



LIGHT ON LIFE

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**Personal Bible Reading
and Prayer Helps
for ten weeks
May 29 to August 6, 1966**

**Church and
Life Movement**

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*Margaretta Mary Woodruff
Memorial Library*

Light on Life

*Thou art my life; if Thou but turn away
My life's a thousand deaths: Thou art my Way:
Without Thee, Lord, I travel not, but stray.
Thou art my Way; I wander if Thou fly:
Thou are my Light; if hid, how blind am I!
Thou art my Life; if Thou withdraw, I die.
Thou art the pilgrim's path, the blind man's eye,
The dead man's life; on Thee my hopes rely;
If Thou remove, I err, I grope, I die.
Disclose Thy sunbeams; close Thy wings and stay;
See, see how I am blind and dead and stray,
O Thou that art my Light, my Life, my Way.*

FRANCIS QUARLES

This Booklet

Contains a list of selected Old and New Testament passages related to ten weekly themes. The themes for the last seven weeks are those for group study in the Church and Life Movement, and the themes for the first three weeks lead up to the group study period. It is hoped that, by a common use of this booklet, the groups will find their study made more fruitful and their fellowship deepened.

A brief heading against each Bible reference seeks to bring out the main message of the passage in relation to the week's theme.

With the reading of the Word comes prayer. If our reading has been thoughtful, waiting upon God, then the subjects and moods of prayer will spontaneously emerge; but, alongside each day's reference, there is a further short sentence or two, suggesting the kind

of prayer subjects which may relevantly arise. It is suggested that you make use of the space provided on each page to note down particular topics for prayer arising not only from your Bible reading but also from Edwin Robertson's radio introductions, from the study itself, from your reading of the newspaper and from your daily experience at home, at work and in your local church and community. Each week begins with Sunday readings, which are the passages used in the Sermon Suggestions (published and available separately).

Use the material

For private prayer and reflection.

In the family.

In informal prayer groups, with friends, neighbours, workmates.

At school assemblies or other meetings.

To make it live

Do not just read through the Bible passage, the subject heading and the suggestion for prayer. Think about the meaning and let your own line of thought and prayer develop—it may take you in a direction different from that suggested.

Keep in mind the situation, interests and needs of your family, your work, your friends and neighbours, your local church and denomination, your country and other countries — indeed, the area of concern which the Church and Life Movement envisages.

You may find that to finish each period of prayer with the Collect or the Lord's Prayer will help to crystallise your thoughts and supplications.

Life under Control

SUNDAY MAY 29 (Whitsunday)	<i>Genesis 11:1-9</i> <i>Acts 2:1-11</i> <i>John 14:15-31</i>	
MONDAY MAY 30	<i>Acts 4:13, 23-31</i>	The boldness of ordinary men.
TUESDAY MAY 31	<i>Acts 9:1-19</i>	Right about turn!
WEDNESDAY JUNE 1	<i>Acts 11:1-18</i>	Drawing all men together in Christ.
THURSDAY JUNE 2	<i>Acts 15:1-11, 22-29</i>	Released for export.
FRIDAY JUNE 3	<i>Acts 19:23-32</i>	The shaking of established orders.
SATURDAY JUNE 4	<i>Acts 25:1-12</i>	The Gospel must go before kings and rulers.

COLLECT FOR WHITSUNDAY: God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of Thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of Thy Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Holy Spirit in the lives of ordinary men and women.

The voice of conscience, to judge and summon us, individuals and communities.

God at work far out beyond the Church, in the non-Christian world.

Councils, conferences, assemblies, committees, are all places and means of His working.

The Word of God can never be confined to the merely "spiritual" but it is for **all** of life.

Good rulers, not-so-good rulers—all in authority.

Not down particular subjects for prayer

I ought to give thanks for.....
 I must be penitent for.....
 I should make intercession for.....
 I believe I must dedicate myself to.....

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The Vision of God

SUNDAY JUNE 5 (Trinity)	<i>Isaiah 6:1-8</i> <i>Revelation 4:1-11</i> <i>John 3:1-15</i>	
MONDAY JUNE 6	<i>Isaiah 60:1-7</i>	In God's light we see light.
TUESDAY JUNE 7	<i>Romans 1:18-25</i>	He that hath eyes to see, let him see.
WEDNESDAY JUNE 8	<i>Acts 17:22-31</i>	"The times of ignorance God overlooked".
THURSDAY JUNE 9	<i>John 14:1-11</i>	The Son leads us to the Father.
FRIDAY JUNE 10	<i>Colossians 1:9-20</i>	"He is the image of the invisible God".
SATURDAY JUNE 11	<i>II Corinthians 3:12-4:6</i>	We have a ministry of seeing and showing.

COLLECT FOR TRINITY SUNDAY: Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us Thy servants grace by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity: We beseech Thee, that Thou wouldst keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

The vision of God is meant for every man.

"Your God is too small" — or too unattractive, too impersonal, too static?

He is witnessing to Himself, today, in some way, in every place, society and situation.

But how are men to see the Son? How is Jesus Christ shown?

Lord of the world, the world I read about in today's newspaper, the whole world! Let me think what this means.

Let me think of my ministry, the ministry of my family, the ministry of my church, this week.

Not down particular subjects for prayer

- I ought to give thanks for.....
- I must be penitent for.....
- I should make intercession for.....
- I believe I must dedicate myself to

The Hope of Life

SUNDAY JUNE 12 (1st after Trinity)	<i>Joshua 1:1-9</i> <i>I John 4:7-21</i> <i>Luke 16:19-31</i>	
MONDAY JUNE 13	<i>II Corinthians</i> <i>4:6-18</i>	Earthen vessels can hold treasure.
TUESDAY JUNE 14	<i>Genesis 2:4-9,</i> <i>15-17</i>	Life is from God, with God, obeying God.
WEDNESDAY JUNE 15	<i>Psalms 51:1-17</i>	When man has fallen away from God, life is still His to give.
THURSDAY JUNE 16	<i>Jeremiah 31:27-34</i>	God's purpose is to give us life (with Him, obeying Him).
FRIDAY JUNE 17	<i>John 6:35-51</i>	This life is in His Son.
SATURDAY JUNE 18	<i>I Peter 1:3-9</i>	A hope of life which is being fulfilled and is to be fulfilled.

COLLECT FOR FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:
O God, the strength of all them that put their trust in Thee, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without Thee, grant us the help of Thy grace, that in keeping of Thy commandments we may please Thee, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

I think of some Church people whom I do not find attractive—and some I meet and work with daily.

The places where I live and work are Eden, I and my daily neighbours are Adam.

What needs cleansing? What needs confessing?

The importance of bringing up children in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord”.

Food! Glorious food! It speaks of God, because it speaks of men—men who produce it, sell and buy it, eat it, lack it.

Heaven can be here, and hereafter. Let death, and its certainty, and its picture in men's minds, be in my prayer.

Jot down particular subjects for prayer

I ought to give thanks for

I must be penitent for

I should make intercession for

I believe I must dedicate myself to

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Living — in the Lucky Country

(Study I)

SUNDAY JUNE 19 (2nd after Trinity)	<i>Hosea 11:1-9</i> <i>1 John 3:13-24</i> <i>Luke 14:15-24</i>	
MONDAY JUNE 20	<i>Luke 12:13-21</i>	Prosperity in perspective.
TUESDAY JUNE 21	<i>Genesis 13:1-18</i>	Living lucky and living loving!
WEDNESDAY JUNE 22	<i>Genesis 27:1-29</i>	Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost!
THURSDAY JUNE 23	<i>Ecclesiastes 2:1-11</i>	The danger of emptiness.
FRIDAY JUNE 24	<i>Revelation 3:14-22</i>	Living—in the lucky church, too!
SATURDAY JUNE 25	<i>Ezekiel 33:1-9</i>	Watchmen of the Lord.

Not down particular subjects for prayer

I ought to give thanks for.....
 I must be penitent for.....
 I should make intercession for.....
 I believe I must dedicate myself to.....

COLLECT FOR SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:
 O Lord, who never failest to help and govern them whom Thou dost bring up in Thy steadfast fear and love: Keep us, we beseech Thee, under the protection of Thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of Thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Covetousness is not confined to the rich. What are its signs in our country? Or even in me and my Church?

Remember the Welfare State and all public services, and the spirit in which they are to be operated.

What was my last selfishness? Or my church's?

What shall it profit an industry (the owner? the worker? the consumer? the nation?) if it gain the whole world and lose its soul?

Let me try to look squarely at the church budget—income in relation to membership, objects of expenditure, and my own part in it.

Christian responsibility in politics, the law courts, the Press, radio and television

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Living—in a New World of Science

(Study II)

SUNDAY JUNE 26 (3rd after Trinity)	<i>Psalm 8</i> <i>1 Peter 5:1-11</i> <i>Luke 15:1-10</i>	
MONDAY JUNE 27	<i>Psalm 104:1-23</i>	God's good world.
TUESDAY JUNE 28	<i>Psalm 104:24-35</i>	"To all life Thou givest."
WEDNESDAY JUNE 29	<i>Genesis 1:1-2,</i> <i>26-31</i>	Man's responsibility in God's world.
THURSDAY JUNE 30	<i>Ecclesiastes</i> <i>3:10-15</i>	"He has put eternity into man's mind."
FRIDAY JULY 1	<i>1 Corinthians</i> <i>2:1-16</i>	The key to understanding is in Christ.
SATURDAY JULY 2	<i>Romans 8:14-25</i>	Beneficiaries, for the benefit of all creation.

COLLECT FOR THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:
O Lord, we beseech Thee mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, to whom Thou hast given an hearty desire to pray, may by Thy mighty aid be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Remember the basic food-producing activities (farming, fishing, etc.)

Think of power resources and what they mean to us — oils, electricity, steam, nuclear energy

Pray about scientists in various fields of research and the application of research.

The Space Age is taking us into new responsibilities as well as new wonders.

The scientific age links the world's people more closely together, with transport and communications of increasing swiftness.

We must not only pray about man, but about the "animal, vegetable and mineral" orders to which God has bound us.

Jot down particular subjects for prayer

I ought to give thanks for.....

I must be penitent for.....

I should make intercession for.....

I believe I must dedicate myself to:.....

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Living—but Better Luck for Some

(Study III)

SUNDAY JULY 3 (4th after Trinity)	<i>Isaiah 52:13-53:12</i> <i>Romans 8:18-23</i> <i>Luke 6:36-42</i>	
MONDAY JULY 4	<i>Genesis 1:27;</i> <i>2:18-24</i>	MAN is man- woman.
TUESDAY JULY 5	<i>Genesis 4:1-16</i>	My brother's keeper.
WEDNESDAY JULY 6	<i>Genesis 18:17-33</i>	The care of the majority.
THURSDAY JULY 7	<i>Leviticus</i> <i>19:9-19, 33-34</i>	The care of the minorities.
FRIDAY JULY 8	<i>Luke 4:16-30</i>	Good news for those who need it.
SATURDAY JULY 9	<i>Mark 9:33-37</i> <i>& Luke 22:24-27</i>	Christ's priorities.

Jot down particular subjects for prayer

- I ought to give thanks for.....
- I must be penitent for.....
- I should make intercession for.....
- I believe I must dedicate myself to.....

COLLECT FOR FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:
O God, the protector of all that trust in Thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us Thy mercy; that Thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord. Amen.

Sex relations—wonderful, dangerous, unavoidable, provided in God's world.

Think of relationships with others. How little we know of each other but how much we need each other!

Who are our majorities? White people, people who have had some education, people with a fairly decent income . .

Who are our minorities? Aborigines, other non-Europeans, some migrant groups, the unemployed, the physically handicapped

Our Christian social service agencies, Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service thanks, confession, intercession, dedication!

Pray about children and young people—and about young hearts and reborn attitudes in the older ones!

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*Living—Pushed About and Pushing
Around*

(Study IV)

SUNDAY JULY 10 (5th after Trinity)	<i>Joshua 24:13-25</i> <i>1 Peter 3:8-18</i> <i>Luke 5:1-11</i>	
MONDAY JULY 11	<i>Genesis 3:1-13</i>	Pushing, being pushed, and passing the buck!
TUESDAY JULY 12	<i>II Samuel</i> <i>12:1-15</i>	“Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief.”
WEDNESDAY JULY 13	<i>Ezekiel 34:1-16</i>	“Should not shepherds feed the sheep?”
THURSDAY JULY 14	<i>Ezekiel 34:17-31</i>	“As for you, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.”
FRIDAY JULY 15	<i>Mark 14:32-42</i>	The Cup is given by God as well as by men.
SATURDAY JULY 16	<i>Romans 8:26-39</i>	The power of the Almighty Love.

Jot down particular subjects for prayer

I ought to give thanks for.....
 I must be penitent for.....
 I should make intercession for.....
 I believe I must dedicate myself to.....

COLLECT FOR FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:
 Grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that the course of this
 world may be so peaceably ordered by Thy governance,
 that Thy Church may joyfully serve Thee in all godly
 quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lead us not into temptation! And what about those whom
 we lead, and those who lead us?

Those who ill-treat or over-ride others are not only to be
 blamed but understood and loved and redeemed.

Pray for leaders at various levels, in Church and com-
 munity, State and world.

This is me again, Lord! Whom do I push around?

Remember those who suffer and are persecuted for
 conscience' sake—victims of religious, political and racial
 antagonisms.

Be quiet, my soul, and recollect again the “everlasting
 arms” of the world’s Lord.

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Living—but Letting Ourselves Down

(Study V)

SUNDAY JULY 17 (6th after Trinity)	<i>Psalm 24</i> <i>Romans 6:3-11</i> <i>Matthew 5:20-26</i>	
MONDAY JULY 18	<i>Luke 22:31-34,</i> <i>54-62</i>	It can happen with an individual.
TUESDAY JULY 19	<i>Hosea 11:1-7</i>	It can happen with a people.
WEDNESDAY JULY 20	<i>Jeremiah 20:7-18</i>	Ups and downs.
THURSDAY JULY 21	<i>Romans 7:14-25</i>	“Who will deliver me? . . . Thanks be to God!”
FRIDAY JULY 22	<i>II Timothy</i> <i>1:3-14</i>	Lay hold on yourself, in the power of Christ!
SATURDAY JULY 23	<i>Genesis 32:24-32</i>	No longer Deceiver but Prince.

Jot down particular subjects for prayer

I ought to give thanks for.....
 I must be penitent for.....
 I should make intercession for.....
 I believe I must dedicate myself to.....

COLLECT FOR SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:
 O God, who hast prepared for them that love Thee such
 good things as pass man's understanding; Pour into our
 hearts such love toward Thee, that we, loving Thee above
 all things, may obtain Thy promises, which exceed all that
 we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Those who doubt, deny, betray or fear the ideals and
 values which they feel to be right and good.

The fearful ease with which a people—any people—our
 people—can be caught up in a movement, sometimes an
 evil and dangerous movement.

I must pray for the minister of my church, and for all in
 “holy orders”.

Let me be honest, O God, in confession, in gratitude and
 in intercession.

Let me remember those in younger churches and new
 nations who must exercise authority, especially those who
 are ill-equipped for it.

There are wars on earth, so I pray for all the armed
 services and Defence Departments, that they may strive
 with God and be blessed.

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Living — in the Lonely Crowd

(Study VI)

SUNDAY JULY 24 (7th after Trinity)	<i>Psalm 23</i> <i>Romans 6:19-23</i> <i>Mark 8:1-10</i>	
MONDAY JULY 25	<i>Psalm 22:1-18</i>	Forsaken—even by God?
TUESDAY JULY 26	<i>Matthew 24:3-14</i>	When men's love grows cold.
WEDNESDAY JULY 27	<i>Matthew 25:31-46</i>	Christ in the lonely crowd.
THURSDAY JULY 28	<i>Luke 19:1-10</i>	The Man for others.
FRIDAY JULY 29	<i>Luke 23:32-43</i>	"He loved them to the end."
SATURDAY JULY 30	<i>Isaiah 42:1-9</i>	I can be His servant, too, for tasks of renewal.

COLLECT FOR SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:
Lord of all power and might, who art the author and
giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of
Thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with
all goodness, and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"The lowest, and lowliest, and lost"

The frightened, the unloved, the criminal, the prostitute,
the ones we shun

Those who patiently seek, and stand by, and befriend the
drug addict, the homosexual, the alcoholic, the compulsive
gambler, the pervert

Whom do I avoid, or hurry past? Whom do I pray for
but not love?

The suicide, the distraught, the dying, the bereaved, the
completely self-absorbed

Thanks for seeing a need, Confession of my own need,
Plea that God's answer may speak through my loving
concern, and Dedicated action.

Not down particular subjects for prayer

- I ought to give thanks for.....
- I must be penitent for.....
- I should make intercession for.....
- I believe I must dedicate myself to.....

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Where Do We Go From Here?

(Study VII)

SUNDAY JULY 31 (8th after Trinity)	<i>Micah 6:6-8</i> <i>Romans 8:12-17</i> <i>Matthew 7:15-21</i>	
MONDAY AUGUST 1	<i>Ephesians 5:21-6:9</i>	Begin with the next person. Be committed to one another, in the Lord.
TUESDAY AUGUST 2	<i>Luke 10:25-37</i>	Who is my neighbour?
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 3	<i>Romans 12:1-21</i>	Let us use our gifts thoroughly in the world, as unto God!
THURSDAY AUGUST 4	<i>II Corinthians 8:1-15</i>	“First they gave themselves.”
FRIDAY AUGUST 5	<i>II Corinthians 9:1-15</i>	Generous and grateful giving.
SATURDAY AUGUST 6	<i>I Peter 2:9-17</i>	“Live as free men, but as servants of God.

Not down particular subjects for prayer

- I ought to give thanks for.....
- I must be penitent for.....
- I should make intercession for.....
- I believe I must dedicate myself to.....

COLLECT FOR EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:
O God, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth: we humbly beseech Thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What does it mean for me to be subject to the other one—husband or wife, brother or sister, parent or child, employer or employee, buyer or seller, pupil or teacher . . ?

Who is my neighbour? Surely not that one, Lord!

Help me and all who have taken part in these weeks of prayer and study, to give ourselves to the tasks we have discovered. (What are they, again?)

Help us—help me—to be humble, teachable and strong to give ourselves—myself. (To what? To whom?)

Help us—help me—today, and daily, to give as Jesus gave and to love as Jesus loved. (What have I said?)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all—**with us all.**

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