



Bayside Presbyterian Women May 2020



Devotion

Scripture to Help Shift Your Thinking

What would happen if you filter your thoughts through God's Word?
by **Jeanette Hanscome**



Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. —Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

I copied Philippians 4:8 in white paint pen on black paper. I added a few flourishes, took a picture of it, then emailed it to my Bible study friends. That morning, we'd had a long talk about our attitudes and how often they were rooted in what we chose to fill our minds with. What might happen if we challenged ourselves to filter everything through Philippians 4:8 for a week, even if that meant avoiding the news, social media, and certain conversations?

As I kept my promise to make a pretty copy of the verse for the women to set as wallpaper on their phones or computers, I considered what it might mean for me to think on things that were true, noble, right, pure

But that afternoon, something happened that frustrated me.

The more I tried to apply Philippians 4:8, the more aware I became of how often I allowed my mind to drift to unlovely places. No wonder I had trouble sleeping, snapped at people I loved, and felt anxious. Peace came when I asked Jesus to shift my thinking. How different would our lives be if we tuned out everything that contradicted Philippians 4:8? What would we talk about? What would we watch and listen to? What would we think about at night? As hard as it is some days, when we start to see it make a difference, the peace becomes worth the effort.

Faith Step: Write Philippians 4:8 on a card or piece of paper and keep it where you can see it often. Challenge yourself to filter your thoughts for a week.

Benevolence in the spotlight



Minister's Special Benevolence fund. The ministers use this money at their discretion for people who don't fall under the other ministries responsibilities. It is a very confidential funding source and used in emergency situations.



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Upcoming dates to remember:

- May 4th – Star Wars Day, May the Fourth be With You
- May 5th – Cinco de Mayo and National Teacher's Day
- May 6th – National Nurses Day
- May 7th – National Day of Prayer
- May 10th – Mother's Day
- May 25th – Memorial Day
- May 31st – Pentecost Sunday
- Summer Study – 2nd Monday throughout the summer months, details forthcoming



Stay Safe

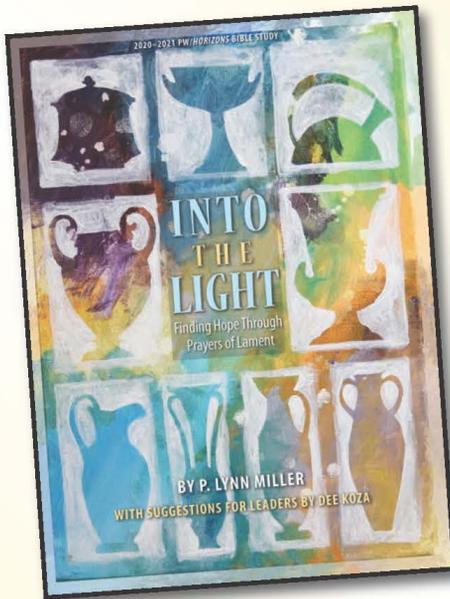


Always needed:
- Juice (approx. 64 oz) any kind
- Canned fruits of any size





Introducing the 2020–2021 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study!



In this nine-lesson study, Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world.

About the authors



Lynn Miller, author and artist, is a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She received her MDiv from Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, Virginia) and the DMin from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen (Scotland). She has served as a workshop leader, graphic designer, and keynote speaker for conferences and gatherings on theology, worship, spirituality, education, and the arts. She provided the suggestions for leaders for the 2016–2017 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes* by Judy Yates Siker. Lynn has been a practicing artist for 25 years. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in fine arts and art history. Her work is in private and church collections throughout the U.S.



Dee Koza is a certified Christian educator, commissioned lay pastor, and a commissioned ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A graduate of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Union Theological Seminary), Dee has served in presbytery and national staff positions and in seven churches as an educator. Presently, Dee serves as pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Geneva, Alabama.

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