



AN "AT HOME WORSHIP EXPERIENCE"

of First Baptist Church of Buda, Texas
Sunday, March 29, 2020

This "At Home Worship Experience" is provided by First Baptist Church of Buda, Texas to be used in the home during this unprecedented time of home confinement due to the threat imposed by the Coronavirus. During this time when we are unable to meet together we can still do church in our homes and worship our God who is still on the throne, and is worthy of all worship, honour, and praise. This worship experience tool can be used any time you want, but we are encouraging you to go through this worship experience on Sunday morning, March 29 at 10:45 a.m. (our regular worship time). This way we can all be worshipping together,

at the same time. Although we aren't worshipping in one place we are worshipping together all over the Buda and Kyle area at the same time, and our hearts can be united in our worship. Follow the provided order of service as closely as possible, but please feel free to adapt the service to what best fits your family and guests that may be worshipping with you. Some suggestions would be to assigning different parts of the service to each family member. Please don't forget to include any children or young people who may be in your home. Children and young people can pray, read Scripture and sing, and may offer much insight in the discussion portion of the guide.

At Home Worship Experience Outline

Opening Prayer/Call to Worship – *Have someone lead in an opening prayer!*

Scripture Reading #1 - Read: Romans 8:18-30

1. What is Paul telling us in verse 8 about times of suffering and hardship? What does this mean for Christians/believers today and in our present situation?
2. What do you think Paul means in verses 19-22 when he talks about "creation" being "subjected to futility" (v.20), and "creation" groaning (v.22)? What are the effects of sin and suffering, what might Paul be telling us concerning the reason there is suffering today?
3. Sometimes it is hard to know how to pray when we are going through times of hardship, trial and suffering. What encouragement does Paul give us concerning our prayers in verse 26? What does this mean to you personally? How might this change our attitude toward prayer and how we pray?
4. Verse 28 is one of those verses that we hear quoted quite often. Read verse 28 again out loud. How has this verse been misused? What do you think the verse is really saying to our lives as believers, especially in the context of verses 29-30?
5. What is this passage so encouraging in the face of times of suffering and hardship, and especially in what we are going through right now?

Sing this Hymn - "Amazing Grace"

*"Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear, and Grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear the hour I first believed.
Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come.
'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home.
When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun."*

Devotional Reading and Discussion -

William Wilberforce was a British politician, philanthropist, and a leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade. In 1785, he became an evangelical Christian, which resulted in major changes to his lifestyle and a lifelong concern for reform. John Newton, the author of the song "Amazing Grace," was instrumental in Wilberforce becoming a Christian and his work against the slave trade. A movie was made about Wilberforce's life titled by the name of the famous song.

The following is a great quote from William Wilberforce. Read the quote and then discuss the quote and how it might apply to us today, *"To live our lives and miss that great purpose we were designed to accomplish is truly a sin. It is inconceivable that we could be bored in a world with so much wrong to tackle, so much ignorance to reach and so much misery we could alleviate"*

Scripture Reading #2 – Read: Psalm 27

How does this Psalm relate to what we are going through right now? Read and discuss the following devotional thought.

In unsettling times, such as a pandemic, we can find our peace in the presence of the Lord. He is the only one who can effectively prevent the contagious epidemic of fear.

Yet, we live in a fallen world that keeps us fearfully treading from one crisis to the next. It seems like every morning we wake up to a new peril: virus pandemics, new flu strains, Coronavirus, recessions, earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, floods, fires, or any natural disaster...even the threat of other countries attacking us.

Then there are our own financial, physical, relational, health, and personal crises that often catch us by surprise and strike terror into our hearts. We feel helpless as events spin out of our control.

Sing this Hymn - "In My Life Be Glorified"

*"In my life Lord, be glorified, be glorified! In my life Lord, be glorified, be glorified today.
In Your church Lord, be glorified, be glorified! In Your church Lord, be glorified, be glorified today.
In my home Lord, be glorified, be glorified! In my home Lord, be glorified, be glorified today.
In my words Lord, be glorified, be glorified! In my words Lord, be glorified, be glorified today."*

Devotional Thoughts –

Question: "What does the Bible say about pandemic diseases/sicknesses?"

Answer: Various outbreaks of pandemic diseases, such as Ebola or the coronavirus, have prompted many to ask why God allows—or even causes—pandemic diseases and whether such illnesses are a sign of the end times. The Bible, particularly the Old Testament, describes numerous occasions when God brought plagues and diseases on His people and on His enemies *"to make you see my power"* (Exodus 9:14, 16). He used plagues on Egypt to force Pharaoh to free the Israelites from bondage, while sparing His people from being affected by them (Exodus 12:13; 15:26), thus indicating His sovereign control over diseases and other afflictions. God also warned His people of the consequences of disobedience, including plagues (Leviticus 26:21, 25). On two occasions, God destroyed 14,700 people and 24,000 people for various acts of disobedience (Numbers 16:49 and 25:9). After giving the Mosaic Law, God commanded the people to obey it or suffer many evils, including something that could sound something like Coronavirus, or like Ebola or some other infectious disease: *"The Lord will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation . . . which will plague you until you perish"* (Deuteronomy 28:22). These are just a few examples of many plagues and diseases God caused.

It's sometimes hard to imagine our loving and merciful God displaying such wrath and anger toward His people. But God's punishments always have the goal of repentance and restoration. In 2 Chronicles 7:13–14, God said to Solomon, *"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,*

then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Here we see God using disaster to draw His people to Himself, to bring about repentance and the desire to come to Him as children to their heavenly Father.

In the New Testament, Jesus healed “every disease and every sickness,” as well as plagues in the areas He visited (Matthew 9:35; 10:1; Mark 3:10). Just as God chose to use plagues and disease to show His power to the Israelites, Jesus healed as an exhibition of the same power to verify that He was truly the Son of God. He gave the same healing power to the disciples to verify their ministry (Luke 9:1). God still allows sickness for His own purposes, but sometimes disease, even worldwide pandemics, are simply the result of living in a fallen world. There is no way to determine whether or not a pandemic has a specific spiritual cause, but we do know that God has sovereign control over all things (Romans 11:36) and will work all things together for the good of those who know and love Him (Romans 8:28).

The spread of sicknesses such as Ebola and the coronavirus is a foretaste of pandemics that will be part of the end times. Jesus referred to future plagues associated with the last days (Luke 21:11). The two witnesses of Revelation 11 will have power “*to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want*” (Revelation 11:6). Seven angels will wield seven plagues in a series of final, severe judgments described in Revelation 16.

The appearance of pandemic diseases may or may not be tied to God’s specific judgment of sin. It could also simply be the result of living in a fallen world. Since no one knows the time of Jesus’ return, we must be careful about saying global pandemics are proof that we are living in the end times. For those who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior, disease should be a reminder that life on this earth is tenuous and can be lost at any moment. As bad as pandemics are, hell will be worse. The Christian, however, has the assurance of salvation and the hope of eternity because of the blood of Christ shed on the cross for us (Isaiah 53:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:28).

How should Christians respond to pandemic diseases?

- (1) First, do not panic. God is in control. The Bible says the equivalent of "do not fear" over 300 times.***
- (2) Second, be wise. Take reasonable steps to avoid exposure to the disease and to protect and provide for your family.***
- (3) Third, look for opportunities for ministry. Often when people are fearful for their lives, they are more willing to have conversations about eternity. Be bold and compassionate in your sharing of the Gospel, always speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).***

Closing Prayer & Song - “Family of God”

“I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God. I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, for I’m part of the family, the family of God.”

SPECIAL NOTE: This “At Home Worship Experience” is just for one week (3/29/20). If we continue to be unable to meet we will provide further “At Home Worship Experience” material for you and your family to use at home to worship together. These will be available on our website www.firstbaptistbuda.com. Locate the green house “At Home Worship Experience” icon on the front page of our website and simply click there. You may download and print the material or use it directly from the site. For more information or if you have questions contact our church office.