

# May - A Time of Renewal

Reading and studying The Word is the best way to renew your spirit. When we join together as a community of Believers for God's Kingdom, amazing things will happen! Our hope is that you will join us for this time of group focus on the scriptures below. (I did not include scripture for Sunday, feel free to choose your own or study the scripture used in the Sunday message.)

**May 2** -Psalm 95:1-3 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. 3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

- How can you praise him every day?
- How would praising God daily, change your day?

**May 3** Psalm 95:4-7 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. 6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; 7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if only you would hear his voice.

- Take some time today to appreciate God's creation.
- Do you hear his voice when you wonder at his masterpiece?

**May 4** Psalm 95:8-11 "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, 9 where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did. 10 For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.' 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' "

- Meribah and Massah are places that the people tested God. See Exodus 17:7. Do you ever find yourself questioning God? Has your heart gone astray? How was your faith and overall life effected?
- What do you think it means in verse 11, "They shall never enter my rest"?

**May 5** Psalm 96:1-3 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

- What words in this scripture especially stand out to you? Why? Do you think God is speaking to you?
- How would our world look if we all declared and proclaimed God every day and to all people?

**May 6** Psalm 96:4-6 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

- How do you interrupt "feared above all gods"? Refer to Genesis 20:11
- Read Psalm 115 as a follow up to this scripture.

**May 7** Psalm 96:7-9 Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. 9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

- Definition of Ascribed: to refer to a supposed cause, source, or author: to say or think that (something) is caused by, comes from, or is associated with a particular person or thing. How do you *ascribe* to the Lord?
- What were his courts? What are his courts now?

**May 9** Psalm 96:10-13 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. 11 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. 12 Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. 13 Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

- Scripture begins with "The LORD Reigns" and then it goes on to tell us why and how. How does God reign according to this scripture?
- The words "let all" is repeated several times in this scripture. How would you complete the sentence, "Let all \_\_\_\_\_"? What does the world need right now?

**May 10** Genesis 12:1-3 1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

- Just as God asked Abram to leave his home, God will also ask us to get out of our comfort zone. Is God calling you to serve in a new way? Is it your time to do something new?
- How are you a blessing to others? Who has been a blessing to you?

**May 11** Isaiah 9:2-3 2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

- Have you experienced a time when you felt you were walking in darkness? What brought you into the light?
- What do you rejoice about? What brings you joy?

**May 12** Isaiah 9:4-5 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

(Isaiah is referring to Gideon's defeat of the Midian's and is prophesying that God will defeat the Assyrian's that are oppressing the Israelites.)

- The world is filled with oppressors. How do you see God working and moving in the world to defeat oppression?
- Do you feel you have a place in God's army? How are you allowing God to use you to end oppression?

**May 13** Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

- Read this passage several times. Reflect on each line and the enormity of the message.
- Pray a prayer of thanksgiving because you are a member of his kingdom.

**May 14** Isaiah 11:1-3 1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD-- 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

- Jesus is referred to as the stump of Jesse, which is King David's son. Lineage is important as it gives credibility. We are all descendants of a great heritage. What does that mean to you?
- "The Spirit of the Lord" is used repeatedly. Have you ever felt the spirit of the Lord surrounding you? Maybe during a time of grieving, trouble, need for forgiveness, time of great joy?

**May 16** Isaiah 40:1-3 1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

- Israel had been suffering a long time. You may feel that you have been suffering as well. Or, you may feel that the world suffers. God is telling Israel and he tells us to take comfort in the Lord. Thank God for his comfort in times of trouble.
- Isn't it amazing that although we turn away from God, God still comforts and cares for us? Pray for your faith to grow and your self-centered ways to diminish.

**May 17** Isaiah 40:3-5 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

- What have you learned from being in the wilderness?
- Verse 5 is especially powerful. It brings to mind the importance and power of community. Do you think your faith is strengthened when you are part of a faith community?

**May 18** Isaiah 58:9-10 9 Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, 10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

- Such a powerful message! What speaks to you? What do you need to hear?
- Do you call for God as a last resort or is He the first line of defense?

**May 19** Isaiah 58:11-12 The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. 12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

- Do you sometimes feel like you live in a sun-scorched land? What does God promise us in this scripture?
- How can we be rebuilders?

**May 20** Isaiah 60:1-5 1 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. 2 See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. 3 Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. 5 Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.

- Read this passage several times. What feelings emerge?
- Even though we live in a broken place, God's light shines on us. What are the assurances and blessings God is promising us in this passage?

**May 21** Revelations 21:1-5 1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

- Read this passage several times. It is our eternal promise of a place with God.
- How does this promise change your perspective on your current earthly life?

*Thank you for participating and supporting this time of Renewal!  
I pray that your journey be blessed.*