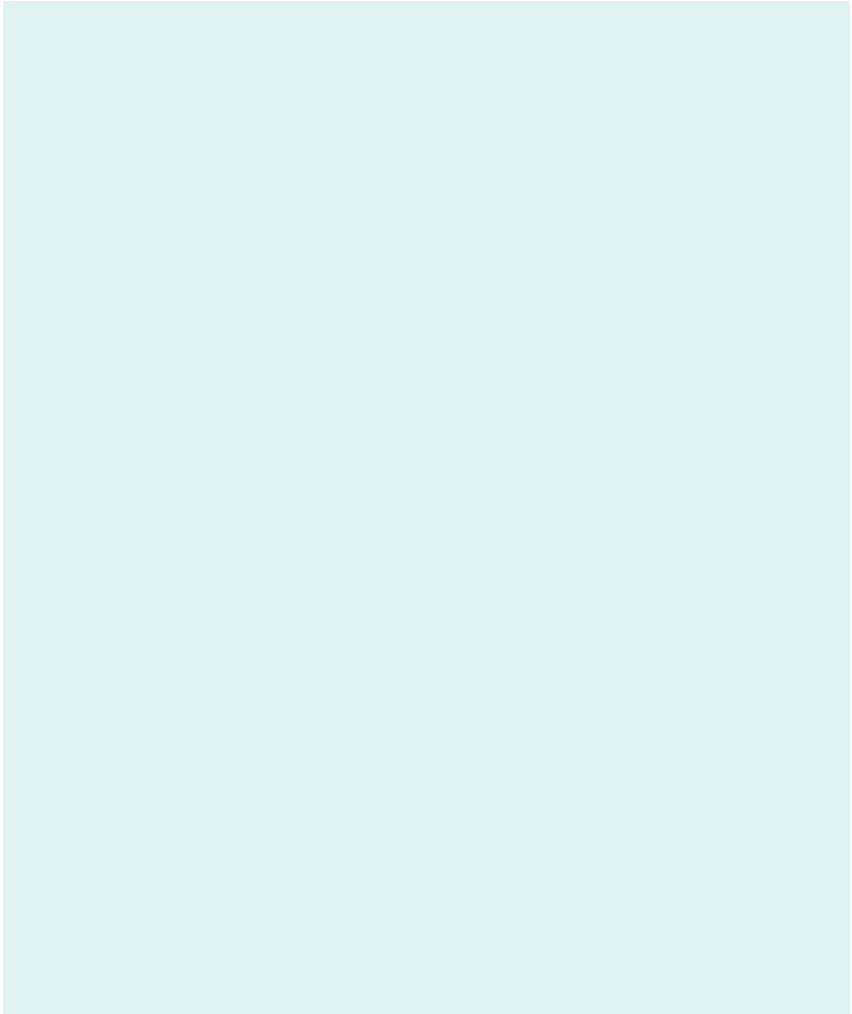
REST

Pen a prayer

# 1 March

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



# Weekly Prayer Items



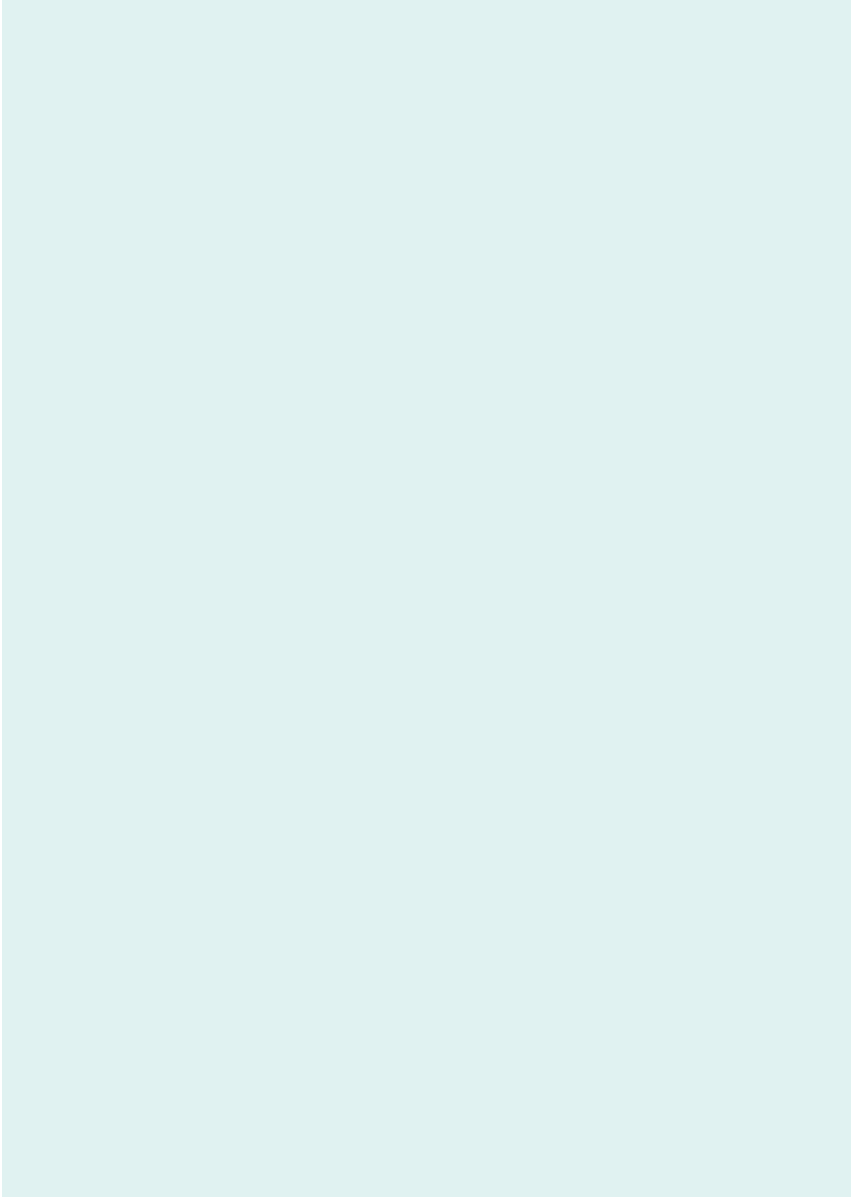
*Let it be continual offered up to God through Christ, in flames of holy love. And let no creature be suffered to share with him: For he is a jealous God. His throne will he not divide with another: He will reign without a rival. Be no design, no desire admitted there, but what has Him for its ultimate object. This is the way where in those children of God once walked, who, being dead, still speak to us: "Desire not to live, but to praise his name: Let all your thoughts, words, and works, tend to his glory. Set your heart firm on him, and on other things only as they are in and from him. Let your soul be filled with so entire a love of him, that you may love nothing but for his sake." "Have a pure intention of heart, a steadfast regard to his glory in all your actions." "Fix your eye upon the blessed hope of your calling, and make all the things of the world minister unto it." For then, and not till then is that "mind in us which was also in Christ Jesus;" when, in every motion of our heart, in every word of our tongue, in every work of our hands, we "pursue nothing but in relation to him, and in subordination to his pleasure;" when we, too, neither think, nor speak, nor act, to fulfil our "own will, but the will of him that sent us;" when, whether we; "eat, or drink, or whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God."*

***John Wesley, Sermon 17, The Circumcision of the Heart***

## 2 March

Sermon Text:

Title:





**3 March**

Lectio 5: Rev 14:14-15:8



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

**4 March**

Lectio 1: Rev 16:1-21



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 5 March

## Lectio 2: Rev 17:1-8



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

**6 March**

Lectio 3: Rev 17:9-18



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



**7 March**

Lectio 4: Dan 7:21-27



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



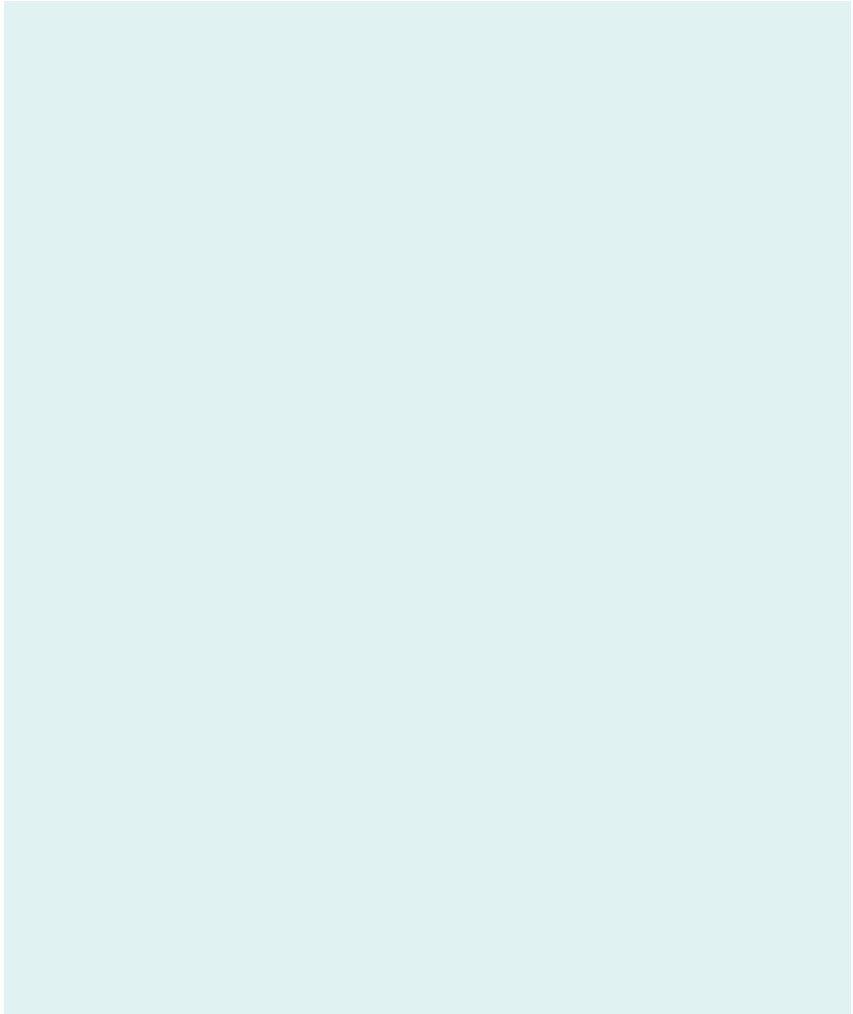
REST

Pen a prayer

# 8 March

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



## Weekly Prayer Items



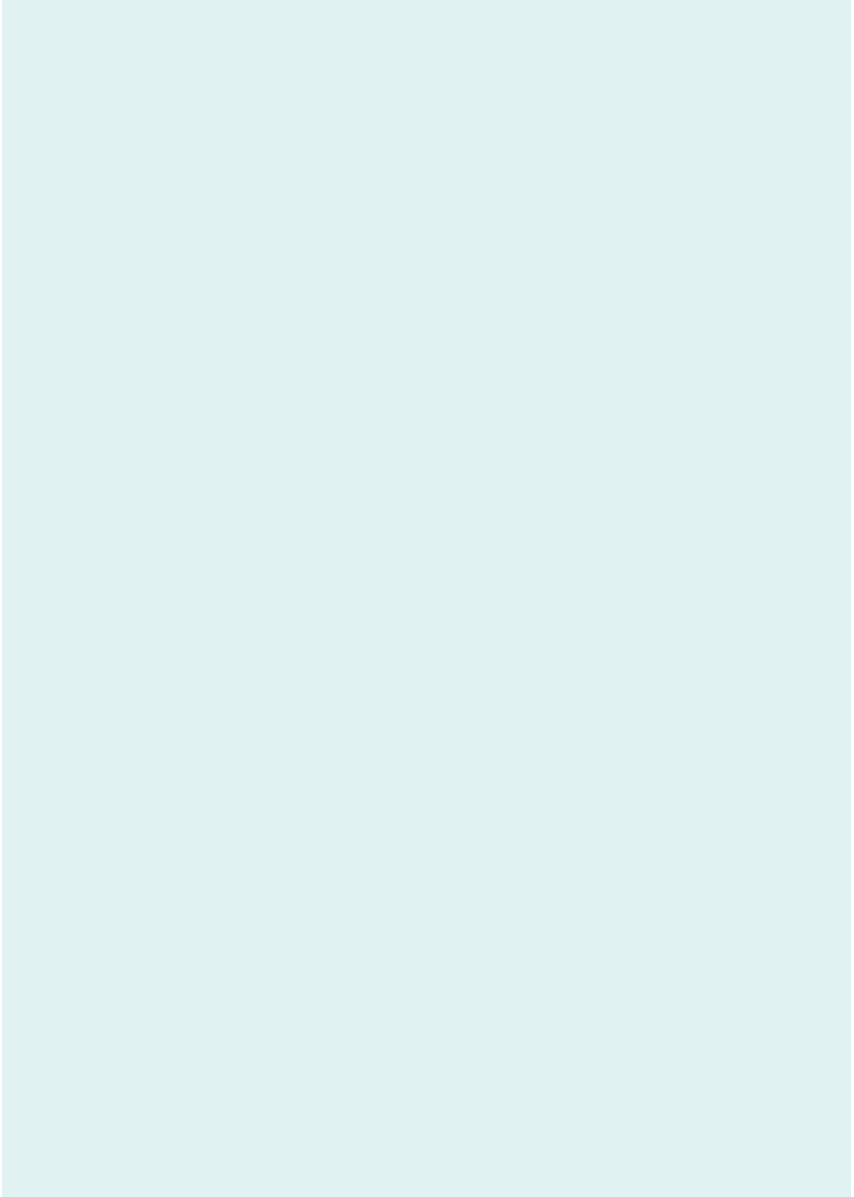
*To conclude. Whosoever thou art, O man, who hast the sentence of death in thyself, who feelest thyself a condemned sinner, and hast the wrath of God abiding on thee: Unto thee saith the Lord, not, “Do this,” -- perfectly obey all my commands, -- “and live;” but, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” “The word of faith is nigh unto thee:” Now, at this instant, in the present moment, and in thy present state, sinner as thou art, just as thou art, believe the gospel; and “I will be merciful unto thy unrighteousness, and thy iniquities will I remember no more.”*

**John Wesley, Sermon 6 , The Righteousness of Faith**

## 9 March

Sermon Text:

Title:



# 10 March

## Lectio 5: Rev 18:1-10



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



# 11 March

## Lectio 1: Jer 51:6-10



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

**12 March**

Lectio 2: Rev 18:11-24



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 13 March

## Lectio 3: Rev 19:1-5



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 14 March

## Lectio 4: Rev 19:6-10



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

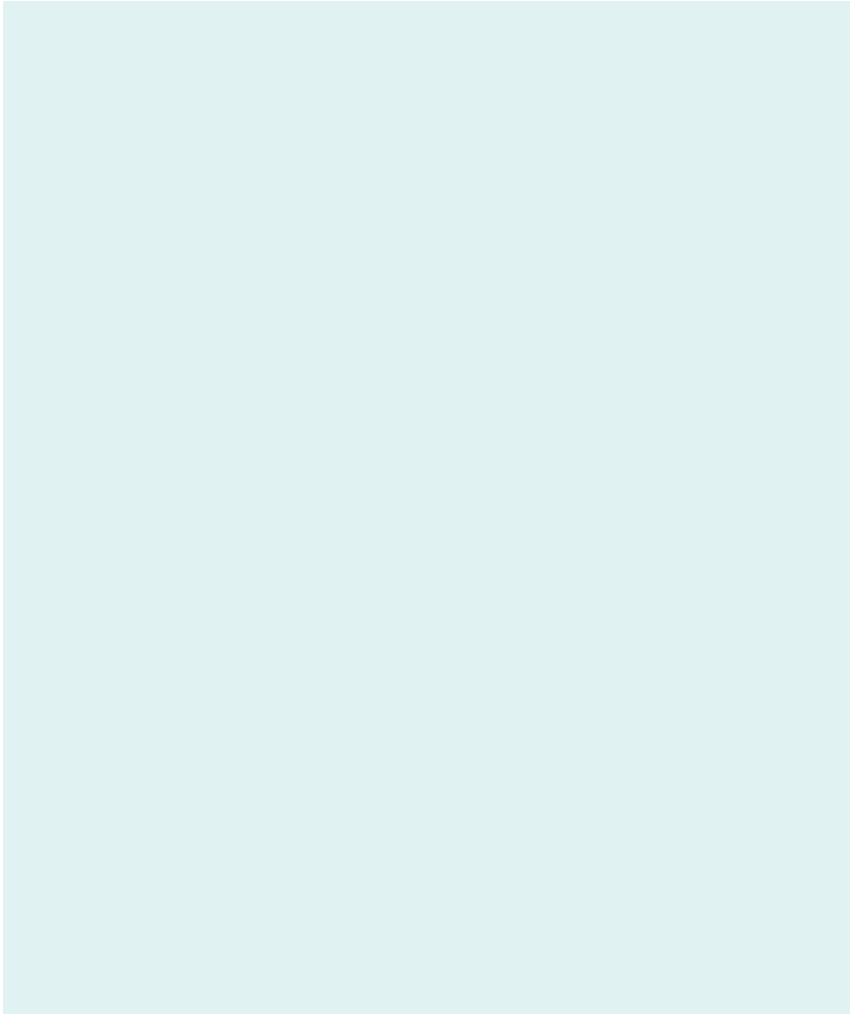
Pen a prayer



# 15 March

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



## Weekly Prayer Items



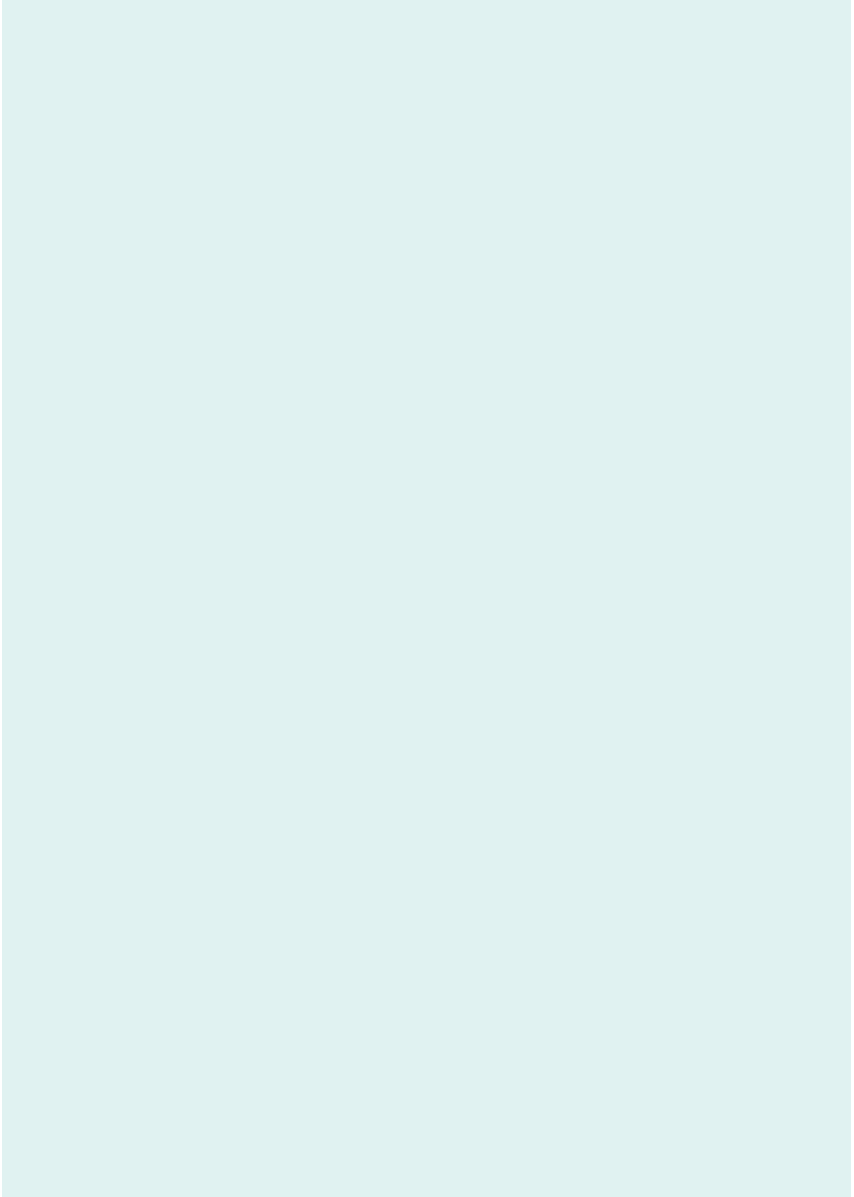
*And death itself, “the last enemy” of man, shall be destroyed at the resurrection. The moment that we hear the voice of the archangel and the trump of God, “then shall be fulfilled the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” “This corruptible” body “shall put on incorruption; this mortal” body “shall put on immortality;” and the Son of God, manifested in the clouds of heaven, shall destroy this last work of the devil!*

***John Wesley - Sermon 62, The End of Christ’s Coming***

**16 March**

Sermon Text:

Title:



# 17 March

## Lectio 5: Rev 19:11-16



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

**18 March**

Lectio 1: Rev 19:17-21



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



# 19 March

## Lectio 2: Rev 20:1-10



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

**20 March**

Lectio 3: Rev 20:11-15



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 21 March

## Lectio 4: Dan 12:1-4



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



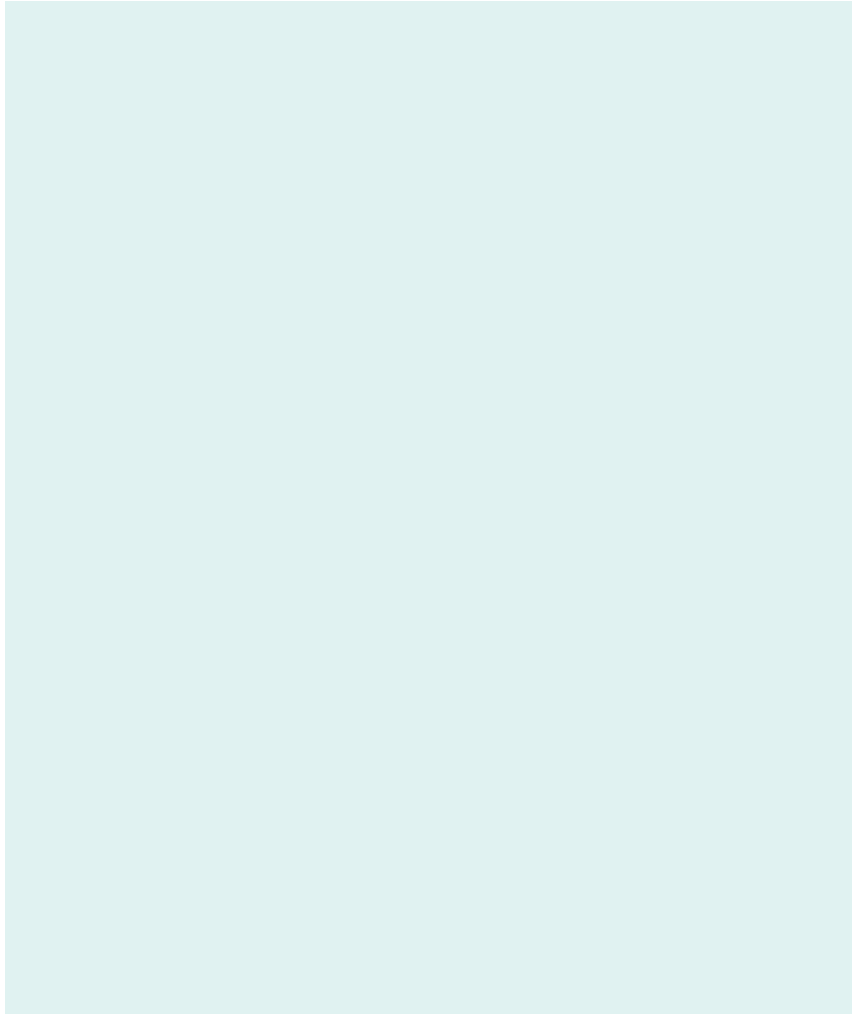
REST

Pen a prayer

# 22 March

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



## Weekly Prayer Items





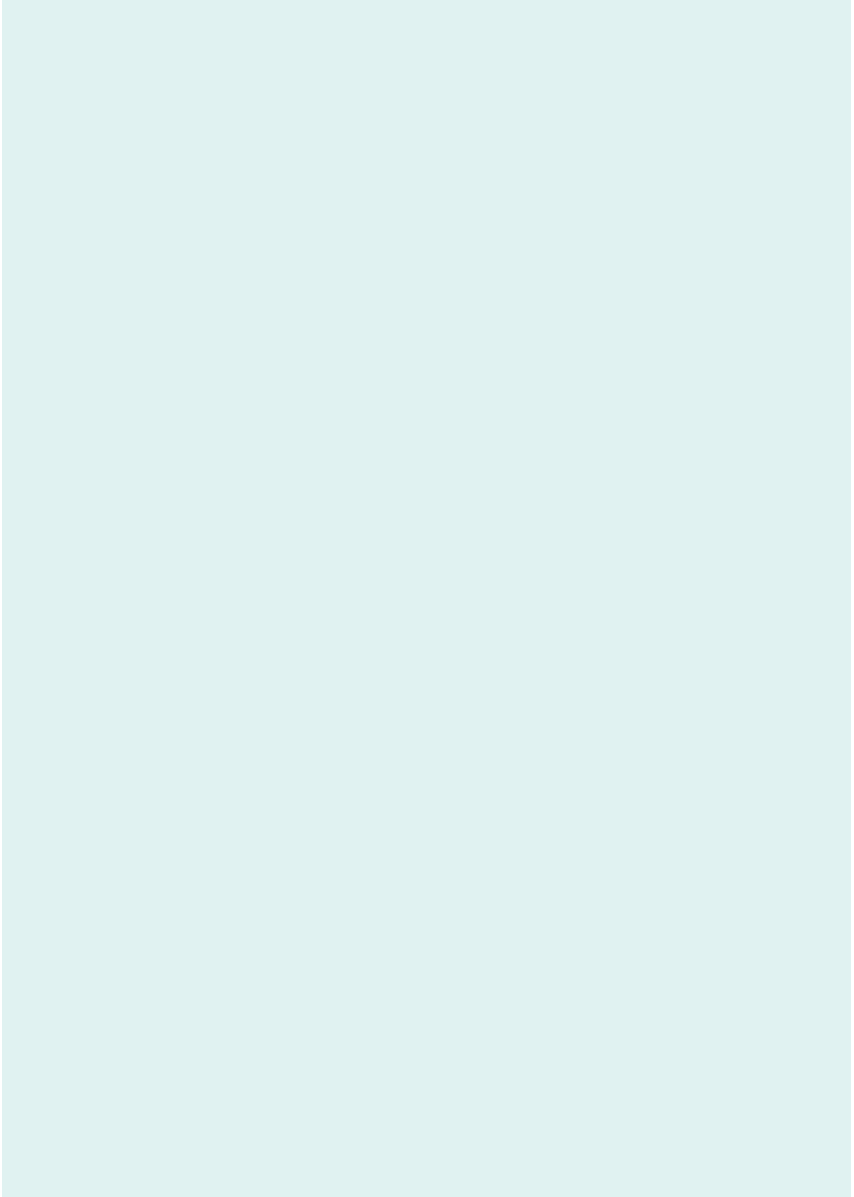
*Every man, every woman, every infant of days, that ever breathed the vital air, will then hear the voice of the Son of God, and start into life, and appear before him. And this seems to be the natural import of that expression, “the dead, small and great:” all universally, all without exception, all of every age, sex, or degree; all that ever lived and died, or underwent such a change as will be equivalent with death. For long before that day, the phantom of human greatness disappears, and sinks into nothing. Even in the moment of death, that vanishes away.*

***John Wesley - Sermon 15, The Great Assize***

**23 March**

Sermon Text:

Title:



# 24 March

## Lectio 5: Rev 21:1-8



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 25 March

## Lectio 1: Isa 65:17-19



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

**26 March**

Lectio 2: Rev 21:9-21



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



# 27 March

## Lectio 3: Isa 25:6-9



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 28 March

## Lectio 4: Zec 2:1-13



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



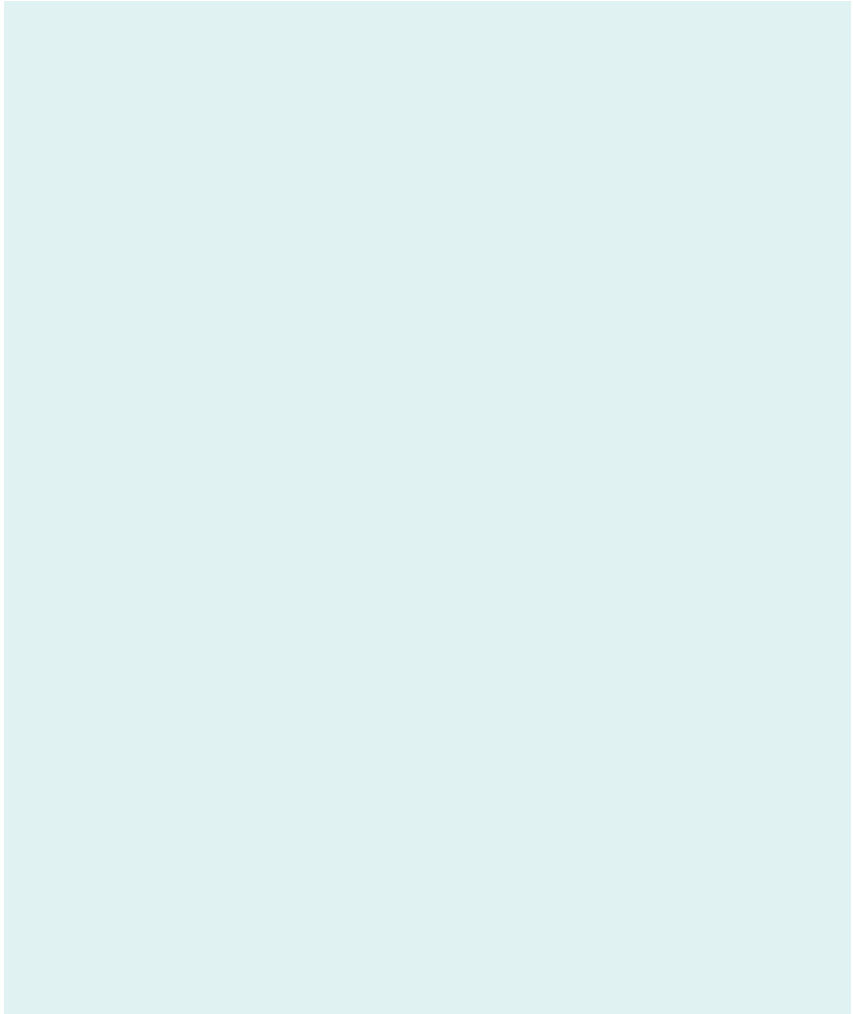
REST

Pen a prayer

# 29 March

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



## Weekly Prayer Items



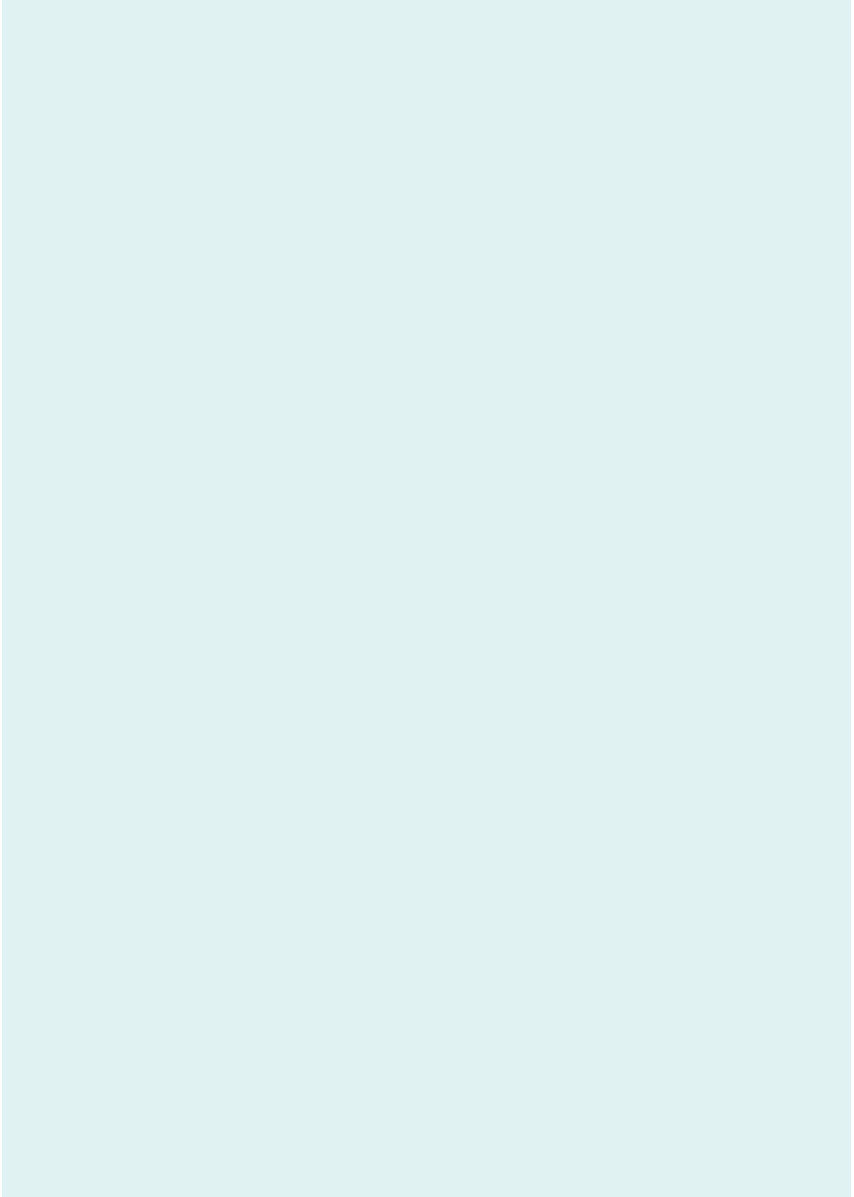
*But the most glorious of all will be the change which then will take place on the poor, sinful, miserable children of men....will arise an unmixed state of holiness and happiness far superior to that which Adam enjoyed in Paradise. ...there will be no more death, and no more pain or sickness preparatory thereto; as there will be no more grieving for, or parting with, friends; so there will be no more sorrow or crying. Nay, but there will be a greater deliverance than all this; for there will be no more sin. And, to crown all, there will be a deep, an intimate, an uninterrupted union with God; a constant communion with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ, through the Spirit; a continual enjoyment of the Three-One God, and of all the creatures in him!*

**John Wesley, Sermon 64, The New Creation**

**30 March**

Sermon Text:

Title:





**31 March**

Lectio 5: Rev 21:22-27



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 1 April

## Lectio 1: Isa 60:19-22



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

**2 April**

Lectio 2: Rev 22:1-5



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

# 3 April

## Lectio 3: Eze 47:1-12



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



**4 April**

Lectio 4: Isa 44:6-8



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



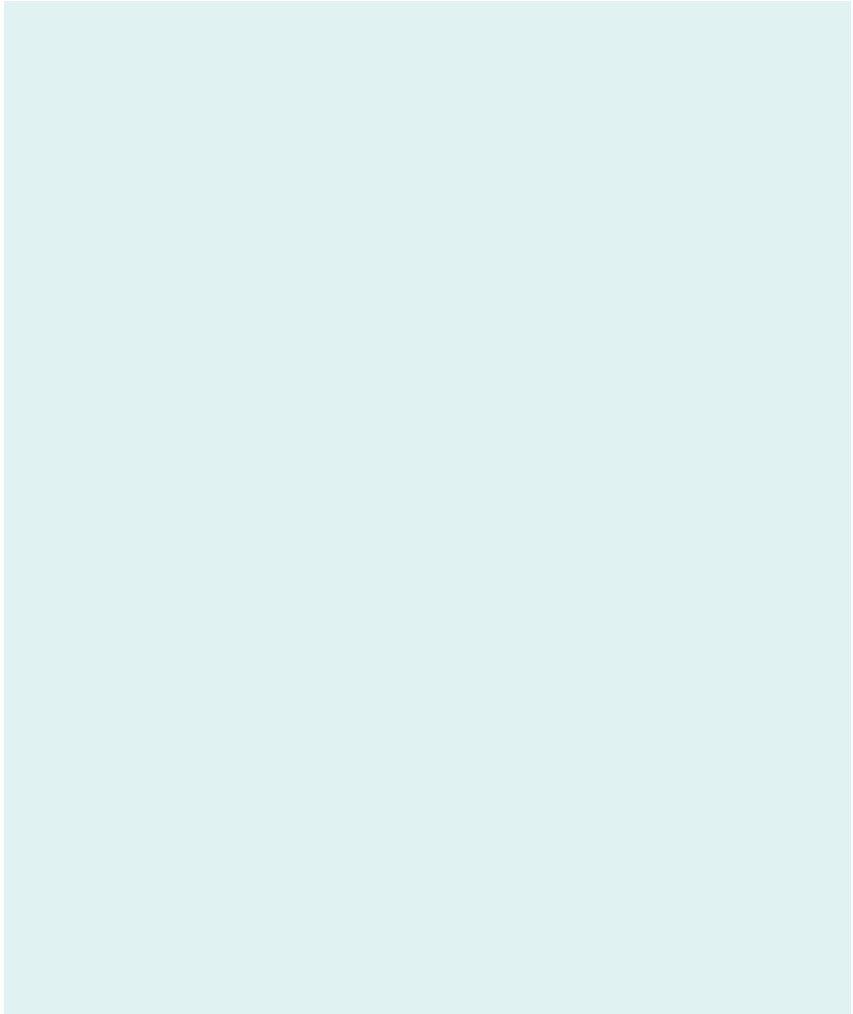
REST

Pen a prayer

# 5 April

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



## Weekly Prayer Items



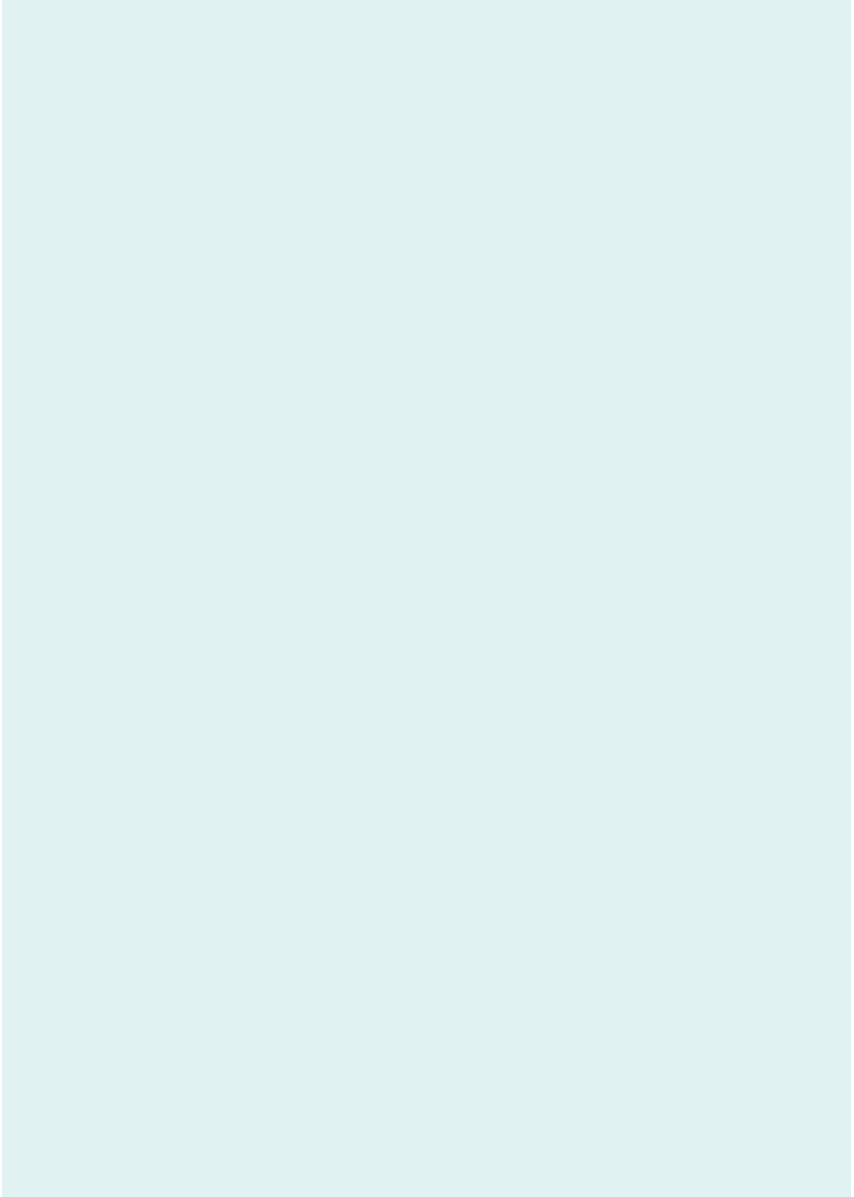
*How true then is that word, “God saw everything that he had made: and behold it was very good!” But how far is this from being the present case! In what a condition is the whole lower world! -- to say nothing of inanimate nature, wherein all the elements seem to be out of course, and by turns to fight against man. Since man rebelled against his Maker, in what a state is all animated nature! Well might the Apostle say of this: “The whole creation groaneth and travaileth together in pain until now.”...*

***John Wesley, Sermon 60, The General Deliverance***

**6 April**

Sermon Text:

Title:



**7 April**

Lectio 5: Isa 40:9-11



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer



**8 April**

Lectio 1: Rev 22:6-15



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

**9 April**

Lectio 2: Rev 22:16-21



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

**10 April**

Lectio 3: Luke 19:28-40



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

Pen a prayer

**11 April**

**Lectio 4: Luke 19:41-48**



Pen/draw what comes to your mind



RELATE

How does this relate to you?



REST

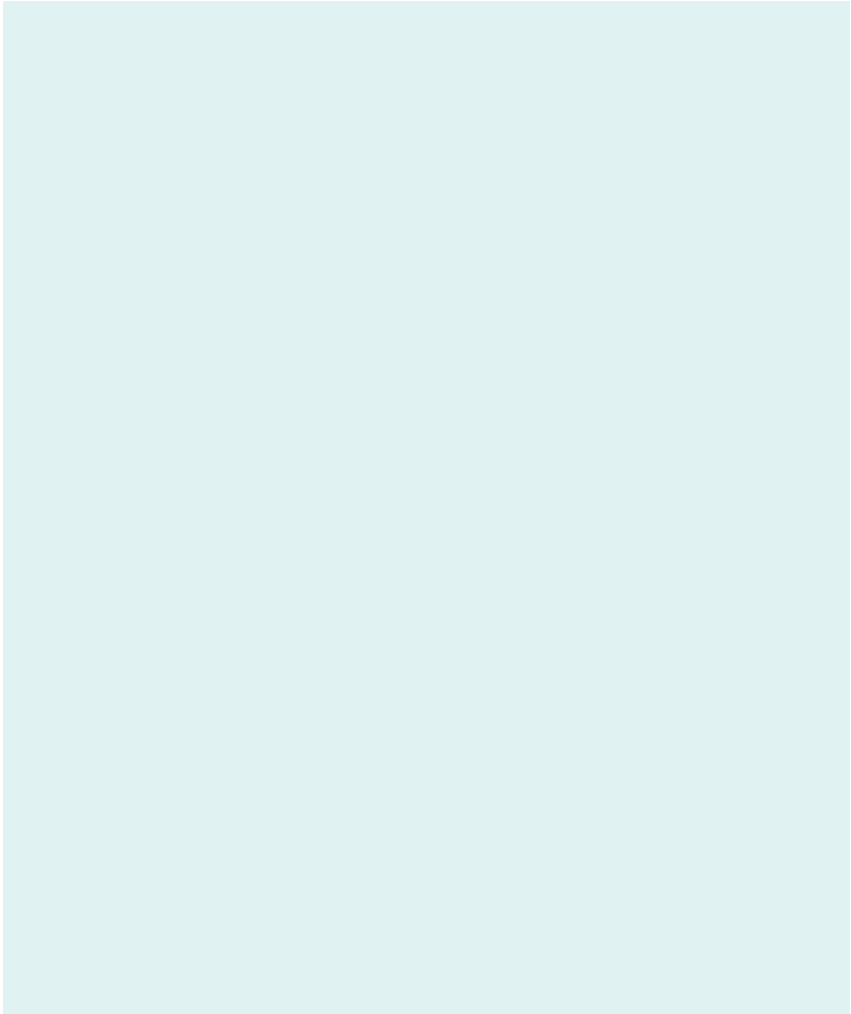
Pen a prayer



# 12 April

## Examen

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the week with gratitude.
3. Identify a few experiences from the past week and pray from it.
4. Look toward the new week.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)



# Weekly Prayer Items



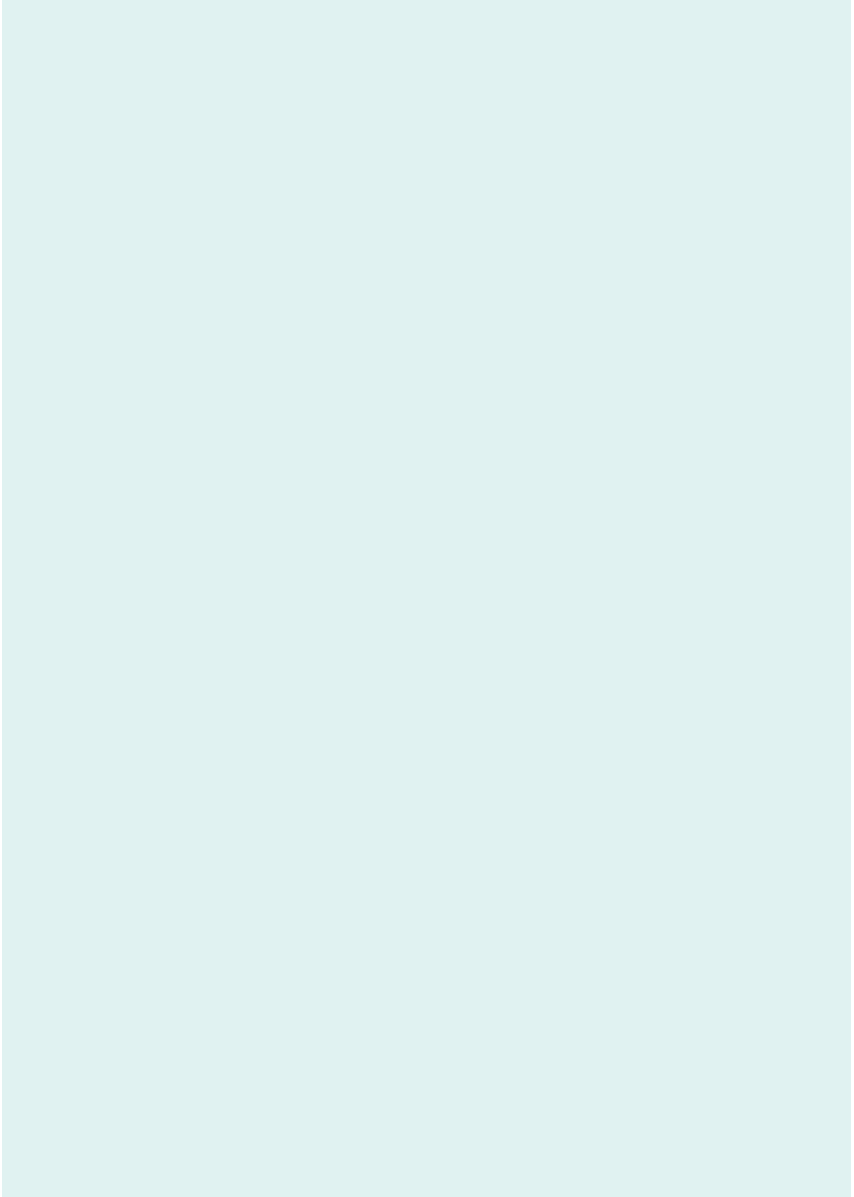
*Be not content with any religion which does not imply the destruction of all the works of the devil; that is, of all sin. We know, weakness of understanding, and a thousand infirmities, will remain, while this corruptible body remains; but sin need not remain: This is that work of the devil, eminently so called, which the Son of God was manifested to destroy in this present life. He is able, he is willing, to destroy it now, in all that believe in him. Only be not straitened in your own bowels! Do not distrust his power, or his love! Put his promise to the proof! He hath spoken: And is he not ready likewise to perform? Only “come boldly to the throne of grace,” trusting in his mercy; and you shall find, “He saveth to the uttermost all those that come to God through him!”*

***John Wesley, Sermon 62 - The End of Christ's Coming***

**13 April**

Sermon Text:

Title:



# Notes

# Notes

# Notes

# Notes





CONNECT

## BRMC Sermon Series

### **Who is Worthy of our Worship? (The book of Revelation)**

Jan-Apr 2025

#### FAQs

##### 1. What is the title of this book of the Bible?

- a) The title is “Revelation” or “Apocalypse”. It comes from the opening words in Rev 1.1, which state “The apocalypse of Jesus Christ...”
- b) Apocalypse means “to uncover”. Apocalypse is a Greek word, which denotes an uncovering or an un-hiding. Hence, a revealing of something – a revelation.
- c) Apocalypse does not originally mean “worldwide destruction” or “catastrophic devastation” or “doomsday”. However, the word has come to evolve this nuance in the English language.
- d) The book’s title is not Revelations (plural), but Revelation (singular). It is not about multiple visions, but about the uncovering of true reality in Jesus Christ.
- e) Some Bibles give the book’s name as “The Apocalypse of St John”. This is to differentiate it from other non-canonical (non-biblical) apocalyptic texts that were in circulation in the first- and second-centuries A.D. E.g Apocalypse of Moses, Apocalypse of Peter, Apocalypse of Baruch.
- f) Highly recommended: watch this BibleProject video about apocalyptic literature at <https://youtu.be/UNDX4tUdj1Y>.

“  
*The book’s title is not Revelations (plural), but Revelation (singular).*

Note: “apocalypse/ apocalyptic” (noun/adjective) is not the same as “apocrypha / apocryphal” (noun/adjective). The former means to uncover or to reveal. The latter means to hide away or to keep private. The English word “cryptic” shares the same root as the latter, but not the former.

##### 2. What type of Biblical book is this?

Revelation is a triple-genre piece of writing. This is partly why it is difficult to fully understand.

- a) Apocalyptic genre (see also FAQ #1)
  - Apocalyptic writing flourished in the Eastern Mediterranean, roughly between 250 B.C. and 250 A.D.
  - Characteristics of the apocalyptic genre include:
    - Unveils divine mysteries or an unseen reality, via symbolic visions, dreams, or heavenly journeys
    - The visions are often highly dramatic and cataclysmic
    - There is frequently an eschatological (end-times) emphasis
    - Sometimes, a heavenly figure is present as a guide-interpreter

“  
*While Revelation comprises many heavenly visions and has a clear end-times emphasis, it is not merely a prediction of the distant future, nor is it relevant only for the so-called final generation.*  
*Rather, Revelation is a call for a response of faith in and by every generation. Its topics and themes will also not be entirely unfamiliar or distant from the lived situations of its first recipients.*

- Often make connection between heavenly-and-earthly realities, as well as present-and-future realities
- Often showcase the sovereignty and cosmic power of God
- Apart from the book of Revelation, portions of Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Matthew display characteristics of the apocalyptic genre.
- We modern readers are quite unfamiliar with the apocalyptic genre. Thus, we should make the effort to read these other apocalyptic passages in the Bible, so as to get a better grasp of the symbolism and meaning of the book of Revelation.

b) Letter genre

- A good portion of the New Testament books is this genre. These could be letters to an individual (Titus, Philemon), to a single church community (Corinthians, Galatians) or to group of churches (1 Peter, James).
- Revelation is a letter in the final category. It is not seven letters, but one letter meant to be read and circulated among a wide audience in different church communities.
  - Rev 1.4 “John to the seven churches...”
  - Rev 1.11 “Write in a book/scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches...”
  - Rev 2.7, 2.11, 2.17, etc “Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the *churches* (plural).”

c) Prophetic genre

- Revelation describes itself as prophecy:
  - Rev 1.3 “Blessed is the one reading, and the ones hearing, the words of this prophecy...”
  - Rev 22.7, 10, 18, 19 “...the words of prophecy of this book/scroll”
- Prophecy is never entirely about the future.
- Prophecy in the Bible has elements of both foretelling (describing blessings or punishments, in the future) and forth-telling (calling God’s people to repentance or to action, in the present).
- To learn more about the Biblical genre of prophecy, refer to a previous sermon titled *Presence, Glory, Peace* (19 Nov 2023), available at BRMC’s YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/Cjqm12BM02Q>.

d) Implications of the triple-genre of Revelation

- While Revelation comprises many heavenly visions and has a clear end-times emphasis (*characteristic of apocalyptic, prophetic*), it is not merely a prediction of the distant future, nor is it relevant only for the so-called final generation.
- Rather, Revelation is a call for a response of faith in and by every generation. Its topics and themes will also not be entirely unfamiliar or distant from the lived situations of its first recipients (*characteristic of prophetic, letter*).

### 3. What is the point of this Biblical book?

a) Revelation touches on many themes. Given its multi-dimensional nature, it is difficult – and perhaps unhelpfully reductionistic – to identify the one “main point” of this precious multifaceted gem of Scripture. Some of Revelation’s major themes include:

- The cosmic and universal sovereignty and power of God, who creates and renews his Creation.
- This sovereign God is not disinterested in his Creation, but is deeply involved and personally active in human affairs, including in the death and resurrection of the Lamb.
- A call to faithfulness and worship by God’s people, even amid great trouble and persecution.
- The certainty of judgment for those who do not give worship to the King.
- The certainty of victory, the defeat of evil, and fruitfully abundant life for followers of the Lamb.

“  
*In our present sermon series, we choose to approach Revelation through the lens of the question: “Who is Worthy of our Worship?”*

b) Numerous themes and threads can be fruitfully traced and emphasised in Revelation. In our present sermon series, we choose to approach Revelation through the lens of the question: **“Who is Worthy of our Worship?”** As a church community, we will together:

- Appreciate how worship is singing, but also more than just singing
- Grow in adoration of our God, the slain and risen Lamb, who is worthy of worship (chs.4-5)
- Be encouraged toward faithful worship, especially in times of trial or difficulty, pain or disappointment (ch.6-7)
- Be on guard against the various false gods which intensely compete for our worship (chs.12-13, 17-18)
- Embrace worship as both the deep response of each individual, and the common cry of a vast multitude
- Be stirred in the recognition that humanity is made for profound relationship, delight, and worship of our Creator
- Be moved to join in God’s mission on earth, grasping the spirit behind John Piper’s famous saying: “Missions exists because worship doesn’t”

### 4. How is this Biblical book relevant today?

See [FAQ #2](#) and [#3](#).

### 5. Revelation feels complicated and confusing. Is there an outline or structure that can help me grasp this book?

a) Revelation is neither a narrative account, nor an expositional article, nor a structured dissertation. We should not expect the book to have a straightforward linear structure in the first place. See [FAQ #1](#) & [#2](#).

b) Instead, we observe several broad segments, as marked by repeated phrases, namely:

- Opening (1.1-3)  
“... to show his servants what must soon take place ... Blessed is the one who...” (1.1-3)
  - Circular letter to seven churches (1.4-3.22)  
“John to the seven churches...” (1.4)
  - Revelation of things in Heaven and on Earth (chs. 4-16)  
“Come, I will show you what will must take place after this... I was in the Spirit...” (4.1-2)
    - i. The heavenly throne room (chs.4-5)
    - ii. Seven seals (6.1-8.5)
    - iii. Seven trumpets (8.6-11.19)
    - iv. The Dragon, Beast, and Lamb (12.1-15.4)
    - v. Seven bowls (15.5-16.21)
  - Revelation of judgment on the evil city (17.1-20.15)  
“Come, I will show you the judgment of the great whore... he carried me away in the Spirit...” (17.1-3)
  - Revelation of the heavenly city (21.1-22.5)  
“Come, I will show you the bride... in the Spirit he carried me away...” (21.9-10)
  - Closing (22.6-22.21)  
“... to show his servants what must soon take place ... Blessed is the one who...” (22.6-7)
- c) We recommend viewing the BibleProject outline of Revelation at <https://youtu.be/5nvVVcYD-0w> and <https://youtu.be/QpnIrbq2bKo>.

## 6. Should Revelation be understood literally-realistically or metaphorically-figuratively?

- a) A foundational principle is: *we should read any piece of communication as its author intended for it to be read, i.e. according to its genre.*

As an example: a poet does not intend his poem to be read like a news article, but to be read as a piece that is packed with symbol and metaphor. In the same vein, historical narrative is intended by its author to be read literally and not figuratively. To read without reference to a text’s genre, is to insult the author and to do violence to the text. That is why genre is so critical (see [FAQ #2](#)).

- i. Being in the *apocalyptic* genre, Revelation is inherently full of symbols. Many of these symbols are explicitly and directly identified within the text itself (e.g. Rev 1.20, 7.13-14, 12.9, 19.8; also 5.5 & 22.16 on “root of David”, etc). These are important interpretations given within the piece of writing itself.
- ii. As noted in [FAQ #2](#), there exist other portions of *apocalyptic* genre in the Bible. When reading Revelation, one must become familiar with these other portions of apocalyptic writings (e.g. in Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, etc). This allows for identification of possible shared imagery and symbolism. Doing so also helps to develop a holistic reading of all of Scripture.
- iii. Since the book of Revelation also falls in the genres of *prophecy* and *letter*, readers must also bear in mind the historical situation of the first-hearers of this book. This means doing some background reading on the circumstances facing Christians in

“

1. Read any piece of communication as its author intended for it to be read, i.e. according to its genre
2. Bear in mind how symbols function.
3. The clearer parts of Scripture shed light on the more obscure parts.
4. Be humble.

Asia Minor (where the seven churches are located), in the late 1<sup>st</sup>- and early-2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D.

- b) *Bear in mind how symbols function.* Symbols, metaphors, and other figurative language function as signposts. Symbols do not exist for themselves, but point to a deeper reality.
- i. Some symbols are imagined, fantastical, or exaggerated. For instance, a Lamb with seven eyes (Rev 5.6), a beast with ten horns and seven heads (13.1), a woman clothed with the sun (12.1).
  - ii. Other symbols are tangible and familiar to our ordinary human experience: an open door (4.1), a throne (4.2), a millstone cast into the sea (18.21). These too are symbols, because they do not stand alone but point to a deeper significance. The open door is not just an entrance gate, but signifies uninhibited access across a threshold into a different zone. The throne is not just a chair, but speaks of power and authority. The thrown millstone is not simply a discarding of agricultural equipment, but represents a dramatic and violent action that is audible and visible from afar.
  - iii. Whether fantastical or familiar, a symbol itself is not the point, but points to something deeper.
- c) *The clearer parts of Scripture shed light on the more obscure parts.*
- i. Certain portions of the Bible are inherently harder to understand (2 Peter 3.16). However, there are many, many portions of Scripture that are easily grasped. These latter portions help us make sense of the former.
  - ii. For instance, the Lamb is not explicitly identified as Jesus within the book of Revelation itself. Thus, based solely on Revelation alone, it is unclear who or what this Lamb actually symbolises. However, other Biblical passages such as John 1.29, Acts 8.32-35, 1 Peter 1.18-19 allow the reader to grasp with clarity that the Lamb is in fact a symbol for Jesus Christ, the one who died as an atoning sacrifice for the world and who was raised again to life.
- d) *Be humble.*
- i. Remember that Revelation is one of the more difficult books in the Bible. Even as one applies the above principles, there will still remain some portions and details in the book of Revelation that are not 100% clear. And this is ok. The big-picture themes of Revelation are clear. We do not need to nail down every last detail or answer every last question, in order to be blessed by reading and hearing this book of the Bible (Rev 1.3).
  - ii. As we read and learn from Revelation together, let us hold fast and hold firm to the many things which are clear, as we read the book holistically with the rest of Scripture.
  - iii. And for those parts of Revelation which remain only partially clear, let us not be dogmatic about particular interpretations or specific details, but rather continue to study, pray, and learn together in humility.

**7. What are potential dangers in reading the book of Revelation? A.k.a. What are some bad ways to approach the book of Revelation?**

- a) Not reading in accordance with Revelation's three-fold genre (see [FAQ #2](#)). One mishears and does injustice to the text, if one reads Revelation as being only a prediction of future events without concern for its genre of prophecy and letter.

- b) Thinking that one needs an answer to every last detail of the text, in order to make sense of the book of Revelation as a whole. God has given sufficient clarity of the big-picture themes of Revelation (see [FAQ #3](#)) for it to remain relevant for Christians in every generation.
- c) Over-confidence in speculative interpretations. Some portions of Revelation are self-interpreting, while others are not so clear (see [FAQ #6](#)). On the less-than-clear parts – yes, we can and should make attempts at interpretation. However, we must do this with humility instead of dogmatism.
- d) Approaching Revelation as though it is all about doom-and-gloom. Responding to Revelation primarily in fear, rather than in faith (see [FAQ #8](#)).
- e) Attempting to use Revelation as a calendar to calculate end-time events (see [FAQ #9](#)).

## 8. Why is Revelation so scary?

While certain portions of Revelation feel scary, the book as a whole in fact presents a message of resilient hope and faithful worship. The very opening words of the book (Rev 1.3) state forthrightly – it is a blessing to read and hear this book.

- a) Revelation makes clear that God has already won the victory, for he is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning the End. Revelation does not speak of a struggle for dominance between good and evil, between God and the devil. Rather, Revelation paints a picture of that already-won victory of God coming into all its fullness. To learn more about the Now-and-Not-Yet nature of God’s Kingdom, refer to a previous sermon (18 Feb 2024), available at BRMC’s YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/CyhwLHj-m5U>.
- b) Revelation does contain many images of divine judgement, including war, famine, plagues, earthquake, cosmic disruptions, etc. They are precisely depicting events or situations of extreme distress. It is natural that these feel scary or frightening. Revelation shakes readers out of their comfort zones, and show the seriousness and reality of God’s judgement.
- c) In addition to divine judgment, Revelation also speaks of persecution of the saints (i.e., the people of God). These are not examples of God punishing his own people, far from it. Instead, these are reminders that Christians of every generation will encounter hostility simply because we follow Jesus. Revelation encourages us to embrace this reality and to prepare ourselves to live faithfully and worship faithfully, regardless.

“

*While certain portions of Revelation feel scary, the book as a whole in fact presents a message of resilient hope and faithful worship*

## 9. Are we living in the last days?

- a) The Bible is crystal-clear that we are already living in the end-times or the last-days (Hebrews 1.2, 1 Corinthians 10.11, 1 Peter 1.20, 1 John 2.18). Jesus Christ, in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension, has already inaugurated the end-times or last-days.
- b) Scripture is also unequivocal that no one will know the exact day or time of Jesus’ return (Matthew 24.36, Mark 13.32, Acts 1.7).
- c) So, instead of calculating the future, we are to simply be ready, to watch and wait faithfully for the coming of Christ (Revelation 16.15, Matthew 24.42-44, Mark 13.33).

## 10. I have other questions...

There is, sadly, a fair amount of material out there on the book of Revelation, that can be contentious, one-sided, or just plain dodgy. Beware of what you read. We shared some trustworthy links in the various FAQs above. Here is some additional reliable material.

In 2020, Dr Tan Kim Huat (the Chen Su Lan Professor of New Testament at Trinity Theological College) conducted a four-part Equip Seminar series on the book of Revelation. Here are some specific highlights that you will find helpful:

a) Equip Seminar part 1 [https://youtu.be/pjuWPD\\_eOC4?si=c21VjBhzeUxAOO6B](https://youtu.be/pjuWPD_eOC4?si=c21VjBhzeUxAOO6B)

- 7.16-13.59 Scholarly models: Preterist, Idealist, Futurist
- 14.00-35.49 Listening Well to the book of Revelation
- 1.34.00-1.40.26 Connection with OT prophecy (Daniel)

b) Equip Seminar part 2 <https://youtu.be/5ZPTSz3oTtI?si=v-5giAuWbCM3BxUY>

- 6.13-18.37 The 7 churches don't represent particular periods in history.
- 1.15.56-1.18.58 The 4 Living Creatures and Connection with OT (Ezekiel)
- 1.21.05-1.32.55 The 7 Spirits of God and Connection with OT (Zechariah)
- 1.33.10-1.38.40 Worship of God

c) Equip Seminar part 3 <https://youtu.be/W5gXuhECYUY?si=21SyNwsdecsMtYRE>

- 4.23-28.10 The structure of the sets of 7 judgments
- 28.11-35.55 The 4 Horsemen
- 56.30-1.00.51 Armageddon
- 1.05.25-1.19.57 The 144000
- 1.21.05-1.24.18 The 2 Witnesses
- 1.24.19-1.51.45 The Beast and the number 666
- 2.23.50-2.24.52 The Dragon has already been defeated

d) Equip Seminar part 4 [https://youtu.be/n7e7nWO4IFA?si=Zqgue4s3\\_sf0-L8n](https://youtu.be/n7e7nWO4IFA?si=Zqgue4s3_sf0-L8n)

- 1.08.40-1.39.00 Views on the Millennium and Rapture
- 2.09.57-2.23.00 The Beast and the Mark of the Beast

e) If you would like to dive even deeper, we recommend the following books. These are from *Counterpoints* series by Zondervan publishing house, in which Bible scholars and theologians present and engage with multiple viewpoints with openness and humility (see [FAQ #6](#) and [#7](#))

- *Four Views on the Book of Revelation*
- *Three Views on the Millennium and Beyond*
- *Three Views on the Rapture: Pre-tribulation, Pre-wrath, or Post-tribulation*

f) If you want to go deeper still, here are some more-accessible commentaries.

- Craig Keener, *Revelation* (NIV Application Commentary series)
- Thomas Schreiner, *Revelation* (ESV Expository Commentary series)



- Ian Paul, *Revelation* (Tyndale NT Commentary series)
- Gordon Fee, *Revelation* (New Covenant Commentary series)

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