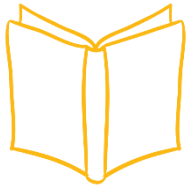


# DAILY DEVOTIONAL



March 17, 2020



**Read:** Psalm 97

**Key Verse:** Psalm 97:1 - *“The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad.”*

My family and I (Mr. Brooke) were walking up a sand dune during our summer vacation. It was challenging as I had a small person on my back and the sand shifted beneath my feet. The sand dune seemed to be steeper and longer with each step that I took. As we arrived at the top, I simply turned my body to look behind me. It was then that I looked over what seemed to be all of Lake Michigan. I felt like I was on top of the world as I could see further than I had in days, weeks, and even months. It was in that moment that I was reminded of two things about the God I love and serve.

- First:
  - o The Lord Reigns - Psalm 97:1 teaches us that the Lord is in control and has remarkable power. As I stood on the top of that sand dune I could see that God is in control of far more than I typically give him credit for. He is ruling over all creation and he isn't surprised by anything!
- Second:
  - o Let the Earth be Glad - The second part of Psalm 97:1 is SO important. Since we know that the Lord reigns, we should be glad, because he is SO GOOD! In moments when we are afraid, confused, stressed, or nervous, we must remember to be glad because GOD is bigger than our greatest fears. The ruler of the entire universe is one who can be trusted with all of our lives; the good and the challenging.

Today, as our school launches into learning away from our beautiful building, be reminded:

*“The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad.” – Psalm 97:1*



**Activity:**

Write, draw, or create something that will remind you that God is on the throne and rules over all things. Place what you create in a spot that can be seen throughout the day. You could write out verses, create a visual, or make a small throne. Be creative!



**Prayer:**

Say a prayer of thanksgiving to the God who reigns over all things!

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL



March 18, 2020



**Read:** Isaiah 40:15, 21-31

**Key Verse:** Isaiah 40:26

In 1973, I (Mr. Burgess) was in the middle of the Sinai Desert awaiting our climb up “Mt. Sinai” very early the next morning. That evening we were on a roof in St. Catherine’s Monastery (which had no electricity). As we gazed into the evening sky, we saw an incredible, vast display of God’s creativity, His power, and His majesty! The Milky Way could be easily seen across the sky. There were so many stars that it was difficult to pick out the constellations.



First:

- God has great power and mighty strength! Isaiah 40:26 gives us a demonstration of God’s amazing creation and His power. He created all these stars and named each one! He takes care of them; not one is missing!

Second:

- **God loves and cares for you!** Isaiah **40:11** has great news for us! In the vastness of the night sky and all the planets and stars, God takes care of YOU! “He tends his flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart.” When we think of all the unusual things going on in our world today, we can be sure that our God loves us and cares for us. The Ruler of the entire Universe is One who can be trusted with all of our lives—the good and the challenging.



**Activity:**

Tonight, *if there is a clear sky*, look in the WNW sky two hours after sunset (7:02 p.m.). You will be able to see Venus shining brightly! In the SE morning sky an hour before sunrise (6:58 a.m.), you can see Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars near the crescent moon! When you see God’s creation, remember His promise that He loves you!



**Prayer:**

Thank God for His Creation and His promise to love and care for you!

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL



March 19, 2020



**Read:** Exodus 33:12-19

**Key Verse:** Exodus 33:18

When I was in high school, I went up for a rebound at basketball practice. Unfortunately, another teammate desperately wanted the ball and went after it with even more energy than I did. As he lunged for the ball, his fingernail went right into my right eye. My eyes squeezed tighter than ever before as I fell on my back on the gym floor. It was in my moment of greatest need (and fear) that I immediately cried out to the King of Kings.

When I look at my spiritual life, I want to have the same type of urgency for prayer. God has granted us access to Him, the glorious King, at any moment of our day. With all that we have going on in our lives, we must pause and approach God with our greatest need, like we so often do with our physical injuries.

In Exodus 33, there is an incredible conversation between Moses and God. Moses is frustrated with his people who created a golden calf to worship in Exodus 32. As he talks with the Lord about their journey to the Promised Land, Moses says a sentence that I believe needs to be a prayer within our school. In Exodus 33:18 Moses says, "Show me your glorious presence."

I want to pray this prayer more often in my life, especially for these three groups of people.

First:

- I want to pray this for myself. I want to always be asking God to show me how big, powerful, and glorious He truly is. I never want to make Him small, and I must ask Him to show me who He is on a regular basis.

Second:

- My brothers and sisters in Christ. We have people all around us who are struggling with things we don't know about. They need to be shown that God is glorious, gracious, and with us. What if we asked God to show His glorious presence to 3 people today?

Third:

- Non-Christians. I want to pray for people who do not know Jesus. I want to pray that God would show them how glorious and good He truly is. I want to pray that people would know that God made them, loves them, wants them in His family, and has great things to accomplish with their lives. Would you be willing to pray for a few people today who don't know Jesus?

God took care of my eye injury. The Wheaton Eye Clinic “happened” to be open for a late night meeting, a doctor was willing to help, and I had emergency surgery that night. My vision was not affected in any way. The only repercussion from severing my tear duct was that my right eye waters quite a bit in the wind. If it ever appears that I am crying at the crosswalk, please know that I am more than ok!



**Activity:**

Spend some time in prayer asking God to show His glorious presence to you, three brothers or sisters in Christ, and a few non-believers who you would love to know Jesus.



**Prayer:**

Lord, show us Your glorious presence! We love You.

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL



March 20, 2020 – Mr. Burgess



**Read:** Exodus 34:29-35  
**Key Verse:** Exodus 34:29

Mr. Brooke's devotional yesterday was from Exodus 33. Today we are in the very next chapter! The Israelites have left Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, and are in the desert on the way to the Promised Land. In Exodus 20, Moses climbed Mt. Sinai to meet God who gave him the 2 stones with the 10 Commandments written on the front and back (Ex. 32:15) by the finger of God (Dt. 9:10)!

In our verses today, Moses came down from the mountain for the second time, and he did not realize that his face was radiant. **His face was glowing because he had been in the presence of the Glory of the Lord!** Moses at times had to put a veil or a thin covering over his face so he wouldn't scare people.

First:

- You are reading the Bible and this devotional today! Do you read it, forget it, and continue on with your day as if nothing has changed? Or do your actions let others know that you spent time with God, that you love God, and that you show love to others because of that? Today make sure that those around you (probably your brothers and sisters and your parents) know that you love God by the ways you are loving them! **Let your life glow as Moses' face glowed!**

Second:

- **One day you can also see the Glory of God as Moses did!** Read Revelation 21:22-27. In the New Jerusalem (Heaven), "the city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for **the Glory of God gives it light**, and the Lamb is its lamp." However, the only ones who will be there are those **whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life**" (21:27).



**Activity:**

You spent time learning about Moses today and how others knew he had spent time in the presence of God. Now let your family know that you spent time with God today **by showing them love and kindness**. By the way, is your name written in the Lamb's book of life? Today would be a great day to ask Jesus into your life, to commit your life to Him! Talk to Mom or Dad, and then let me know!



**Prayer:**

Thank God that His glory is awesome! Ask God to help you show His love to your family members today.