Saturday

This weekend is the Apologetics Conference, where we'll discuss reasons for our faith in Christ. How has God given you reasons for your own faith?

Think of someone you know who has doubts about God. In what specific way today can you lovingly demonstrate to them the evidence of your faith in Jesus?

Please pray for this weekend's Apologetics Conference, "Reasons for Faith." Pray for the speakers, that their talks would embolden us in our faith in Jesus Christ. Pray also that God would bring the people who need to hear these topics, that He would soften the hearts of those who are skeptical, and that He would save them.



scouting divine

AUGUST 13 & 14, 2011 • MARGARET FEINBERG
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<u>Le</u>	SSONS from the flock JOHN 10:1-5
	sheep are,, and to respond to the voice of
	their shepherd.
	What lessons can be learned from spending time with sheep?
Le	ssons from the beehive EXODUS 3:8
	In order for a land to with milk and honey, what has to happen?
	How would you describe the land you're living in right now?
Le	ssons for the vineyard JOHN 15:1-5
	Which picture of pruning do you most imagine or relate to most?
	What does abiding mean in your relationship with God right now?
	What do these images of God reveal about the work God is doing in your life?

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read John 10. When Jesus described Himself as "the gate [or door]" of the sheep in John 10:9, he was painting a rich portrait of being both protector and provider.

In what ways have you experienced Jesus as your protector and provider this month?

Do you feel like Jesus usually has to keep you in or the predators out? Why?

Re-read John 10:28 and, if you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ, insert your own name in each of the following blanks:

I give eternal life to _______, and _______ will neve perish; and no one will snatch _______ out of My hand.

Thank God for the way that He is watching over you. Thank Him for being willing to lay down His life to protect you.

Tuesday

The books of the Law are filled with rules regarding livestock, particularly in regard to offerings, and the final book of the Torah informs readers what to do if they see a neighbor's sheep straying. Read Deuteronomy 22:1. How is obeying this command a fulfillment of Luke 10:27 and Deuteronomy 6:5?

Lord, make me sensitive to the needs of my neighbors and those around me. Like a sheep, I'm completely and utterly dependent on You, the Good Shepherd, for everything. Holy Spirit, reveal the distorted beliefs or misconceptions I have about You. Give me a fresh and clear picture of who You are through Scripture.

Wednesday

Read Luke 12:16–21. How many times did the rich man use the words "I," "my," or "me"?

What conclusions can you draw about his attitude based on that usage?

What do the barns (storage areas of blessing) look like in your life?

Lord, thank you for the blessings that you have given me to steward. Help me to embrace contentment in every area of my life. Father, help me to walk in the humility necessary to walk in generosity when I have the opportunity to provide for others who are in need.

Thursday

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1–26 aloud. What parallels can be drawn between a beehive and this passage?

What parallels can be drawn between Twin Lakes Church and this passage?

What gifts do you feel like you bring to this church?

Do you tend to view your contribution to the body of Christ as less important, necessary, or extremely important? Why?

Father, awaken me to the reality of Your presence and tender care in my life. Help me slow down enough to see the ways You're working in and through me. Help me enter the land of blessing You've designed — one where things are in balance and working in their proper order as You intended.

Friday

Read Leviticus 25:1–7 and Exodus 23:11. These passages talk about the land having a Sabbath. Why do you think God gave these specific commands regarding the land?

How do you think the people benefited? How did the land benefit? The animals?

How can you integrate this principle of Sabbath into your everyday life?

Jesus tells us in Mark 2:27 that the weekly Sabbath (and by implication the seventh year rest of the land) is meant for humanity. The act of stopping work has a way of realigning our priorities. In the process of practicing the Sabbath, we are reminded that God is ultimately our Provider. When we practice the Sabbath, we reveal God to truly be Lord of our lives.

Lord, You are the keeper of all things — including me.

I ask that you give me the courage to fully submit to you and help me learn to where I need to cut back. Give me the grace to make wise choices and loving friends to celebrate the journey of faith with.

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches.
Those who remain in me, and I in them,
will produce much fruit. For apart from me
you can do nothing. John 15:5 NLT