

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

September 9-15, 2019

*Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.*

### BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: 1 Timothy 1:12–17 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=432882734>).

Other readings are: Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28; Psalm 14; Luke 15:1–10.

The theme is: Growing in God's Love.

The "I" in this week's Bible reading is the Apostle Paul; yet, scholars agree that Paul did not write the words himself. The letter written to Timothy, who once worked with Paul, bears signs of being written by someone other than Paul who nonetheless claims his name and voice. This was a common practice that bestowed a teacher's authority on those who applied his teachings to new situations. Just as Jesus' stories are re-told by others, so the story of Paul's conversion is offered here as an example to those who are trying to live as followers of Jesus. The aim in telling Paul's story, however, is not to lift up a hero in the faith or inspire others to do great things ("Be like Paul"). Rather, the aim of the story is to point to Christ, not Paul. It is Christ who initiated his relationship with Paul. It is Christ who forgave his sin and showed mercy. It is Christ who redeemed him. It is Christ who transformed him and worked through him to change the world. This story affirms the limitless power of mercy and offers hope to those who struggle with the challenges of living faithfully. Knowing what Christ can do through someone who was as lost as Paul, what can he do through you? It is a story that offers encouragement, but not by saying, "You got this." Instead, the story reassures us that no matter how badly we mess up, "God's got this!"

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

*"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.*

**How have you experienced God's mercy and grace?**

**How can you share that story with others?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of September 8:

**Has someone ever helped you to see another person in a new light?**

**Reflect on that story and what it taught you.**

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