

## DAILY READING PLAN



**Week of July 10, 2022**

**Alive: Spirit of Love: Loving Self**

**Romans 12:3-8, James 3:13-18, Proverbs 4:4-9**

### **Day One: Read Romans 12:3-8**

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

When you think about a local congregation acting as “one body,” What comes to mind? Share about a specific experience of the church acting in this way.

### **Day Two: Read James 3:13-18**

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your<sup>[a]</sup> faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,<sup>[b]</sup> do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

Churches are not perfect. Sometimes they are run by the wisdom of the world and others they are led by the wisdom of heaven. Can you think of a time when you saw a church led by these opposing sources?

**Day Three: Read Proverbs 4:6**

*Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.*

In what way has a congregation or Christian community worked to keep you safe or guard you? How can local congregations do a better job of keeping people emotionally, physically, and spiritually safe?

**Day Four: Read Proverbs 4:8**

*Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you.*

In what ways has a congregation or Christian community helped you find your place in their community? Can you think of people who are struggling to find their place in congregations these days?

**Day Five: Read Proverbs 4:9**

*She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown.*

Do you feel a sense of being claimed by your church? Do you think we really practice what we preach in baptismal liturgies? How can our congregation use more than words to claim people?