

## Book of Faith

### Opening Scripture, Joining in Conversation

**Monday, May 24**

**Read Joel 2:18-29**

Back from exile in Babylon, trying to rebuild their lives and the temple in Jerusalem, these words are gospel as Israel receives the promise that God is in their midst in these difficult times, and will never again let them be put to shame. When has God been with you in the midst of difficult times?

**Tuesday, May 25**

**Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-11**

Paul says he came to the Corinthians in weakness and fear with much trembling. His message is not one of lofty words of wisdom, but from his experience of God working in him. How might you witness? With lofty words, or from your experience?

**Wednesday, May 26**

**Read Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31**

In this reading, wisdom is connected to God from the beginning of creation. Does this mean we have an inborn wisdom? How, then, might this affect how we live our lives?

**Thursday, May 27**

**Read Psalm 8**

A favorite psalm of mine praises God as creator of heaven and earth, and ties humans to all of creation. What does it mean to you to be given dominion over the works of God's hands?

**Friday, May 28**

**Read Romans 5:1-5**

Paul's words describe a refining process. During times of suffering, physically or emotionally, I don't look at what the end will be, but want only to be done with it. When you have suffered, what was the refining process? The end result?

**Saturday, May 29**

**Read John 16:12-15**

There are many things that were not told to us by Christ because we were not ready to hear them. John's gospel concludes: "If everything that Jesus did were written down, I suppose the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." (21:25) The Spirit of truth came to guide us. When do we hear the Spirit? How do we hear? Do we listen?

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## The Book of Faith Initiative

### Opening Scripture, Joining in Conversation

You and your community of faith are invited to join with congregations, mission and ministry centers, and over 130,000 baptized in conversation with the Word and one another.

These downloadable, print ready, devotional pages are based upon the Revised Common Lectionary texts, and are written by people you know—the lay leaders and pastors of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. We hope every congregation will find creative ways to be engaged in the Word, so that together we might grow in fluency in the first language of faith, the Scriptures.

Use them for:

- **Bible conversations at circle meetings, youth events, text studies, or at a new gathering started in your community to grow in God's grace and calling.**
- **As an opening for council or other meetings in your congregation.**
- **To enhance your worship experience as you anticipate the following Sunday.**
- **Family conversations.**
- **Online discussion using the social network platform at [bookoffaith.ning.com](http://bookoffaith.ning.com).**
- **For personal devotion and edification in the Word.**

These devotions are available on the Synod website. If you would like to author one of these, contact a Book of Faith Task Force Member, or send an email to:

[jtdahlvang@hotmail.com](mailto:jtdahlvang@hotmail.com).