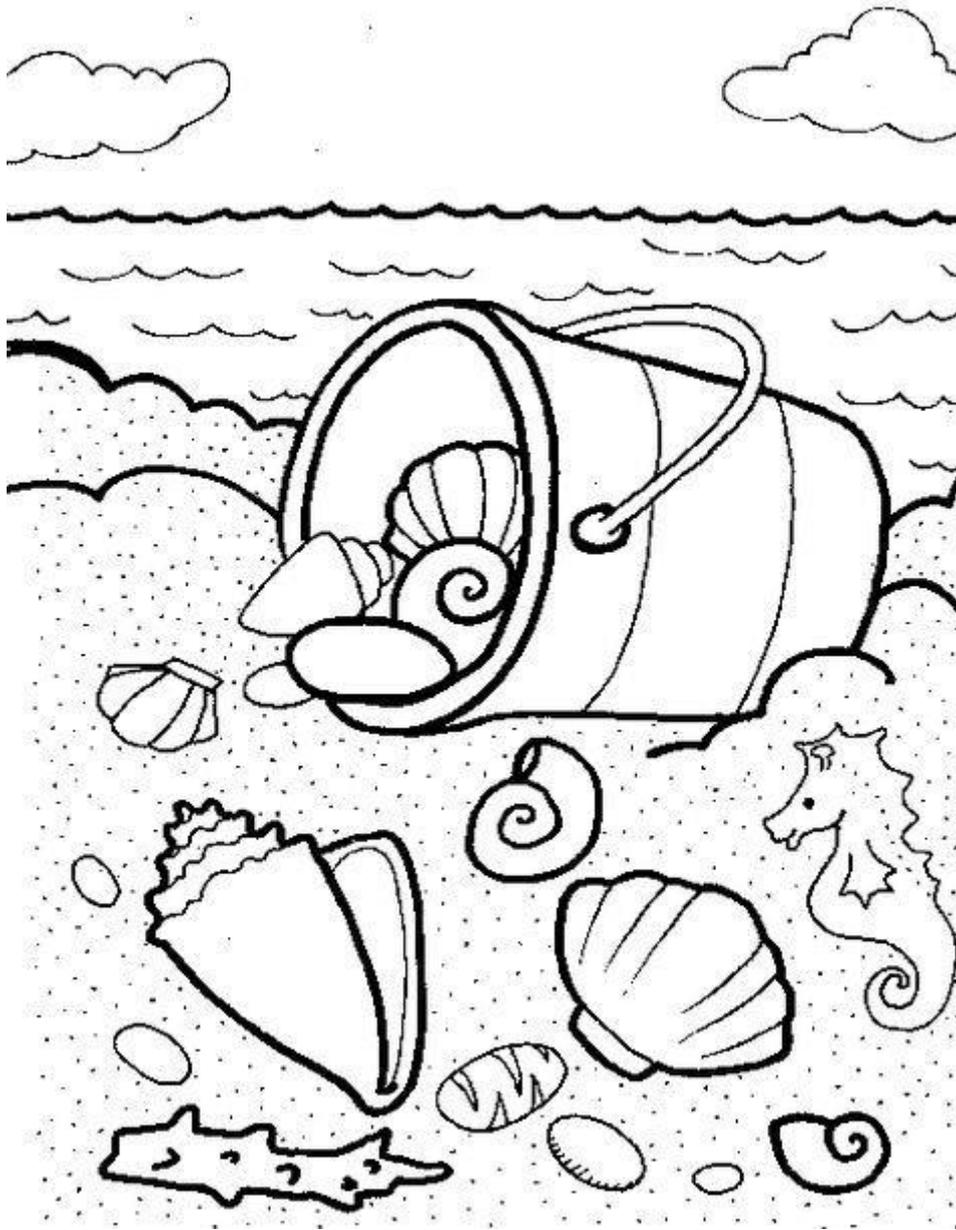


# FORTY DAYS OF SUMMER 2022



**SUNDAY 24-JULY TO THURSDAY 1-SEPTEMBER**

**daily ABIDE resources**

For further resources, visit our website:

**[saintwulstans.online](http://saintwulstans.online)**

## **HOW DO I USE THESE RESOURCES?**

There are twenty-four readings over six weeks for you to use at home, on holidays, on your own or with others. Don't worry about falling behind. Just do the reading for the day that it happens to be, or gently work your way through the whole letter.

### **ALLOW YOURSELF TIME FOR THIS MOMENT WITH GOD**

Make it special. Will you make a cuppa? Do you want to sit in a special place? Will you light a candle? Take five deep breaths. Check-in with how you're feeling – in body, mind, and spirit. Take five more deep breaths and ask God to abide with you in this moment

### **BIBLE READING FOR TODAY**

You can read daily verses in this booklet, which are from The Passion Translation of the New Testament. You can use any version that you are comfortable with, of course

### **I WONDER**

Take time to reflect on the 'bucket and shells' box. You may like to keep a journal of what you ponder over the course of the six weeks

### **DAYDREAM WITH GOD**

Take a few moments to let your thoughts roam around as you sit quietly with God

### **END WITH PRAYER**

Turn to page 15 and choose the prayers for the right time of day, or simply say the Lord's Prayer for yourself.



## COLOSSIANS --- WISH YOU WERE HERE?

This summer's resources for daily prayer take us through a letter written by Paul to the Christians meeting together in Colossae. Colossae was a market town in what is now present-day Turkey. It was overshadowed by the two bigger towns in the area, Laodicea and Hierapolis (see Colossians 4:13) but it held a special place in Paul's heart. Epaphras had been released from Paul's ministry in Ephesus to go to Colossae and try to start a vibrant Christian congregation. This means that the Colossians are like Paul's 'grandchildren' and he cares deeply about how they are getting on. The young church was struggling with its direction and values. Epaphras, in his concern, visited Paul in prison to seek his wisdom, and so Paul wrote this letter to them all. The two other churches in the cluster, Laodicea and Hierapolis, were facing the same struggles, because Paul wants the Christians there to read the letter too (see Colossians 4:16). All this is around thirty years after the Resurrection.

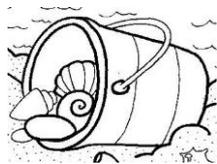
This is a real letter to real people in a real situation. And it is not written to individuals, but to the congregations in the cluster of churches. The word "you" comes up over 150 times in this short letter. It's tempting to read "you" and make it individual, as if Paul is talking to you, as one person, directly. It works best if we read it with an "us, we, our" mindset, rather than a "I, me, mine" one.

*you*  
Matter

Sunday 24-July to Saturday 30-July

### WEEK ONE | JESUS OUR CONFIDENCE

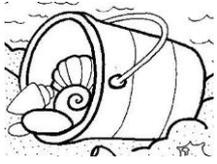
**DAY 1** | Dear friends in Colossae, my name is Paul and I have been chosen by Jesus Christ to be his apostle, by the calling and destined purpose of God. My colleague, Timothy, and I send this letter to all the holy believers who have been united to Jesus as beloved followers of the Messiah. May God, our true Father, release upon your lives the riches of his kind favour and heavenly peace through the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One. Every time we pray for you our hearts overflow with thanksgiving to Father God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



What an amazing way to greet old friends! I wonder which Christian friends you go way back with. Who has been part of your faith story over the years? Is there anyone you'd like to reconnect with this summer?

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**DAY 2** | For we have heard of your devoted lives of faith in Christ Jesus and your tender love toward all his holy believers. Your faith and love rise within you as you access all the treasures of your inheritance. For the revelation of the true gospel is as real today as the day you first heard of our glorious hope, now that you have believed in the truth of the gospel. This is the wonderful message that is being spread everywhere, powerfully changing hearts throughout the earth, just like it has changed you! Every believer of this good news bears the fruit of eternal life as they experience the reality of God's grace.



I expect that the folk listening to this description of themselves went, "Huh?" I wonder why our day-to-day lives of faith don't seem very spectacular to us. What do you remember of how you got started in Christian faith? And how might you describe where you are with faith right now?

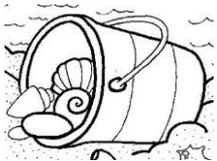
**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**DAY 3** | Our beloved co-worker, Epaphras, was there from the beginning to thoroughly teach you the astonishing revelation of the gospel, and he serves you faithfully as Christ's representative. He's informed us of the many wonderful ways love is being demonstrated through your lives by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Since we first heard about you, we've kept you

*\* This could also  
be translated  
"experience God's  
will for your lives." \**

always in our prayers that you would *\*receive the perfect knowledge of God's pleasure\** over your lives, making you reservoirs of every kind of wisdom and spiritual understanding. We pray that you would walk in the ways of true righteousness, pleasing God in every good thing you do. Then you'll become fruit bearing branches,

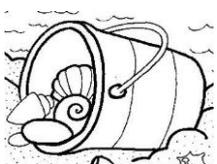
yielding to his life, and maturing in the rich experience of knowing God in his fullness! And we pray that you would be energized with all his explosive power from the realm of his magnificent glory, filling you with great hope.



Epaphras has been happily boasting to Paul about how well things have been going with the church in Colossae. I wonder if you are feeling filled with great hope. What are the good things happening in our churches right now?

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**DAY 4** | Your hearts can soar with joyful gratitude when you think of how God made you worthy to receive the glorious inheritance freely given to us by living in the light. He has rescued us completely from the authority of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom realm of his beloved Son. For in the Son all our sins are cancelled and we have the release of redemption through his very blood.



I wonder what hymn or worship song you would choose to express what Paul's saying here. He wants them to be a joyful bunch who know how to celebrate, doesn't he!

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

MIDWEEK  
MEANWHILES  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**27-JULY**

10am  
Midweek Communion  
at St Barnabas  
11.45am  
Garden Church at  
St Wulstans Vicarage

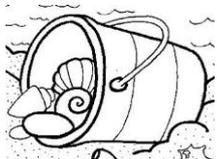
**LUKE 11:5-8 | FRIENDS AT MIDNIGHT**

Imagine that one of your friends comes over at midnight. He bangs on the door and shouts, “Friend, will you lend me three loaves of bread? A friend of mine just showed up unexpectedly from a journey, and I don’t have anything to feed him.” Would you shout out from your bed, “I’m already in bed, and so are the kids. I already locked the door. I can’t be bothered”? You know this as well as I do: even if you didn’t care that this fellow was your friend, if he keeps knocking long enough, you’ll get up and give him whatever he needs simply because of his brash persistence!

Sunday 31-July to Saturday 6-August

**WEEK TWO | JESUS OUR LORD**

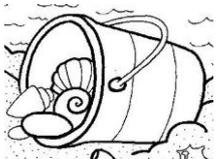
**DAY 1** | For in the Son all our sins are cancelled and we have the release of redemption through his very blood. He is the divine portrait, the true likeness of the invisible God, and the firstborn heir of all creation. For in him was created the universe of things, both in the heavenly realm and on the earth, all that is seen and all that is unseen. Every seat of power, realm of government, principality, and authority—it all exists through him and for his purpose! He existed before anything was made, and now everything finds completion in him.



As Paul writes about Jesus here, he wants to make sure that the people don’t have too small a Jesus in mind. Try to find a natural object like a bird or a tree or the stars that you can gaze at for a while today, and remind yourself that everything in creation tells of Jesus the creator in some way.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

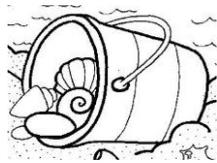
**DAY 2** | He is the Head of his body, which is the church. And since he is the beginning and the firstborn heir in resurrection, he is the most exalted One, holding first place in everything. For God is satisfied to have all his fullness dwelling in Christ. And by the blood of his cross, everything in heaven and earth is brought back to himself—back to its original intent, restored to innocence again!



“Holding the first place in everything” is a real title from Paul’s day, THE HOLDER OF THE FIRST PLACE. He trying to reassure people that difficult days, Jesus is not overwhelmed. I wonder how this might help you pray for people and situations in our chaotic times.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

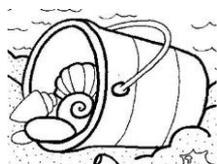
**DAY 3** | Even though you were once distant from him, living in the shadows of your evil thoughts and actions, he reconnected you back to himself. He released his supernatural peace to you through the sacrifice of his own body as the sin-payment on your behalf so that you would dwell in his presence.



Every time we turn on the news, it seems that evil is at work in the world. Technically though, evil means anything that causes harm. What does Paul say here about the consequences of evil and about Jesus' response to it?

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**DAY 4** | And now there is nothing between you and Father God, for he sees you as holy, flawless, and restored, if indeed you continue to advance in faith, assured of a firm foundation to grow upon. Never be shaken from the hope of the gospel you have believed in. And this is the glorious news I preach all over the world.



What a wonderful idea. "There is nothing between you and Father God, for he sees you as holy, flawless and restored." I wonder how easy it is for you believe this.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**MIDWEEK  
MEANWHILES  
WEDNESDAY  
3-AUGUST**

10am  
Midweek Communion  
at St Barnabas  
11.45am  
Garden Church at  
St Wulstans Vicarage

**LUKE 8:16-18 | THE LAMP ON A STAND**

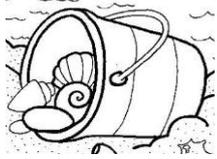
You wouldn't light a lamp and cover it with a clay pot. You're not going to hide it under your bed. No, when you light it, you're going to put it out in the open so your guests can feel welcome and see where they're going. Hidden things will always come out into the open. Secret things will come to light and be exposed. I hope you're still listening. And I hope you're listening carefully. If you get what I'm saying, you'll get more. If you miss My meaning, even the understanding you think you have will be taken from you.

Sunday 7-August to Saturday 13-August

**WEEK THREE | JESUS OUR ROCK**

**DAY 1** | I can even celebrate the sorrows I have experienced on your behalf; for as I join with you in your difficulties, it helps you to discover what lacks in your understanding. This is the very reason I've been made a minister by the authority of God and a servant to his body, so that in his detailed plan I would fully equip you with the Word of God. There is a divine mystery—a secret surprise that has been concealed from the world for generations, but now it's being revealed, unfolded and manifested for every holy believer to experience. Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest

of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it! Christ is our message!

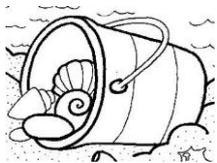


We begin to get the hint here that the church in Colossae was struggling to understand some aspects of Christianity, and how to keep its mission on track. I wonder what issues the churches are struggling with today. What do you find particularly confusing or frustrating about church?

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

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**DAY 2** | Christ is our message! We preach to awaken hearts and bring every person into the full understanding of truth. It has become my inspiration and passion in ministry to labour with a tireless intensity, with his power flowing through me, to present to every believer the revelation of being his perfect one in Jesus Christ.

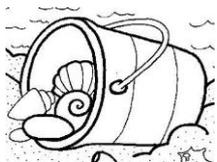


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**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

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**DAY 3** | I wish you could know how much I have struggled for you and for the many other friends I've yet to meet. I am contending for you that your hearts will be wrapped in the comfort of heaven and woven together into love's fabric. This will give you access to all the riches of God as you experience the revelation of God's great mystery—Christ. For our spiritual wealth is in him, like hidden treasure waiting to be discovered—heaven's wisdom and endless riches of revelation knowledge.

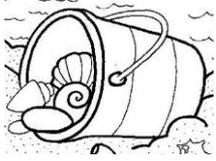


Paul is being very honest here about the joys and the heartaches of being a Christian minister. I wonder what you value most in the ministers who look out for you. How does it feel to realise that that for some people you are the only minister or pastor that they really know?

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

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**DAY 4** | I want you to know this so that no one will come and lead you into error through their persuasive arguments and clever words. Even though I'm separated from you geographically, my spirit is present there with you. And I'm overjoyed to see how disciplined and deeply committed you are because you have such a solid faith in Christ, the Anointed One. In the same way you received Jesus our Lord and Messiah by faith, continue your journey of faith, progressing further into your union with him! Your spiritual roots go deeply into his life as you are continually infused with strength, encouraged in every way. For you are established in the faith you have absorbed and enriched by your devotion to him!



We get the big clue here about what is going wrong for this non-Jewish church. Troublemakers travelled around telling non-Jewish believers that they weren't good enough because they 'only trusted in Jesus' when what they really needed was to keep all kinds of rules from the old days. Paul wants his friends in Colossae to see through all this nonsense. I wonder what issues get us side-tracked in this day and age.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

## MIDWEEK MEANWHILES

### WEDNESDAY

### 10-AUGUST

10am

Midweek Communion  
at St Barnabas

11.45am

Garden Church at  
St Wulstans Vicarage

### LUKE 6:46-49 | TWO HOUSEBUILDERS

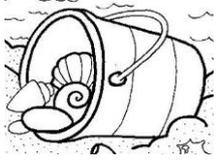
What good is it to mouth the words, "Lord! Lord!" if you don't live by My teachings? What matters is that you come to Me, hear My words, and actually live by them. If you do that, you'll be like the man who wanted to build a sturdy house. He dug down deep and anchored his foundation to solid rock. During a violent storm, the floodwaters slammed against the house, but they couldn't shake it because of solid craftsmanship. It was built upon rock. On the other hand, if you hear My teachings but don't put them into practice, you'll be like the careless builder who didn't bother to build a foundation under his house. The floodwaters barely touched that pathetic house, and it crashed in ruins in the mud.

Sunday 14-August to Saturday 20-August

## WEEK FOUR | JESUS OUR FULLNESS

**DAY 1** | Beware that no one distracts you or intimidates you in their attempt to lead you away from Christ's fullness by pretending to be full of wisdom when they're filled with endless arguments of human logic. For they operate with humanistic and clouded judgments based on the mindset of this world system, and not the anointed truths of the Anointed One. For he is the complete fullness of deity living in human form. And our own completeness is now found in him. We are completely filled with God as Christ's fullness overflows within us. He is the Head of every kingdom and authority in the universe! Through our union with him we have experienced *\*circumcision of heart.\**

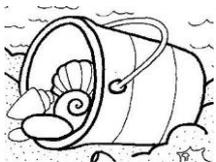
*\* One of the old rules that the troublemakers made a fuss about was circumcision, the symbol of belonging for Jewish men \**



Persecution is when people outside of the church threaten and harm Christians. Paul is talking here about bullies within church life stirring up trouble. I wonder what in-fighting in churches you have seen over the years.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

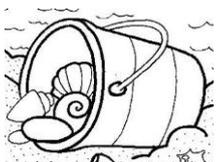
**DAY 2** | All of the guilt and power of sin has been cut away and is now extinct because of what Christ, the Anointed One, has accomplished for us. For we've been buried with him into his death. Our "baptism into death" also means we were raised with him when we believed in God's resurrection power, the power that raised him from death's realm. This "realm of death" describes our former state, for we were held in sin's grasp. But now, we've been resurrected out of that "realm of death" never to return, for we are forever alive and forgiven of all our sins! He cancelled out every legal violation we had on our record and the old arrest warrant that stood to indict us. He erased it all—our sins, our stained soul—he deleted it all and they cannot be retrieved! Everything we once were in Adam has been placed onto his cross and nailed permanently there as a public display of cancellation. Then Jesus made a public spectacle of all the powers and principalities of darkness, stripping away from them every weapon and all their spiritual authority and power to accuse us. And by the power of the cross, Jesus led them around as prisoners in a procession of triumph. He was not their prisoner; they were his!



Paul is trying to explain to the Colossians all that what Jesus did to make sure they could be counted as his. He is showing how small and petty the old rules are in comparison. I wonder how reading all this makes you feel today.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

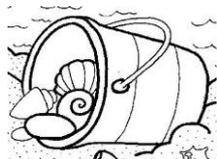
**DAY 3** | So why would you allow anyone to judge you because of what you eat or drink, or insist that you keep the feasts, observe new moon celebrations, or the Sabbath? All of these were but a prophetic shadow and the evidence of what would be fulfilled, for the body is now Christ! Don't let anyone disqualify you from your prize! Don't let their pretended sincerity fool you as they deliberately lead you into their initiation of angel worship. For they take pleasure in pretending to be experts of something they know nothing about. Their reasoning is meaningless and comes only from their own opinions. They refuse to take hold of the true source.



My mother could still remember the first time she went to church not wearing a hat. It had been something that women were expected to do for centuries, but in the early 70s things were changing. She felt ready to move on. I wonder in what ways you've seen churches change. In what ways do you think more change is to come? How does that feel for you?

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**DAY 4** | They refuse to take hold of the true source. But we receive directly from him, and his life supplies vitality into every part of his body through the joining ligaments connecting us all as one. He is the divine Head who guides his body and causes it to grow by the supernatural power of God. For you were included in the death of Christ and have died with him to the religious system and powers of this world. Don't retreat back to being bullied by the standards and opinions of religion—for example, their strict requirements, "You can't associate with that person!" or, "Don't eat that!" or, "You can't touch that!" These are the doctrines of men and corrupt customs that are worthless to help you spiritually. For though they may appear to possess the promise of wisdom in their submission to God through the deprivation of their physical bodies, it is actually nothing more than empty rules rooted in religious rituals!



There was some research<sup>1</sup> a while ago which found out how people describe the Christians they know using words like:

- *"friendly"* (65%)
- *"caring"* (51%)
- *"good humoured"* (48%)
- *"generous"* (38%)
- *"encouraging"* (26%) and
- *"hopeful"* (24%).
- *"narrow minded"* (13%)
- *"hypocritical"* (10%)
- *"uptight"* (8%)
- *"selfish"* (5%)

I wonder how you feel about these findings.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**MIDWEEK**  
**MEANWHILES**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**17-AUGUST**  
10am  
Midweek Fellowship  
at St Barnabas  
11.45am  
Garden Church  
at St Wulstans Vicarage

**LUKE 7:41-43 | THE BIGGER DEBTOR**

**Jesus:** Two men owed a certain lender a lot of money. One owed 100 weeks' wages, and the other owed 10 weeks' wages. Both men defaulted on their loans, but the lender forgave them both. Here's a question for you: which man will love the lender more?

**Simon:** Well, I guess it would be the one who was forgiven more.

**Jesus:** Good answer.

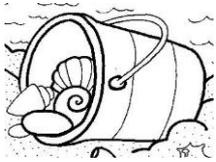
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/blog/news/2015/11/26/the-surprising-truth-about-what-people-really-thin/>

Sunday 21-August to Saturday 27-August

## WEEK FIVE | JESUS OUR LIFESTYLE

**DAY 1** | Christ's resurrection is your resurrection too. This is why we are to yearn for all that is above, for that's where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honour, and authority! Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm. Your *\*crucifixion with Christ\** has severed the tie to this life, and now your true life is hidden away in God in Christ. And as Christ himself is seen for who he really is, who you really are will also be revealed, for you are now one with him in his glory!

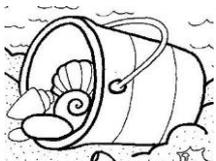
*\* This could read "Your death and your life are both hidden with the Messiah in God." \**



Many Christian thinkers have said that we are made up of a small self and a true self. Small self is the reduced, wounded version of ourselves that gets us into all the messes we find ourselves in. True self is the real us. I wonder how often in the last few days you have seen small self react take the lead.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**DAY 2** | Live as one who has died to every form of sexual sin and impurity. Live as one who has died to the desires for forbidden things, including the desire for wealth, which is the essence of idol worship. When you live in these vices you ignite the anger of God against these acts of disobedience. That's how you once behaved, characterized by your evil deeds. But now it's time to eliminate them from your lives once and for all—anger, fits of rage, all forms of hatred, cursing, filthy speech, and lying. Lay aside your old Adam-self with its masquerade and disguise. For you have acquired new creation life which is continually being renewed into the likeness of the One who created you; giving you the full revelation of God.

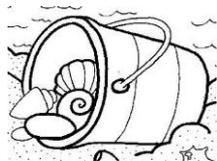


As a Jewish writer, Paul uses the word anger in a particular way. God showers all humanity with unwavering, unconditional, parental – fatherly and motherly – love. But we live in a consequential universe, and wrongdoing has its consequences. Which is why God is filled with distress and frustration at our selfish and short-sighted decisions. I wonder how it feels to know that when we read of God's anger, we are reading about God's anguish.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**DAY 3** | In this new creation life, your nationality makes no difference, nor your ethnicity, education, nor economic status—they matter nothing. For it is Christ that means everything as he lives in every one of us! You are always and dearly loved by God! So robe yourself with virtues of God, since you have been divinely chosen to be holy. Be merciful as you endeavour to understand others, and be compassionate, showing kindness toward all. Be gentle and humble, unoffendable in your patience with others. Tolerate the weaknesses of those in

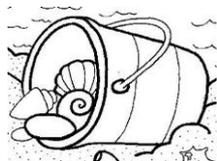
the family of faith, forgiving one another in the same way you have been graciously forgiven by Jesus Christ. If you find fault with someone, release this same gift of forgiveness to them. For love is supreme and must flow through each of these virtues. Love becomes the mark of true maturity. Let your heart be always guided by the peace of the Anointed One, who called you to peace as part of his one body. And always be thankful. Let the word of Christ grow in you richly, flooding you with all wisdom. Apply the Scriptures as you teach and instruct one another with the Psalms, and with festive praises, and with prophetic songs given to you spontaneously by the Spirit, so sing to God with all your hearts! Let every activity of your lives and every word that comes from your lips be drenched with the beauty of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One. And bring your constant praise to God the Father because of what Christ has done for you!



This passage is jampacked full of imperatives --- that means instructions for Paul's readers to act on. I have counted more than a dozen. How many do you think are transferrable to you and me in our three churches today? I wonder which of Paul's instructions chimes most with you today

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**DAY 4** | Let every wife be supportive and tenderly devoted to her husband, for this is a beautiful illustration of our devotion to Christ. Let every husband be filled with cherishing love for his wife and never be insensitive toward her. Let the children respect and pay attention to their parents in everything for this pleases our Lord Jesus. And fathers, don't have unrealistic expectations for your children or else they may become discouraged. Let every employee listen well and follow the instructions of their employer, not just when their employers are watching, and not in pretence, but faithful in all things. For we are to live our lives with pure hearts in the constant awe and wonder of our Lord God. Put your heart and soul into every activity you do, as though you are doing it for the Lord himself and not merely for others. For we know that we will receive a reward, an inheritance from the Lord, as we serve the Lord Yahweh, the Anointed One! A disciple will be repaid for what he has learned and followed, for God pays no attention to the titles or prestige of men. Employers, treat your workers with equality and justice as you know that you also have a Lord and Master in heaven who is watching you.



When Paul writes this household code, he isn't doing something new. For hundreds of years, philosophers thought of the household as a mini-universe. Aristotle, Philo and Josephus wrote household codes about 'the man of the house' and the Romans passed laws about it all. Paul was turning everything on its head, and giving room for the 'lesser' voices in the household to be heard. It was revolutionary and liberating. He was writing a household code about responsibilities and not about rights. I wonder which part was most shocking for Paul's original listeners to hear.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

MIDWEEK  
MEANWHILES  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**24-AUGUST**

10am  
Midweek Communion  
at St Barnabas  
11.45am  
Garden Church at  
St Wulstans Vicarage

**LUKE 5:37-39 | WINESKINS**

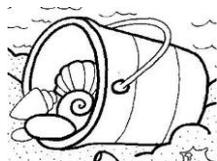
And nobody takes freshly squeezed juice and puts it into old, stiff wineskins. If he did, the fresh wine would make the old skins burst open, and both the wine and the wineskins would be ruined.

New demands new—new wine for new wineskins. Anyway, those who've never tasted the new wine won't know what they're missing; they'll always say, "The old wine is good enough for me!"

Sunday 28-August to Thursday 1-September

**WEEK SIX | JESUS OUR MINISTRY**

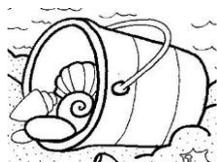
**DAY 1** | Be faithful to pray as intercessors who are fully alert and giving thanks to God. And please pray for me, that God will open a door of opportunity for us to preach the revelation of the mystery of Christ, for whose sake I am imprisoned. Pray that I would unfold and reveal fully this mystery, for that is my delightful assignment.



Who do you pray for? Do you ask people to pray for you? I wonder how our intercessions on Sunday morning help shape the world around us.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**DAY 2** | Walk in the wisdom of God as you live before the unbelievers, and make it your duty to make him known. Let every word you speak **be drenched with grace and tempered with truth and clarity**. For then you will be prepared to give a respectful answer to anyone who asks about your faith.

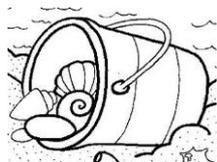


The phrase in **bold** above literally means seasoned with salt. It's a way of saying "friendly, clear, and making people thirsty for truth." Who is the saltiest person who have known?!

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

**DAY 3** | Tychicus will tell you about what is happening with me. I have sent him to you so that he could find out how you are doing in your journey of faith, and bring comfort and encouragement to your hearts. For he is a beloved brother in Christ, a faithful servant of the gospel and my ministry partner in our Master Yahweh's work. I have also sent Onesimus, who is from your city, and is also a beloved and faithful brother who will inform you of all that we're enduring. Aristarchus, a fellow prisoner here with me, sends you his love. And Joshua (who is also called Justus) along with Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, also send you their loving greetings. You have already been informed that if Mark comes to you, receive him warmly. These three men are the only ones of the

circumcision who have aided me here in the work of the kingdom of God, and they have been a great blessing to me. Epaphras, who is also from Colossae, sends his loving greetings. I can tell you that he is a true servant of Christ, who always labours and intercedes for you. His prayers are filled with requests to God that you would grow and mature, standing complete and perfect in the beauty of God's plan for your lives. Epaphras has such great zeal and passion for you and for those who are from Laodicea and from Hierapolis. And Luke, the beloved physician, sends his warm greetings to you, and Demas also. Give my greetings to all the believers in Laodicea. And pray for dear Nymphas and the church that gathers in her home.

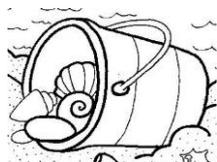


These are the names of real people, working to keep the churches of their day going. We could easily put modern-day names in their places, even the names of actual people in our churches. Try it!

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

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**DAY 4** | Once you've read this letter publicly to the church, please send it on to the church of the Laodiceans, and make sure you read the letter that I wrote to them. Be sure you give Archippus this message: "Be faithful to complete the ministry you received from our Lord Jesus!" Now finally, I, Paul, write this with my own handwriting, and I send my loving greetings to you! Remember me in my imprisonment. May the blessings of God's grace overwhelm you! Love in Christ, Paul



Take some time to look back over the Forty Days of Summer, rereading this booklet, and any journal notes you took. What themes are you taking away with you? I wonder what YOUR reply to Paul's letter might say.

**NOW TURN TO PAGE 15**

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**MIDWEEK  
MEANWHILES  
WEDNESDAY  
31 -AUGUST**  
10am  
Midweek Communion  
at St Barnabas only

**LUKE 13:18-21 | MUSTARD SEEDS AND YEAST**

Do you want to understand the kingdom of God? Do you want Me to tell you what it's like? It's like a single mustard seed that someone took and planted in his garden. That tiny seed grew and became a tree so large that the birds could fly in and make their nests in its branches. Do you want Me to tell you what the kingdom of God is like? It's like some yeast which a woman hid within a huge quantity of flour; soon the whole batch of dough was rising.

## **PRAYERS FOR AFTER THE DAWN**

Lord our God, as with all creation we offer the life of this new day,  
give us grace to love and serve you  
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Asking we have received, seeking we have found,  
and knocking, the door has been opened for us. Amen*

## **PRAYERS IN THE MIDST OF THE DAY**

I bind unto myself this day the power of God to hold and lead,  
God's eye to watch, God's might to stay, God's ear to hearken to my  
need, the wisdom of my God to teach, God's hand to guide,  
God's shield to ward, the word of God to give me speech,  
God's heavenly host to be my guard.

*We came to you hungry and thirsty  
And you have fed us with the bread of life. Amen.*

## **PRAYERS AROUND DUSK**

O God our protector, by whose mercy the world turns safely  
into darkness and returns again to light: we give into your hands  
our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems,  
and our unfulfilled hopes; for you alone are our sure defence  
and bring us lasting peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Coming to you weary and heavy laden  
we have found rest for our souls. Amen.*

## **PRAYERS IN THE DARK**

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the  
presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done  
has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it  
be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and  
of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of  
your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new  
day, new joys, new possibilities.

*In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone,  
LORD, make me well in safety. Amen.*

# FORTY DAYS OF SUMMER 2022

1. Sun 24-July
2. Mon 25-July
3. Tues 26-July
4. Wed 27-July
5. Thu 28-July
6. Fri 29-July
7. Sat 30-July

Sunday 24-July to Saturday 30-July

## **WEEK ONE | JESUS OUR CONFIDENCE**

Colossians 1:1-14

8. Sun 31-July
9. Mon 01-August
10. Tues 02-August
11. Wed 03-August
12. Thu 04-August
13. Fri 05-August
14. Sat 06-August

Sunday 31-July to Sat 6-August

## **WEEK TWO | JESUS OUR LORD**

Colossians 1:15-23

15. Sun 07-August
16. Mon 08-August
17. Tues 09-August
18. Wed 10-August
19. Thu 11-August
20. Fri 12-August
21. Sat 13-August

Sunday 7-August to Sat 13-August

## **WEEK THREE | JESUS OUR ROCK**

Colossians 1:24-2:7

22. Sun 14-August
23. Mon 15-August
24. Tues 16-August
25. Wed 17-August
26. Thu 18-August
27. Fri 19-August
28. Sat 20-August

Sunday 14-August to Sat 20-August

## **WEEK FOUR | JESUS OUR FULLNESS**

Colossians 2:8-23

29. Sun 21-August
30. Mon 22-August
31. Tues 23-August
32. Wed 24-August
33. Thu 25-August
34. Fri 26-August
35. Sat 27-August

Sunday 21-August to Sat 27-August

## **WEEK FIVE | JESUS OUR LIFESTYLE**

Colossians 3:1-4:1

36. Sun 28-August
37. Mon 29-August
38. Tues 30-August
39. Wed 31-August
40. Thu 01-Sept

Sunday 28-August to Thursday 1-September

## **WEEK SIX | JESUS OUR MINISTRY**

Colossians 4:2-18

All are invited to a Celebration Lunch at  
**ST WULSTANS 12.15 TO 1.45 THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
to mark the end of the Forty Days of summer and reflect together