

What the Shepherd Wants

 **ISAIAH 40:11**

What a beautiful image of God. God takes care of his flock like a shepherd, and He gathers them up and carries them close to His heart. Such beauty! Such tenderness! Such gentleness and compassion!

God isn't interested in giving out tickets to punish His wayward flock. He is not interested in running after them and scolding them and making them feel bad and guilty. He wants them to come back in and be a part of the flock, to come back home and be a part of his family again. And so what does He do? He goes after them. And when He finds them He picks them up into His arms and holds them dearly and gently brings them back home to Himself. I don't know about you, but there's something about that truth that feels very good and reassuring to me. "Encourage people," said God to Isaiah, "Tell them they have suffered long enough." Don't run away from God; don't turn your back on God. He made you. He loves you. He wants to forgive you, to heal you, to restore you. He wants to be with you forever.

Finding the Best

 **MATTHEW 6:33**

God created all things—the earth, the plants, the animals, our work, and even our personal relationships. All things were made for us, for our good or for our use.

But God never meant for things to take priority over our relationship with Him. God made all things and called them "good." But, He never said they were the "best." The best is only found in a relationship with God Himself. And God's greatest desire is to give His children His best.

When we are "born from above" we become a child of God—a brother or sister of Christ and a co-heir of Heaven itself. The Spirit of God that was in Jesus is placed inside us. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to live God's best life. We are His and our feet are on the path to discovering the best.

God promises His presence when we put Him first. In God's presence we find complete satisfaction: security, acceptance, joy, rest, unconditional love, and down-to-the-bone peace in our souls. Too many people get their priorities wrong - they worship things and use God. If you want the best that God offers His children, put your relationship with God first.

HEART&HOME

FRAZER'S WEEKLY PERSONAL AND FAMILY STUDY GUIDE

FEBRUARY 19-26, 2012

SANCTUARY EDITION

 **TRANSFORMING THOUGHT**

God's plans are always better than ours, but they always interrupt ours.

YEARLY BIBLE READING PLAN

In addition to the daily readings in this guide, you can read the following chapters to go through the whole Bible in a year:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Monday, February 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 26-28 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 13:13-25 |
| Tuesday, February 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 14:1-18 |
| Wednesday, February 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 5-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 14:19-35 |
| Thursday, February 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 9-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 15:1-17 |
| Friday, February 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 12-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 15:18-33 |
| Saturday, February 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 15-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 16:1-16 |

 **MEMORY VERSE**

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

PSALM 46:10 NIV

word centered world changing

ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Prelude: *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*..... Timothy Wilson
 Welcome to Worship..... Dr. Tim Thompson
 Call to Worship: *Lift High the Cross*..... Choir
 Hymn #98: *To God be the Glory*..... Congregation
 Special Music: *Let Me Hide Myself in Thee*..... Good News Singers
 Special Music: *Great Day*..... Choir; Janet Gibson, soloist
 Prayer Dr. Neil Epler
 Hymn: *Something About That Name*..... Congregation
 I Could Sing of Your Love Forever Congregation
 Announcements & Call for Offering..... Dr. Neil Epler
 Offertory: *Satisfied*..... Men's Quartet
 Doxology Congregation
 Sermon..... Dr. Tim Thompson
 Hymn #340: *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* Congregation
 Benediction Dr. Tim Thompson
 Postlude: *Amazing Grace* Timothy Wilson
 Acolytes serving in the Sanctuary this Sunday are Adrian and Elijah Rodriguez at 9:30 a.m., and Nathan Baxter and Lexie Heacockat 11 a.m.

SINNERS "R" US

Mark 2:13-17 “ Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him. Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?" When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." (NLT)

A Dirty Job

A Clear Invitation

A Cool Party

Dr. Tim Thompson

SPREAD THE WORD

Hear today's message again and share it with a friend. Pick up a CD in the Atrium, watch on WFRZ TV or online at frazerumc.org/media, or download the podcast at frazerumc.org/podcast.

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 20, 2012

Interruption

 **MARK 3:1-6**

Have you ever fasted? What is a fast? The purpose of a fast is to interrupt the routines of everyday life in order to sharpen our awareness of the eternal. The purpose of fasting is to put us in touch with what matters most in life—the love and the grace of God.

There are good reasons to fast. It is a way of self-denial, a way to govern our appetites and to allow the spiritual, godly dimensions of life to have first place in our life. Sometimes a fast is good when you are seeking to discern God's will about an important decision you are trying to make. Fasting allows you to minimize the distractions in order to better hear God's voice and guidance.

We think of fasting in terms of food. But what if you had a technology fast? One day a week, turn off the computer, the TV, the iPad, and the phones. Spend that day wholly focused on the Lord and his word. Fasting will increase your awareness of the power and the presence of the Lord. We don't fast in order for others to think how religious and pious we are; we fast in order to be totally centered on God.

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 21, 2012

The Still

 **GENESIS 2:2**

Even God called a time out. On the seventh day God rested.

God did not create us to be bionic or we would come with a blinking circuit box on our foreheads. Our minds and bodies are constructed for only a certain amount of work. We need rest. We need God's rest.

Rest is not just a good night's sleep. Rest is having the peace of God in your soul. Rest is restoring your soul.

In the British navy if there is a disaster aboard ship, 'the still' is blown. This particular still is not a place where whiskey is made but rather a whistle which calls the crew to a moment of silence in times of crisis. When the still is blown, every person knows that it means 'prepare to do the wise thing'. It is said that that moment of calm has helped avert many disasters and kept people from foolish actions.

The purpose of the Sabbath is the blowing of the still. Rest, catch your breath, pause, center on the Savior, and listen for God. Practice the still. It can keep you avert disaster.

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 22, 2012

Atlas Complex

 **ISAIAH 30:15**

Have you ever felt like you had the weight of the world on your shoulders? Sometimes the stuff of life gets really heavy. There never seems to be enough money or time to get it all done. Trying to balance family, health, finances, job, church, and hobbies is some days overwhelming. We need a way to replenish our energy and our souls.

God gave us a way when he created the Sabbath. Keeping the Sabbath is taking time to make a day holy to God—a time set apart to God—while we remember who we are and who God is. We remember that God is the king of this place. He has got you and me and the whole world in his hands. We may deal with stuff bigger than we are, but we will never face anything beyond God's ability to handle.

The Sabbath is for rest, remembering, and relationship. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy, a day set apart for God. Remember that "in returning to Him and resting you shall be saved."

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 23, 2012

Don't Day

 **MARK 2:27**

Growing up in the 60's, Sunday was more about *not* doing things than doing them. We didn't mow the grass on Sunday; that would be work. We were not allowed to hunt on Sunday (although it was okay to fish). I never did understand the difference.

In the Bible the Pharisee's had hundreds of "don'ts" that governed the Sabbath. Don't work, don't walk too far, don't cook, don't pick up your child if he was carrying a stone, don't clean.

God never intended the Sabbath to be a day of "don't." God said, "I made the Sabbath for man." God commanded that one day a week was to be spent in rest and communion with Him. It is on this day that we remember that we are children of God. Sabbath rest is a day that gives boundaries to our work. It is a day for renewing our souls. It is day when we remember we are not in charge. We find on the Sabbath real rest. "Come unto to me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." That's the rest that restores.