

ENCOUNTER

JOURNAL

2024 Bible Reading Plan





SERVE ONE ANOTHER

SERVE ONE ANOTHER

Toa Payoh Methodist Church highlights an area where God is leading the whole church to rally and focus on in our discipleship journey together as a body of Christ.

Over the past few years, we have focused on encountering God through personal devotion, developing authentic relationships in our TPMC community through Connect Groups, and reaching One More for Jesus. This year, in 2024, we are challenging all in TPMC to follow Jesus to serve, just as He served.

The aspect of serving within the Body of Christ is not out of obligation, guilt nor for personal motives. As disciples of Christ, we serve because Christ first came to serve, and we are compelled by His love and example to do the same. Jesus said:

“But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”
(Mark 10:43-45)



Whether you are a leader, a spouse, a friend, a colleague, a senior, a youth etc., we encounter the Lord and grow in our knowledge of Christ and faith in God as we experience what it means to love as Christ loved us, and His empowerment in serving. We encounter to love as we serve one another in authentic community. We encounter the Lord as we look at others through His eyes of compassion and follow and obey Him in serving them. We encounter to love as serving redirects our focus from ourselves to Jesus Christ and others. And in loving others, we come to a deeper encounter and knowledge of God who first loved us.

May we remember and follow the words of the Apostle Paul who dedicated his life to imitate Christ,

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather, serve one another humbly in love.” (Galatians 5:13).

Brothers and sisters, this 2024, let's journey together to work out our faith to Serve One Another.



OUR VISION

ENCOUNTER

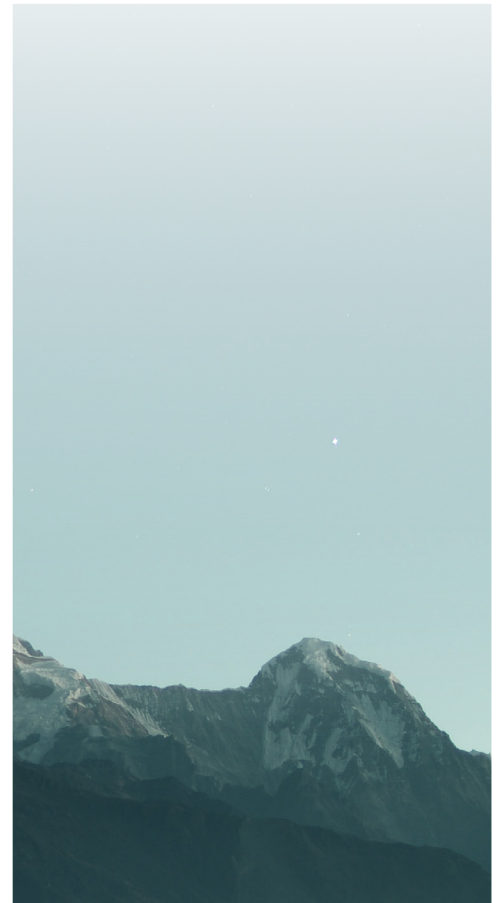
We continuously pursue the presence of God; we draw from Him for everything we do. Everything begins with God, specifically an encounter with God. Without Him and His strength, we may seek and strive to change or to accomplish much for God, but all will be for nought. (*James 4:8*)

TO

This pursuit births a hunger to know and fulfil His desires. Encountering God must lead to something; we are not pursuing an encounter for the sake of it. Every story of an encounter with God has led to radical transformation.

LOVE

Our pursuit translates into love, extended to any and every person, in what we say and do. (*1 John 4:8, 16; Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34-35*)



OUR VALUES

H

Honour

To honour God with our first and best, not our leftovers, in all areas like our time, effort, gifts, skills. To regard and relate to everyone as persons created in God's image. (*Romans 12:10*)

I

Integrity

To be consistent with biblical truths in what we believe, say and do. (*Matthew 5:37*)

G

Generosity

To bless in tangible and intangible ways. (*Matthew 10:8*)

H

Humility

To know our worth in Christ and have the same mindset as Christ. To place the interest of others above our own. To be open to feedback. (*Philippians 2:3-4*)

E

Excellence

To do things to the best of our abilities, relying on God's strength. To put our heart and effort into all we do as an act of worship to God. (*Colossians 3:23*)

R

Rest

To serve from a posture of rest. To do our best and trust God with the results (*Hebrews 4:11*)



How To Use This Encounter Journal Reading Plan

Choose a fixed unhurried time and a quiet place to spend time with God. Prepare your heart to be intentional in hearing from God through His Word.

Write your reflection from the Scripture using Read, Observe, Apply and Dialogue (ROAD) as your guide to record your thoughts and what God has revealed to you.

READ

Read the Scripture according to the Bible Reading Plan. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and understanding. After reading, look out for specific verses that God is highlighting to you. Then, read the passage again but this time slower.

OBSERVE

Observe what the Lord has revealed to you in the passage. Make observations by looking for repeated words or ideas. Look at the *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why* and *how* of the text. Make comparisons. Observe cause and effect/result. Make lists. These methods help you read God's word slowly in order to listen to what God is saying. Write down your observation.





APPLY

Apply the passage/verse to your life. From what you have observed, how is the verse relevant to your life? Is there something that the Holy Spirit wants you to do? How would you apply what you have learned to being a disciple of Christ and a blessing to others? Some questions you can ask yourself:

- *Is there a promise to claim?*
- *Is there an attitude to change?*
- *Is there a command to obey?*
- *Is there an example to follow?*
- *Is there a truth to believe?*
- *Is there a H.I.G.H.E.R value to practice?*
- *Is there a sin to confess?*

DIALOGUE

Dialogue with God. Write a prayer related to your reading for the day. It may be a thanksgiving or a request for strength to apply the truth that was revealed to you.

MY ENCOUNTER JOURNAL

(Sample Entry)

Date: 31st December **Title:** Don't Worship Me

READ

Revelations 22:8-9

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren and prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

OBSERVATION

Being a messenger of God – the executor of God's desire and will, the angel received some unwanted attention. John "fell down to worship" the angel of God. The response was quick and clear. The angel knew his place. He called himself a fellow servant and ends off with pretty good advice – "Worship God."

APPLICATION

As I use whatever gifts that God has blessed me with for whoever on whichever platform. May I not fall into the temptation of receiving worship.

DIALOGUE

Father, give me the wisdom to respond quickly and clearly if such situations arise. Grant me the precious ability to walk in humility, recognising that I'm a fellow servant. Amen.

The Servant Messiah

(January – March)

We start the first quarter of the year in Mark's fast-paced Gospel narrative, observing and meditating on how Jesus' ministry to the multitudes was in service and sacrifice. The Gospel of Mark reveals to us Jesus Christ as the Servant Messiah – the Suffering Servant who gave His life to save the world.

Then as we enter the season of Lent (14 Feb – 30 Mar), our Scripture readings guide us to focus on a time of humility and repentance as we gaze upon Isaiah's prophecy of the Suffering Servant.

Leading up to Holy Week and Easter, we meditate and marvel on Mark's account of The Passion of Christ, the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecies and the realisation of God's salvation plan.



January

The Servant Messiah



1	Revelation 21:1-5
2	Mark 1:1-13
3	Mark 1:14-20
4	Mark 1:21-34
5	Mark 1:35-45
6	Mark 2:1-17
7	Mark 2:18-22
8	Mark 2:23-28
9	Mark 3:1-19
10	Mark 3:20-35
11	Mark 4:1-20
12	Mark 4:21-34
13	Mark 4:35-41
14	Mark 5:1-20
15	Mark 5:21-43

16	Mark 6:1-6
17	Mark 6:7-13
18	Mark 6:14-29
19	Mark 6:30-44
20	Mark 6:45-56
21	Mark 7:1-23
22	Mark 7:24-30
23	Mark 7:31-37
24	Mark 8:1-10
25	Mark 8:11-21
26	Mark 8:22-30
27	Mark 8:31-9:1
28	Mark 9:2-13
29	Mark 9:14-29
30	Mark 9:30-35
31	Mark 9:33-50

February

The Servant Messiah

1 Mark 10:1-12
2 Mark 10:13-16
3 Mark 10:17-31
4 Mark 10:32-34
5 Mark 10:35-45
6 Mark 10:46-52
7 Mark 11:1-11
8 Mark 11:12-25
9 Mark 11:27-33
10 Mark 12:1-17
11 Mark 12:18-27
12 Mark 12:28-34
13 Mark 12:35-44
14 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
15 Psalm 51:1-17

16 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
17 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
18 Isaiah 1:1-20
19 Isaiah 1:21-31
20 Isaiah 2:1-5
21 Isaiah 2:6-21
22 Isaiah 5:8-30
23 Isaiah 6:1-8
24 Isaiah 7:1-14
25 Isaiah 9:2-7
26 Isaiah 11:1-10
27 Isaiah 36:1-37:7
28 Isaiah 37:8-38
29 Isaiah 42:1-4

March

The Servant Messiah



1	Isaiah 43:1-13
2	Isaiah 49:1-7
3	Isaiah 49:8-26
4	Isaiah 50:1-11
5	Isaiah 52:1-12
6	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
7	Isaiah 54:1-17
8	Isaiah 55:1-13
9	Isaiah 56:1-8
10	Isaiah 56:9-57:13
11	Isaiah 57:14-21
12	Isaiah 58:1-12
13	Isaiah 61:1-11
14	Isaiah 62:1-12
15	Isaiah 65:17-25

16	Mark 13:1-13
17	Mark 13:14-27
18	Mark 13:28-37
19	Mark 14:1-9
20	Mark 14:10-21
21	Mark 14:22-31
22	Mark 14:32-42
23	Mark 14:43-52
24	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29
25	Mark 14:53-65
26	Mark 14:66-72
27	Mark 15:1-32
28	Mark 15:33-41
29	Mark 15:42-47
30	1 Peter 4:1-11
31	Mark 16:1-20



Gifted and Called for Faithful Service

(April – June)

Christians in the church of Corinth were gifted with the generous gifts of the Holy Spirit, but the Apostle Paul had to rebuke them for their divisiveness within the church. We learn from Paul's letter to the Corinthians on what it truly means to serve one another for the glory of God.

An example of a humble and faithful servant leader who served God and others is Moses. Enter into the life of Moses in Scripture from April to May, to learn from his life of how he surrendered to God's call to serve despite his fears and inadequacy and see the powerful hand of God work in and through Moses.

While Moses was called a friend of God, the writer of Hebrews highlights one who is superior to Moses – Jesus Christ. In June, entering into July, may we be challenged by the Scriptures in the book of Hebrews to repent from dead works (Hebrews 6:1) but to serve the living God (Hebrews 9:14) in faith and endurance.

April

Gifted and Called for Faithful Service

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 1 | John 20:19-31 | 16 | 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 |
| 2 | Acts 4:32-35 | 17 | 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 |
| 3 | Psalms 133 | 18 | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 |
| 4 | 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 | 19 | 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 |
| 5 | 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 | 20 | 1 Corinthians 14:1-12 |
| 6 | 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 | 21 | 1 Corinthians 14:13-25 |
| 7 | 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 | 22 | 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 |
| 8 | 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 | 23 | 1 Corinthians 15:1-58 |
| 9 | 1 Corinthians 3:1-15 | 24 | 1 Corinthians 16:1-24 |
| 10 | 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 | 25 | Exodus 1:1-22 |
| 11 | 1 Corinthians 4:1-13 | 26 | Exodus 2:1-22 |
| 12 | 1 Corinthians 4:14-21 | 27 | Exodus 2:23-3:10 |
| 13 | 1 Corinthians 9:1-27 | 28 | Exodus 3:7-22 |
| 14 | 1 Corinthians 10:1-22 | 29 | Exodus 4:1-9 |
| 15 | 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 | 30 | Exodus 4:10-18, 27-31 |

May

Gifted and Called for Faithful Service

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1 | Exodus 13:17-14:31 | 16 | Leviticus 19:15-16 |
| 2 | Exodus 15:22-27 | 17 | Leviticus 19:17-18 |
| 3 | Exodus 16:1-30 | 18 | Leviticus 19:32-34 |
| 4 | Exodus 17:1-7 | 19 | Leviticus 19:35-37 |
| 5 | Exodus 17:8-13 | 20 | Numbers 11:1-33 |
| 6 | Exodus 18:1, 9-27 | 21 | Numbers 12:1-16 |
| 7 | Exodus 19:1-8; 20:1-21 | 22 | Numbers 13:1-33 |
| 8 | Exodus 32:7-14 | 23 | Numbers 14:1-9 |
| 9 | Exodus 32:30-35 | 24 | Numbers 14:10-19 |
| 10 | Exodus 33:7-34:10 | 25 | Numbers 14:20-25 |
| 11 | Exodus 35:30-36:7 | 26 | Numbers 14:26-35 |
| 12 | Leviticus 19:1-4 | 27 | Numbers 14:36-45 |
| 13 | Leviticus 19:9-10 | 28 | Numbers 27:12-23 |
| 14 | Leviticus 19:11-12 | 29 | Deuteronomy 31:1-8 |
| 15 | Leviticus 19:13-14 | 30 | Deuteronomy 31:14-23 |
| | | 31 | Deuteronomy 34:1-12 |

June

Gifted and Called for Faithful Service

1 Hebrews 1:1-4
2 Hebrews 1:5-14
3 Hebrews 2:1-4
4 Hebrews 2:5-13
5 Hebrews 2:14-18
6 Hebrews 3:1-6
7 Hebrews 3:7-19
8 Hebrews 4:1-10
9 Hebrews 4:11-16
10 Hebrews 5:1-10
11 Hebrews 5:11-6:8
12 Hebrews 6:9-20
13 Genesis 14:17-20
14 Psalm 110:1-7
15 Hebrews 7:1-10

16 Hebrews 7:11-25
17 Hebrews 7:26-28
18 Hebrews 8:1-13
19 Hebrews 9:1-10
20 Hebrews 9:11-14
21 Hebrews 9:15-28
22 Hebrews 10:1-10
23 Hebrews 10:11-18
24 Hebrews 10:19-25
25 Hebrews 10:26-31
26 Hebrews 10:32-39
27 Hebrews 11:1-12
28 Hebrews 11:13-16
29 Hebrews 11:17-31
30 Hebrews 11:32-40



Applying the Sanctified Life

(July – September)

While Hebrews teaches about faith and endurance, 2 Timothy gives the call to soldier on faithfully despite hardship, the epistle of James calls us to put faith to action.

These themes and teaching can be seen, applied and lived out in the life of Nehemiah. A leader and a servant, God placed Nehemiah in a specific role, at a specific time to rally Israel in unity even while facing opposition and challenges.

The month of September takes us to explore the book of Romans. Known as a book strong in doctrinal teaching, it explains how justification is by faith in God and what the mark of a true and sound faith is – a sanctified life that lives in service to others.

July

Applying the Sanctified Life

1 Hebrews 12:1-3
2 Hebrews 12:4-12
3 Hebrews 12:12-17
4 Hebrews 12:18-24
5 Hebrews 12:25-29
6 Hebrews 13:1-6
7 Hebrews 13:7-19
8 Hebrews 13:20-25
9 2 Timothy 1:1-7
10 2 Timothy 1:8-18
11 2 Timothy 2:1-10
12 2 Timothy 2:11-19
13 2 Timothy 2:20-26
14 2 Timothy 3:1-9
15 2 Timothy 3:10-17

16 2 Timothy 4:1-5
17 2 Timothy 4:6-8
18 2 Timothy 4:9-22
19 James 1:1-12
20 James 1:13-18
21 James 1:19-27
22 James 2:1-13
23 James 2:14-26
24 James 3:1-12
25 James 3:13-18
26 James 4:1-6
27 James 4:7-10
28 James 4:11-12
29 James 4:13-17
30 James 5:1-12
31 James 5:13-18



August

Applying the Sanctified Life

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1 | James 5:19-20 | 16 | Nehemiah 6:10-14 |
| 2 | Nehemiah 1:1-4 | 17 | Nehemiah 6:15-7:3 |
| 3 | Nehemiah 1:5-11 | 18 | Nehemiah 8:1-8 |
| 4 | Nehemiah 2:1-10 | 19 | Nehemiah 8:9-18 |
| 5 | Nehemiah 2:11-20 | 20 | Nehemiah 9:1-31 |
| 6 | Nehemiah 3:1-32 | 21 | Nehemiah 9:32-38 |
| 7 | Nehemiah 4:1-6 | 22 | Nehemiah 10:28-39 |
| 8 | Psalms 79 | 23 | Nehemiah 12:27-30 |
| 9 | Nehemiah 4:7-14 | 24 | Psalms 33 |
| 10 | Psalms 91 | 25 | Nehemiah 12:31-43 |
| 11 | Nehemiah 4:15-23 | 26 | Nehemiah 12:44-47 |
| 12 | Nehemiah 5:1-11 | 27 | Nehemiah 13:1-3 |
| 13 | Nehemiah 5:12-19 | 28 | Nehemiah 13:4-14 |
| 14 | Nehemiah 6:1-4 | 29 | Nehemiah 13:15-22 |
| 15 | Nehemiah 6:5-9 | 30 | Nehemiah 13:23-31 |
| | | 31 | Psalms 80 |



September

Applying the Sanctified Life

1	Romans 1:1-7
2	Romans 1:8-17
3	Romans 1:18-32
4	Romans 2:1-16
5	Romans 2:17-29
6	Romans 3:1-8
7	Romans 3:9-20
8	Romans 3:21-31
9	Romans 4:1-12
10	Romans 4:13-25
11	Romans 5:1-5
12	Romans 5:6-11
13	Romans 5:12-21
14	Romans 6:1-14
15	Romans 6:15-23

16	Romans 7:1-6
17	Romans 7:7-12
18	Romans 7:13-25
19	Romans 8:1-11
20	Romans 8:12-17
21	Romans 8:18-25
22	Romans 8:26-30
23	Romans 8:31-39
24	Romans 9:1-5
25	Romans 9:6-18
26	Romans 9:19-29
27	Romans 9:30-10:4
28	Romans 10:5-13
29	Romans 10:14-21
30	Romans 11:1-10

Willing, Worthy and Ready for our King (October – December)

The compassion and mercy of God. The lack of love of a reluctant prophet. God's continued patience. These are some of the highlights we see in the short but revealing book of the prophet Jonah that we will meditate on in October.

While in November, we learn from Paul how knowing our position in Christ and relationship with God guides our practice on earth and relationship with others. May each of us be spurred on to "lead a life worthy of your calling" as disciples and as a holy community in how we relate to one another (Ephesians 4:1).

As we enter the season of Advent (from the Latin *adventus* which means "coming") in December, let's continue to be ready and prepared for our coming King as we gain encouragement from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians in light of the coming of Jesus Christ our King.



October



Willing, Worthy and Ready for our King

1 Romans 11:11-21
2 Romans 11:22-27
3 Romans 11:28-32
4 Romans 11:33-36
5 Romans 12:1-2
6 Romans 12:3-8
7 1 Peter 4:7-11
8 Romans 12:9-21
9 Romans 13:1-7
10 Romans 13:8-14
11 Romans 14:1-12
12 Romans 14:13-23
13 Romans 15:1-6
14 Romans 15:7-13
15 Romans 15:14-22

16 Romans 15:23-29
17 Romans 15:30-33
18 Romans 16:1-16
19 Romans 16:17-27
20 Jonah 1:1-3
21 Jonah 1:4-12
22 Jonah 1:13-17
23 Jonah 2:1-9
24 Jonah 2:10-3:4
25 Jonah 3:3-10
26 Jonah 4:1-3
27 Jonah 4:4-11
28 Luke 12:35-40
29 Luke 12:41-48
30 Matthew 20:20-28
31 Psalm 116

November



Willing, Worthy and Ready for our King

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Ephesians 1:1-4 | 16 | Ephesians 4:25-28 |
| 2 | Ephesians 1:5-12 | 17 | Ephesians 4:29-32 |
| 3 | Ephesians 1:13-14 | 18 | Ephesians 5:1-2 |
| 4 | Ephesians 1:15-23 | 19 | John 13:34-35 |
| 5 | Ephesians 2:1-7 | 20 | Ephesians 5:3-5 |
| 6 | Ephesians 2:8-10 | 21 | Ephesians 5:6-17 |
| 7 | Ephesians 2:11-18 | 22 | Ephesians 5:18-21 |
| 8 | Ephesians 2:19-22 | 23 | Psalms 51 |
| 9 | Ephesians 3:1-7 | 24 | Ephesians 5:21-33 |
| 10 | Ephesians 3:8-13 | 25 | Ephesians 5:21; 6:1-4 |
| 11 | Ephesians 3:14-21 | 26 | Ephesians 5:21; 6:5-9 |
| 12 | Ephesians 4:1-6 | 27 | Ephesians 6:10-12 |
| 13 | Ephesians 4:7-14 | 28 | Ephesians 6:13-18a |
| 14 | Ephesians 4:11-16 | 29 | Ephesians 6:18b-20 |
| 15 | Ephesians 4:17-24 | 30 | Ephesians 6:21-23 |

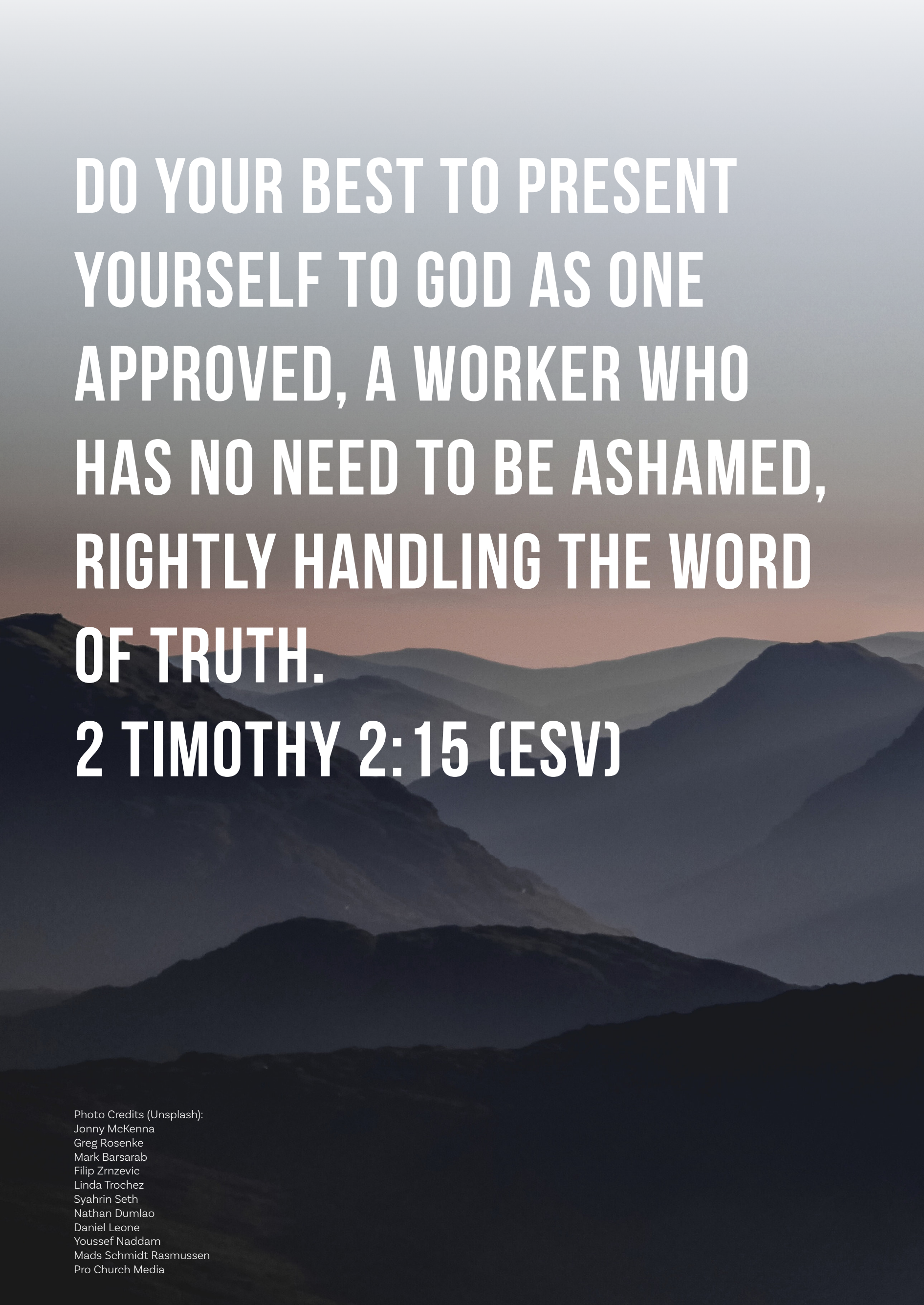
December



Willing, Worthy and Ready for our King

1 | Jeremiah 33:14-16
2 | 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3
3 | 1 Thessalonians 1:4-7
4 | 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10
5 | 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2
6 | 1 Thessalonians 2:3-8
7 | 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12
8 | 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16
9 | 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5
10 | 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10
11 | 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
12 | 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
13 | 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
14 | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
15 | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

16 | 1 Thessalonians 5:6-11
17 | 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
18 | 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15
19 | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
20 | 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22
21 | 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28
22 | Titus 2:11-14
23 | Luke 1:26-38
24 | Luke 1:39-56
25 | Luke 2:1-21
26 | John 1:1-14
27 | Psalm 148
28 | Luke 2:41-52
29 | Galatians 4:4-7
30 | 1 John 3:1-18
31 | Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67



**DO YOUR BEST TO PRESENT
YOURSELF TO GOD AS ONE
APPROVED, A WORKER WHO
HAS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED,
RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD
OF TRUTH.**

2 TIMOTHY 2:15 (ESV)

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