July Shema Diary (7.16-31)



Shema Diary Usage Guide

S.H.E.M.A. – A Spiritual Operating System for Interpreting Your Day

1. Overview at a Glance

The Shema Diary is an intergenerational integrated spiritual training system designed so that Sunday–weekday–family faith is not separated but flows as one continuous rhythm.

A week is made up of the following three rhythms.

1	**Sunday Worship & Small Groups** • The theme that runs through the whole week • The key passage representing the weekly Bible reading range • Through passage-centered sermons and Shema sharing, → it forms the interpretive standard (spiritual lens) for the week.
2	**Weekday Shema Diary (Mon–Sat)** • With the theme and passage held from Sunday • Using the five Shema pathways—Word, Praise, People, Events, and Prayer—to record how God is working.
3	**Family Worship** • Holding onto Sunday's message again • In the most ordinary setting of the home • A worship service that shares life through the five S.H.E.M.A. pathways.

This structure enables the individual, family, and church to move in the same message, the same language, and the same direction.

What Is the S.H.E.M.A. Spiritual Operating System?

The S.H.E.M.A. OS is a spiritual operating system (OS) that helps us perceive each day not as a random sequence of events, but as a structure through which God's presence flows.

The Meaning of the Five S.H.E.M.A. Pathways

S	Scripture	God's voice spoken to me today through the Word
H	Hymn	The inspiration and grace experienced through praise
E	Encounter	The message of God realized through the people I met today
M	Moment	God's work recognized within events (God Moment)
A	Ask	Prayer and answers offered to God

Encounter is not about the "person themselves," but about recognizing the message God gives me through the person I met today.

Moment is not simply a record of events, but a place to hold onto what God said through those events.

Core Structure of the Weekday Shema Diary

① Daily Scripture Meditation

Observation – Interpretation – Application

Observation	Interpretation	Application
What facts are actually visible in the passage?	What do God's character and will reveal through this passage?	What concrete act of obedience should I choose today?

Scripture meditation is not a time for collecting knowledge, but a discipline of thinking and deciding within the Word.

② S.H.E.M.A. OS Record – Five Channels of God's Prompting

After Scripture meditation, the day is organized through the five S.H.E.M.A. channels.

- **Scripture** The one-sentence core of the Word I held onto today
- **Hymn** A lyric or line from a hymn that moved my heart
- **Encounter** The message from God I realized through someone I met today
- **Moment** God's work I experienced in an event
- **Ask** Prayer offered to God (ICON: Me(I)·Church·Others·Nations)

☐ ✔️ Each element can be just one line or one sentence

✔️ The goal is not to write well, but to recognize daily

Basic Principles for Using This Diary

- Do not try to write perfectly every day
- Do not give up just because you missed a day
- Value **'continuing to write'** more than **'whether it was written well'**

Shema Inspiration Journal – A Space for Extended Recording

The Shema Diary includes an optional extended recording space called the **'Shema Inspiration Journal'**, separate from daily entries.

The Shema Inspiration Journal is:

- Not a record written every day
- Used once a week, or a few times a month
- A time to gather scattered S.H.E.M.A. records onto one page and reflect on God's traces

Important Principles of the Shema Inspiration Journal

It's okay if the five elements are not connected to one another	It's okay if it is not neatly organized	A sincere record is enough, even if it is not well written

The Shema Inspiration Journal is not a piece of writing that forces five fragments together, but a place to gather the traces God has left in one place.

As time passes, God will naturally weave those pieces into one story.

Frequency of Use for the Shema Inspiration Journal

- Up to 4 times per month
- Choose either once a week or 1–2 times a month
- Designed so there is no burden even if you do not write it

> The Shema Inspiration Journal is not an obligation, but a space of opportunity to organize and gather the inspiration of the week.

Thursday, July 16

(Theme: Living Hope)

Today's Passage

2 Corinthians 7:1

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

ommentary

Paul reminds believers of the glorious promises in the Old Testament that God will dwell among us and be our Father. Those who hold fast to this precious promise must pursue holiness to completion with a profound reverence for God. The reason believers are set apart from the world and seek holiness is not because of legal obligation, but because the Father who loves me and walks with me is holy. We must wash away not only our outward conduct but also our hidden motives with the Word day by day.

Question 1

What does Paul command believers, who possess God's glorious promises, to perfect in reverence for God? (v. 1)

Question 2

In my outward appearance (the flesh) and the center of my heart (the spirit), are there any corrupt habits or hidden motives that I have compromised with and left unattended without even realizing it? What is it that I need to honestly examine before the Lord today and wash clean? (v. 1)

Today's Shema Record (Please record the impressions you received through Scripture, worship, people, events, and prayer)

Friday, July 17

(Theme: Living Hope)

Today's Passage

1 John 4:7–8

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
> 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Commentary

The apostle John strongly proclaims to believers that we must love one another as we ought. The source of love belongs to God, and God is love Himself. Therefore, only those who truly love their brothers and sisters are those who know God fully and are the true children of God, born from Him. When the world shakes us and attacks us with hatred and division, the clearest mark that sets Christians completely apart from the world is unconditional love. When believers stand closely together in love, we can completely block the enemy's attempts to slip in and hinder us.

Question 1

What is the essential reason John says believers must love one another, and what kind of God does he declare God to be? (vv. 7–8)

Question 2

Who are the people you are tempted to hate and keep away from because they do not please you or have hurt your feelings? Today, what action will you take to put aside the way of hatred and choose the love the Lord has given you, so that you may show kindness first? (v. 7)

Today's Shema Record (Please record the encouragement you received from the Word, praise, people, events, and prayer.)

2026.7.18 Saturday Family Worship

(Theme: Living Hope)

01

Opening Praise

02

Scripture Reading – Read the sermon passage from last Sunday's service

Please share any grace, insight, application, or commitment points you received from last Sunday's sermon.

03

Shema 5 Elements (S.H.E.M.A) Family Sharing

Scripture – The verse or confession that stayed with your family most throughout the week

Hymn – The song that moved your heart most throughout the week

Encounter – The person who was most meaningful to you throughout the week

Moment – The event that was most meaningful to you throughout the week

Ask – A prayer request your family wants to bring together, or an answered prayer

04

Family Prayer

Please pray together using the prayer requests above and close. Parents, please pray a blessing over your children.

Shema Weekly Reflection

Slowly read back through the Shema 5 Elements you recorded throughout the week. Reflect on how God met you through Scripture, prayer, praise, people, and events, and write it out as one story. It doesn't need to be well-written — a sincere confession is enough.

Writing Guide • You may choose the one day that stood out most to you this week • You don't need to include all five elements • Length is up to you (5–10 lines recommended)

Write a journal entry about the impression God gave you this week.

Shema Reflection Journal

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Theme: Joyful Trust

Passage / 1 Peter 4:1-19

> 1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude,
> because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. 2 As a result, he does not live the
> rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. 3 For you have
> spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust,
> drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 4 They think it strange that you do
> not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. 5 But
> they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For
> this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they
> might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard
> to the spirit. 7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so
> that you can pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude
> of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each one should use
> whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its
> various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If
> anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may
> be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
> 12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though
> something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the
> sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are
> insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God
> rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of
> criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed,
> but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the
> family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey
> the gospel of God? 18 And, 'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of
> the ungodly and the sinner?' 19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should
> commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Sermon Notes

Sermon Title:

Core Message of the Sermon

Points That Moved Me

My Commitment

Small Group Discussion

1. Opening Sharing

- Share together any gratitude or grace you experienced in your life over the past week.
- What was the verse or sentence that stayed with you most as you listened to today's Sunday sermon?

2. Reading the Passage Background Together

Since Christ has already suffered in the body for us, we as believers must arm ourselves with the same attitude. When we put away the old ways of living — immorality, lust, and pleasure-seeking — and seek to live according to God's will, the friends of the world may think us strange, slander us, and oppose us by walking away.

Yet the suffering of being ignored and rejected by the world's trends and pleasure-driven relationships is the surest proof that we have been completely freed from the dominion of sin and boldly born as 'strangers of God.' Therefore, we have no reason to shrink back or be ashamed in the face of suffering. Rather, when we hold fast to joyful trust in God's faithfulness with the joy and spiritual pride of sharing in the Lord's sufferings, we will greatly rejoice and be glad in hope on the final day of judgment when the Lord's glory is revealed.

Today's passage asks us:

- Am I spiritually armed, wearing the armor of suffering the Lord has given me to cut off sin?
- Am I compromising my standards of faith out of fear of the world's culture or the slander and gaze of old friends?
- Am I confessing joyful trust, counting the disadvantages I face because of the Lord as a spiritual honor?

3. Scripture Discussion

Question 1. When we are transformed by leaving behind our old life of following sinful desires, the world thinks us strange and slanders us. If you have a story of being ostracized or opposed by the world's false trends or social circles after believing in Jesus, share how you overcame it with spiritual pride. (1 Peter 4:3-4)

Question 2. The passage urges us that since the end of all things is near, we should be clear-minded and self-controlled in prayer, and above all, love each other deeply. Who is the member of the community you need to be more prayerfully alert for and love more fervently, in order to build a spiritual defense and strengthen the community so the enemy finds no foothold? (1 Peter 4:7-8)

Question 3. Peter commands us to serve one another as good stewards of God's grace in its various forms, each using the gift he has received. What are the spiritual gifts God has entrusted to you, and how can you use them not for your own honor but to serve the weaker members of the church? (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Question 4. If we are insulted because of the name of Christ, we are blessed, and the Spirit of glory and of God rests on us. Even amid the injustice and blows of reality, without being deceived by your emotions, what is your commitment to quietly do good while entrusting your soul to the faithful Creator who governs history? (1 Peter 4:14, 19)

Monday, July 20

(Theme: Joyful Trust)

Today's Passage

Titus 2:11–13

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.
> 12 It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,
> 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Commentary

The amazing grace of God, who brings salvation to all people, has brightly appeared in our lives through Jesus Christ. True faith is not a burdensome effort to earn God's approval by our own strength and hard work, but a process of receiving by faith the grace already given as a gift and being willingly trained by that grace. Only when we are deeply soaked in the grace of the cross do we finally gain the strength to put aside the desires that worldly culture tempts us with and live today with self-control and godliness.

Question 1

What does God's grace, which not only saves us but also trains us in this world, lead us to put away and how does it teach us to live? (v. 12)

Question 2

What are the ways I have grown spiritually weary or compromised while trying to overcome the temptations of the world only with my own willpower or stubbornness? What action should I take today to rely first on the Lord's grace—who saved me freely without conditions—rather than on my own efforts? (vv. 11–12)

Today's Shema Journal (Please record the impressions you received from Scripture, praise, people, events, and prayer)

Tuesday, July 21

(Theme: Joyful Trust)

Today's Passage

Psalm 5:11–12

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.
> 12 For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

Commentary

David joyfully sings of the safety and praise that those who take refuge in the LORD will enjoy, even amid many threats. True rest and joy are found not in an environment without hardship, but when, even in the middle of a storm, we cast our souls into the arms of the faithful God. God surrounds those righteous who rely on Him with His gentle grace, guarding them completely on every side like a shield. Even amid the blows of the world that shake me, when I trust in God's faithfulness, eternal stability is given.

Question 1

What does David compare God's protective grace to as he sings for those who take refuge in the Lord? (v. 12)

Question 2

When you face a crisis or a daunting problem in life, have you not first sought and relied on worldly methods or people instead of taking refuge in God? What attitude must you repent of and turn from today so that you can lay down your anxiety and make the Lord your only refuge? (v. 11)

Today's Shema Record (Please write down the impressions you received from the Word, praise, people, events, and prayer.)

Wednesday, July 22

(Theme: Joyful Trust)

Today's Passage

Romans 12:6–8

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Commentary

Through the Holy Spirit, God has graciously poured out different measures of spiritual gifts to every believer. Gifts such as prophecy, service, teaching, encouragement, generosity, and leadership were not given so that I could monopolize them for my own honor. They are gifts to be shared in serving and supporting the weaker members of the church. When we faithfully use the gifts given to us with joy and willingness, the church community can withstand any external assault of division.

Question 1

Paul says that the gifts we have received according to the grace given to us are different from one another. How does he instruct those who serve and those who teach to work? (v. 7)

Question 2

Am I not monopolizing or burying the time, money, and talents (gifts) God has given me for myself alone? What gift should I begin sharing today, right away, to help and serve the weaker members of the church and the people around me? (vv. 6, 8)

Today's Shema Record (Please record the impressions you received through the Word, praise, people, events, and prayer)

Thursday, July 23

(Theme: Joyful Trust)

Today's Passage

1 Corinthians 10:31–33

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
> 32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—
> 33 even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

Commentary

Paul commands believers to do everything, whatever they do, for the glory of God, completely breaking down the dualistic barrier that separates holy ministry from secular work. Not only Sunday worship but even the most ordinary tasks of daily life become a holy sanctuary when they are done with the joy of honoring the Lord. Furthermore, a life that truly seeks God's glory is proven through consideration for others. The life of a believer who obeys the Word is not one that insists on personal benefit and causes others to stumble, but one that seeks the good of many and leads them onto the way of salvation.

Question 1

Paul tells believers that whether they eat or drink or whatever they do, for whose glory should they do it, and when dealing with others, what should they seek instead of their own good? (verses 31, 33)

Question 2

Recently, have I ever insisted on my own rights, interests, or preferred way and caused my family or church members to stumble or become a stumbling block? In daily life, what stubbornness do I need to lay down today in order to put others' spiritual good before my own? (verses 32–33)

Today's Shema Record (Please record the impression you received from the Word, praise, people, events, and prayer)

Friday, July 24

(Theme: Joyful Trust)

Today's Passage

Acts 5:40–42

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 40 His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.
> 41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.
> 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Commentary

The chief priests and the Sanhedrin seized the apostles, flogged them, and strongly threatened and opposed them, telling them not to speak in the name of Jesus. But the apostles, greatly rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer disgrace for His name, walked out boldly before the Sanhedrin. They did not yield to the threats, and day after day, whether in the temple courts or from house to house, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ. A true disciple's life is to move forward boldly, not ashamed of the loss or criticism received at work or in the world because of the Lord, but counting it as an honor.

Question 1

After the apostles were flogged, threatened, and released by the Sanhedrin, what did they not stop doing day after day, whether in the temple courts or from house to house? (v. 42)

Question 2

Have you ever hesitated or stopped acting like a Christian at home or at work because of the eyes of others or the fear of loss? In the midst of the world's opposition, what is the first aspect of faith that you need to restore today in order to live a life that reveals Jesus wherever you are each day? (v. 42)

Today's Shema Record (Please record the impressions given to you through the Word, praise, people, events, and prayer)

2026.7.25 Saturday Family Worship

(Theme: Joyful Trust)

01

Opening Praise

02

Scripture Reading – Read the sermon passage from last Sunday's service

Please share any grace, insight, application, or commitment points you received from last Sunday's sermon.

03

Shema 5 Elements (S.H.E.M.A) Family Sharing

Scripture – The verse or confession that stayed with your family most throughout the week

Hymn – The song that moved your heart most throughout the week

Encounter – The person who was most meaningful to you throughout the week

Moment – The event that was most meaningful to you throughout the week

Ask – A prayer request your family wants to bring together, or an answered prayer

04

Family Prayer

Please pray together using the prayer requests above and close. Parents, please pray a blessing over your children.

Shema Weekly Reflection

Slowly read back through the Shema 5 Elements you recorded throughout the week. Reflect on how God met you through Scripture, prayer, praise, people, and events, and write it out as one story. It doesn't need to be well-written — a sincere confession is enough.

Writing Guide • You may choose the one day that stood out most to you this week • You don't need to include all five elements • Length is up to you (5–10 lines recommended)

Write a journal entry about the impression God gave you this week.

Shema Reflection Journal

Sunday, July 26, 2026 – Sermon & Small Group Discussion

Theme: Lessons from the Life of John

Passage: Revelation 1:9-20

> 9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, 11 which said: 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.' 12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was someone 'like a son of man,' dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. 19 Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. 20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.'

Sermon Notes

Sermon Title :

Core Message of the Sermon

Points That Moved Me

My Commitment

Small Group Discussion

1. Opening Sharing

- Share together any gratitude or grace you experienced in your life over the past week.
- What was the verse or sentence that stayed with you most as you listened to today's Sunday sermon?

2. Reading the Passage Background Together

The apostle John was imprisoned on the island of Patmos for bearing witness to the word of God and to Jesus, spending a time of suffering and loneliness. It was in that very place of exile that John, moved by the Spirit, witnessed the glorious and overwhelming vision of the risen Jesus Christ walking among the seven golden lampstands (the churches).

Before the fearful majesty of the Lord shining like the sun, John fell at His feet as though dead. Then the Lord gently placed His right hand on the trembling John and comforted him, saying, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One." The Lord had died before, but now lives for ever and ever, holding the keys of death and Hades — the absolute Ruler of the entire universe. John's life shows us that even in a lonely, hemmed-in place of darkness, when we faithfully worship, we can hear the voice of the risen King and rise again to our place of calling.

Today's passage asks us:

- Even when I am trapped in a place of suffering and loneliness, am I holding fast to the word and testimony of the Lord to the end?
- Am I looking to the Lord who holds sovereignty over the entire universe and shaking off the fear the world gives?
- Do I truly trust that the Lord is the Shepherd who places His hand on my trembling soul and comforts me?

3. Scripture Discussion

Question 1. John received God's revelation while imprisoned on the island of Patmos, sharing in the suffering, kingdom, and patient endurance of Jesus. If you have a time when, instead of being discouraged in a lonely blind spot or unjust situation in life, you were moved by the Spirit and drew close to the Lord in worship, please share it. (Revelation 1:9-10)

Question 2. John fell at the feet of the Lord's glorious form — dressed in a robe reaching to his feet, with a golden sash, and a face shining like the sun — as though dead. Is my gaze currently fixed on the world's dazzling power or fearful circumstances, or is it directed toward the holy majesty of the Lord who overwhelms the entire universe? (Revelation 1:12-17)

Question 3. Jesus placed His right hand on the fearful John and declared "Fear not," proclaiming that He holds the keys of death and Hades. What are the blows and fears of the world that are currently shrinking and troubling your heart, and how can you recover supernatural peace through the touch of the living Lord? Please share. (Revelation 1:17-18)

Monday, July 27

(Theme: Lessons from the Life of John)

Today's Passage

Matthew 4:18–22

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called
> Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were
> fishermen.
> 19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
> 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.
> 21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his
> brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus
> called them,
> 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Commentary

Jesus calls fishermen who were going about their ordinary work on the shore of Galilee. First, the Lord called Peter and Andrew, and then, as He went a little farther, He called the brothers James and John, who were mending their nets in the boat with their father Zebedee. The Lord's call, "Follow me," carried an irresistible spiritual authority. When John and James heard the voice of the Lord, they did not hesitate or calculate. They made a faith-filled decision to leave everything behind and follow Jesus at once, giving up both the boat that had been their means of livelihood and their father, their most precious family tie. The life of a true disciple begins with breaking our own standards and familiar ways and responding immediately to the Lord's call.

Question 1

When Jesus called James and John, who were mending their nets with their father in the boat, what did they leave behind and immediately follow the Lord? (v. 22)

Question 2

To obey the Lord's word and walk the path of His mission, what is the first thing I need to lay down today—my own "boat and net" (worldly attachments, desires, comfort)?

Today's Shema Journal (Please record the impressions the Lord has given you through the Word, praise, people, events, and prayer).

Tuesday, July 28

(Theme: Lessons from the Life of John)

Today's Passage

John 13:23–25

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." 25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

Commentary

As Jesus was sharing His last meal with the disciples, He foretold that one of them would betray Him. Faced with this shocking statement, the disciples looked around at one another in confusion. At that moment, there was a disciple who was reclining nearest to the Lord, leaning on Jesus' bosom. He was none other than the apostle John, who wrote this Gospel. Peter, wanting to know who the betrayer Jesus had identified was, signaled to John with a gesture to ask Him. Relying on the deep intimacy he had long enjoyed with the Lord, John leaned back against Jesus' chest and asked Him plainly who the betrayer was. Believers who enjoy close fellowship with the Lord do not draw back in fear even in the shaking moments of life; instead, they move even closer into the Lord's presence and lay their hearts before Him.

Question 1

When Jesus foretold the betrayal, what did John—who was reclining on the Lord's bosom—ask Jesus after receiving Peter's signal? (v. 25)

Question 2

When unsettling events or sudden spiritual crises come into my life, do I draw nearer to the Lord or move away from Him? What prayer should I offer today so that I may bring my troubled heart and concerns and fully lean on Jesus' bosom? (vv. 23, 25)

Today's Shema Record (Please record the impressions you received from the Word, praise, people, events, prayer, and more.)

Wednesday, July 29

(Theme: Lessons from the Life of John)

Today's Passage

1 John 4:13–21

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
> 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
> 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.
> 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.
> 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.
> 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
> 19 We love because he first loved us.
> 20 If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.
> 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Commentary

The apostle John teaches us that because God has poured out His Spirit on us, we are intimately united with the Lord. God is love itself, and when we abide in that love, all fear within us is cast out completely. The only power that overcomes anxiety about judgment and punishment is knowing the Lord's perfect love. More than that, this love must not remain an abstract confession; it must be proven through visible action. To claim that we love the invisible God while hating our brother and neighbor whom we can see is a lie. True love for God is completed through concrete actions that embrace and love our brothers.

Question 1

According to John, what is the only way to drive out the fear within us, and what command of the Lord must those who love God keep? (verses 18, 21)

Question 2

Do you ever profess with your lips that you love God deeply, while in reality harboring hatred and resentment toward your family or brothers and sisters in the church right in front of you? Honestly repent of your hypocritical heart, and ask yourself: who is the brother to whom I must first extend love and forgiveness today? (verse 20)

Today's Shema Journal (Please record any impressions received through the Word, praise, people, events, or prayer)

Thursday, July 30

(Theme: Lessons from the Life of John)

Today's Passage

Galatians 2:9–10

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 9 James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. 10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Commentary

John, recognized as one of the steadfast “pillars” of the Jerusalem church, together with James and Cephas (Peter), fully acknowledged the apostolic grace of God that had been given to Paul. Without asserting their own existing privileges or human prejudices, they gladly extended the “right hand of fellowship” to Paul and Barnabas for the sake of the expansion of the gospel. Through this holy partnership, the boundaries of the gospel were opened wide beyond the Jews to the Gentiles. The final earnest request the leaders of the Jerusalem church made to Paul was to “remember the poor.” True gospel partnership is shown in honoring one another’s calling and standing together, and the tangible fruit of that gospel is proven in loving care for marginalized and poor neighbors.

Question 1

What did John, James, and Cephas, the pillar-like leaders of the Jerusalem church, ask Paul and Barnabas to be sure to remember when they extended the right hand of fellowship? (vv. 9–10)

Question 2

Who are the church members or neighbors I have kept at a distance because they are different from me in personality or thought? Today, who is the person I need to approach first, break down my prejudice toward, and open my heart to by extending the “right hand of fellowship”? (v. 9)

Today’s Shema Record (Please record the insights you received from the Word, worship, people, events, and prayer.)

Friday, July 31

(Theme: Lessons from the Life of John)

Today's Passage

Revelation 1:1–3

Scripture (NIV1984)

> 1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Commentary

Revelation is not the result of human subjective thoughts or speculation, but the faithful word of 'revelation' in which God, through Jesus Christ, has shown the church what must soon take place. The apostle John, confined in exile, recorded and testified without compromise everything he received from God: the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ—that is, the visions and truth he saw with his own eyes. The true blessing the Lord promises to believers living in the last days is not found in worldly achievements or reputation. It is the one who diligently reads the written word, hears it with their ears, stores it in their heart, and stubbornly 'keeps it' in the midst of daily life who is truly the blessed person overcoming this age.

Question 1

Who gave the words of Revelation to whom, and to whom does the Lord declare that the heavenly blessing will come? (verses 1, 3)

Question 2

As the last days draw near, it becomes easy to let our hearts be taken captive by the flashy trends and false information of the world and drift away from the Word. In the busyness of my life today, am I placing reading, hearing, and keeping Scripture as my highest priority? What word of the Lord should I specifically obey and put into practice in my daily life today? (verse 3)

Today's Shema Record (Please record the impressions you received from the Word, praise, people, events, and prayer)

Shema Testimony Sharing

> This section is a space for Youngnak family members to share the grace they have experienced through the Word, praise, people, events, and prayer in their daily lives. (Any member of the Youngnak family is welcome to participate in Shema Testimony Sharing.)

Sister Kim Min-ju (District 7)

Last week, we learned about 'godly leadership.' The lesson was that while worldly leaders wield power, leaders in God's kingdom demonstrate a servant's heart.

As it happened, this week I faced a situation where my supervisor tried to increase my workload and my colleague's without any discussion. The attitude that seemed to disrespect me brought a sudden wave of frustration and a sense of injustice, and resentment toward him began to rise in me.

When I was hurting like I had been emotionally burned, I began to wonder if perhaps the reason my heart was getting scratched was because I was trying to handle everything on my own.

Then I remembered the Wednesday devotional from this week. I made up my mind to put on the glasses of God's Word and look at the situation again.

I came to see this frustrating situation not as a bomb meant to destroy me, but as 'God's furnace' refining me to be stronger.

I had always struggled to maintain my own boundaries and found it hard to manage stress, but I decided to treat this as an opportunity to learn how to communicate wisely.

Unlike people of the world who are swept away by their emotions and fall apart, I trust that I have the Lord as my strong shield. I will strive to live a life of fully entrusting everything to the Lord.

Elder Lee Gang-hyeon (District 16)

(Deuteronomy 11:13-15) "So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul—then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil. I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied."

The insight God has given me more firmly through His Word recently, and especially this week, is that loving God first, listening attentively to the Word of the God I love, and serving Him with all my heart and soul must be my first priority.

When I think about how frustrated God must have been with me, always seeking only what I wanted, I feel ashamed of myself and am moved to repentance.

Even human parents, if their children obey them well, know what their children need without being asked, or ask first and provide for them — yet the sight of a child who doesn't listen to their parents but only throws a tantrum demanding what they want was truly something to be ashamed of.

Listening well to God's commands (reading the Bible), loving God, and serving Him wholeheartedly must be the top priority of my life. I engrave on my heart that seeking God's will before my own, and fully entrusting everything to be accomplished in God's time and in God's way, is the best way and the best life for passing through this wilderness.

It was a week of gratitude for the realization that entrusting everything to God's guidance and seeking the help of the Holy Spirit — since even obedience is not something I can do in my own strength — is the way I must live.

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July Shema

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