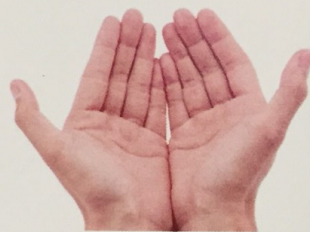


*You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of
every living thing, Psalm 145:16*



Our hands make our lives so much easier, yet we often take them for granted. Hands do many things: hands that offer help, clap for others, shake hands to greet, extend a hand of welcome and hands that touch to show love and care. This tool offers a five-week devotional reading schedule focused on how we use our hands for the sake of God and others

Matthew 6:5-15

Colossians 4:2-4

Philippians 4:4-7

Matthew 7:7-11

Week One: Pray

What did you learn about prayer today? Open your hands as you pray as a symbol of an open heart and mind to God. Thank God for your blessings and praise God for loving you. Pause to listen to what God may bring to mind to you. Bring your prayers for yourself and others to the Lord.

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Mark 10:41-45

John 12:23-26

Romans 12:9-11

1 Peter 4:10-11

Week Two: Serve

As you read these verses why is it important for Jesus followers to serve? Who and how do you serve? Or who and how could you serve? Think about your two hands as you pray and ask God to guide your thoughts and actions about serving others.

Matthew 6:24

Luke 10:25-37

John 15:9-17

Romans 8:31-39

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Week Three: Love

For God so loved the whole world that he sent his Son (John 3:16) to become one of us. The Bible is redundant about the message that God is love and we as Jesus' followers are to be people of love as well. What did you observe as you read these Scriptures? How will you respond?

Matthew 5:43-47

Luke 15:1-2

Romans 12:12-18

Romans 15:7

Hebrews 13:1-3

Week Four: Hospitality/Welcome

Hospitality (a Greek word meaning to befriend strangers) implies that we Jesus' followers are friend makers. Neighborhoods would be stronger if we knew our neighbors and watched out for them and their property. As church, this means we greet and welcome but also invite outsiders to come and worship. What jumped out for you as you reflected on these readings?

Matthew 25:31-40
(note v. 35)

Romans 15:4-6

Philippians 2:1-4

Colossians 2:1-3

Philemon 1:4-7

Week Five: Encouragement

As a community of Jesus' followers, we need each other as an

encouragement in our life and faith

We encourage (giving courage, hope and confidence) when we pray

for others in times of struggles as

well as give a witness to our Lord

when we see God's blessing,

comfort and presence. How will

you respond to what these verses

say about encouragement?

Romans 1:8-12