

God Reveals: An Introduction to the Bible
Chapter 8 Prayer Service

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Heavenly Father, send your spirit upon us during this time of prayer. As we meditate on your holy word, convict us of your love for us and your call upon our lives. Move in our hearts so that we may respond to you and share the gospel message with others. Let us pray.

All: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Meditation is an active turning to God using all the faculties of the mind, including the imagination. Today we will meditate on Jesus's words on the Last Judgment. I invite you to begin by assuming a comfortable position. Relax and get ready to spend some time with Jesus.

Provide a few moments for students to settle.

Leader: Let us become aware of the Lord's presence. Close your eyes. Focus on his love for you. If you'd like, place your hand on your chest to feel your heartbeat, or rest your hands on your stomach and take a few deep breaths.

Provide a few moments of silence.

Leader: As I read the following passage, try to put yourself into the scene. Engage all of your senses. From where you are in the scene, what do you see? What do you smell? What do you taste? What can you feel? What do you hear?

Leader: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES IN GLORY, AND ALL THE ANGELS WITH HIM, HE WILL SIT UPON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE, AND ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE ASSEMBLED BEFORE HIM. AND HE WILL SEPARATE THEM ONE FROM ANOTHER, AS A SHEPHERD SEPARATES THE SHEEP FROM GOATS. HE WILL PLACE THE SHEEP ON HIS RIGHT AND THE GOATS ON HIS LEFT.

THEN THE KING WILL SAY TO THOSE ON HIS RIGHT, "COME, YOU WHO ARE BLESSED BY MY FATHER. INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK, A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME, NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME, ILL AND YOU CARED FOR ME, IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME."

THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL ANSWER HIM AND SAY, "LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY AND FEED YOU, OR THIRSTY AND GIVE YOU DRINK? WHEN DID WE SEE YOU A STRANGER AND WELCOME YOU, OR NAKED AND CLOTHE YOU? WHEN DID WE SEE YOU ILL OR IN PRISON, AND

VISIT YOU?" AND THE KING WILL SAY TO THEM IN REPLY, "AMEN, I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THESE LEAST BROTHERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME."

THEN HE WILL SAY TO THOSE ON HIS LEFT, "DEPART FROM ME, YOU ACCURSED, INTO THE ETERNAL FIRE PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS. FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME NO FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME NO DRINK, A STRANGER AND YOU GAVE ME NO WELCOME, NAKED AND YOU GAVE ME NO CLOTHING, ILL AND IN PRISON, AND YOU DID NOT CARE FOR ME."

THEN THEY WILL ANSWER AND SAY, "LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY OR THIRSTY OR A STRANGER OR NAKED OR ILL OR IN PRISON, AND NOT MINISTER TO YOUR NEEDS?" HE WILL ANSWER THEM, "AMEN, I SAY TO YOU, WHAT YOU DID NOT DO FOR ONE OF THESE LEAST ONES, YOU DID NOT DO FOR ME." AND THESE WILL GO OFF TO ETERNAL PUNISHMENT, BUT THE RIGHTEOUS TO ETERNAL LIFE.

Provide a few moments of silence.

Leader: The Lord is separating the sheep from the goats. Listen carefully once again to his words as I read the passage a second time.

Read the passage a second time.

Leader: Reflect by reviewing your life right now. What if you were to meet the Lord tonight at midnight? What would you say to him?

Play soft instrumental music for a few minutes while students reflect silently. Consider providing paper for journaling.

Leader: Let your thoughts wind down around this passage. Thank the Lord for his time with you.

Leader: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, thank you for your presence with us in your word today. As we go forth from this place, continue to guide and strengthen us as we participate in your saving work. May we treat the least among us as our brothers and sisters and stand shoulder to shoulder with them one day in eternity. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.