### **DEPENDING ON JESUS TO RESTORE OUR [IMPERFECT] LIVES**

**MARCH 2017** 

### IN THIS ISSUE

DESCRIBING [IMPERFECT] By Pastor Corey Laughary

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES **LENT COLORING POSTERS** 

**LOVE YOUR ENEMIES** By Tina Laughary [IMPERFECT] LIVES

**NEXTSTEPS STARTING POINT BIBLE STUDIES BIBLE READING PLANS OIKOS PRAYER CARDS** 

**KID CARPOOL** Bv Brenda Cook **PFC LEADER NEEDS** 

REFLECTIONS ON UGANDA IN A PHILOSOPHICAL VEIN By Kay Tronsen

**PRAYER & PRAISE** Воок Nook

> JOY FOR THE JOURNEY **SUNDAY NIGHTS AT PFC** Men's Breakfast **WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**SERMON SCHEDULE** 

Palouse Federated Church (509) 878-1509 www.pfc.palousechurch.org

Corey Laughary, Pastor Cell | (509) 336-9154 thelaugers@yahoo.com

Tim Sievers, Communication & Connection Director Cell | (509) 595-2778 timasievers@gmail.com

### DESCRIBING [IMPERFECT] **LIVES**

By Pastor Corey Laughary

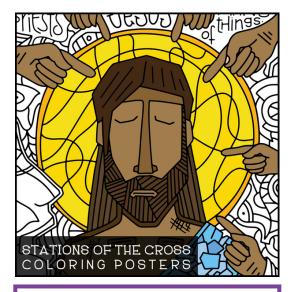


Starting the first Sunday morning in March we will begin a 4-week sermon "tour" through parts of the Old Testament exploring the theme of "[Imperfect] Lives."

The goal is to expose ourselves to parts of the Old Testament that are filled with examples of imperfect people who are nevertheless loved and restored by God to be used as part of His amazing plan of salvation. Since I often preach consecutive sermons through books of the Bible, this will be a departure from our normal routine. Lent is a good time to divert from routine to intentionally refocus our souls on Jesus Christ.

My hope is that these sermons will not only quickly summarize entire books of the Bible, but that they also will encourage our hearts and minds. I believe that God's Holy Spirit will renew us with the truth of His Word and encourage us with examples of "[Imperfect] Lives" that brought glory to Him and advanced His story and mission in the world.

(See which books will be in this series on page 7 of the newsletter.)



One of the ways we will focus our hearts and minds this Lenten season is through the act of coloring.

The church has obtained a series of posters illustrating the Stations of the Cross. Each poster takes an aspect of Jesus' journey to the cross from scripture and focuses on that specific piece of the narrative. So whether it's a tear from Jesus' eye, a closeup of Judas giving Jesus a kiss or Peter's arms crossed as he denies knowing Jesus, the illustrations will draw you into the story.

Posters will be available at the church on Sundays and will become part of our Lenten decorations. If your Bible study or ministry would like to adopt a poster, just contact Tim Sievers in the church office.

MARCH 1 | COFFEE & ASHES | THE GREEN FROG CAFÉ | 6 - 8 AM ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE | 6 PM





TURN AWAY FROM SIN AND BE FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE YOUR ENEMIES**

By Tina Laughary

We recently had an issue with one of our children. Our child had been mistreated and hurt by a friend. After many tears and a long discussion we ended up turning to Jesus' words of wisdom in Luke 6:27-30:



<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup>And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."

I read Jesus' words aloud "...let us strive to live to my sad little girl who sat in a way that is foreign listening intently to every to our culture, to treat word. When I was finished others the way we wish she just sat...speechless. I to be treated." read the same passage a second time, more slowly. When I was finished we sat in si-

lence for maybe 20 seconds until a very serious face looked up at mine and said, "Mom...nobody actually does that." Her words made me sad...because they are true.

We live in a world of tit for tat. "She was rude to me, so I was rude back." "He interrupted me, so I interrupted him." "Yes, I said bad things about her, but she says bad things about me all the time." We justify our bad behavior, our sin, by the behavior of others. My friends, this should not be.

God wants something different from us, His church. God's standards are higher than the world's standards, not because He is a mighty rule maker and not because he holds us to unreasonable expectations, but simply because He loves us. He loves us. He wants something better for us. Something more than tit for tat. When we love our enemies, when we do good to those who hurt us, call us names, and push us down—it does something amazing inside us. It changes us.

At the same time, I feel like loving our enemies, treating others the way we want to be treated, isn't something we can just choose to do and then muster up the will to do so. I believe it is an act of surrender. I believe it requires us to die daily. We must allow God to kill our selfish desires, our need to be right, to be justified, to be our own defender.

This month I will be starting my days with a prayer of surrender. I will be asking God to do through me what I know I cannot do on my own. I will be asking God to help me surrender the need to be right, to be justified and instead to love my neighbors, my enemies, my family, those who hurt me, even those who would hurt my little girl. Will you join me in this month long journey of surrender. With God's help, let us strive to live in a way that is foreign to our culture, to treat others the way we wish to be treated.

### PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT

By Thomas Merton

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and that I think I am following your will does not mean I am actually doing so.

But I believe the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all I am doing. I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you will never leave me to face my perils alone."



### STORIES OF DEPENDENCE & RESTORATION

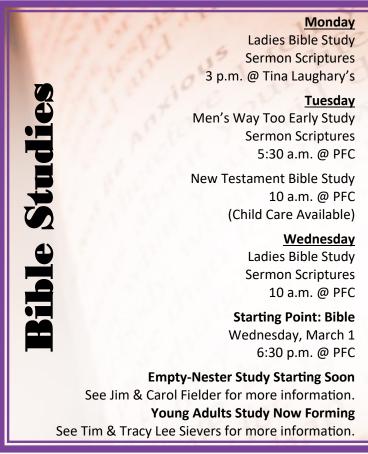
Some stories stir us to acts of courage, while others strike fear in our bones. Some remind us of our histories, while others inspire us to seek out new adventures. All great stories have moments of loss or despair, and victories won at great cost. The journey of Jesus to the cross is that perfect story one we can't help but love and accept as truth, as a loving God makes the ultimate sacrifice to rescue and restore humanity.

We also have our own stories of loss and victory, which, understood in the context of the greater story of the life of Jesus, and God's plan, can encourage us and strengthen our faith.

During our Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Suppers (Wednesdays, March 8 - April 12), people from our PFC family will share stories of times when they have depended on God and when God has worked restoration in the midst of their own [Imperfect] lives. Come and hear the stories of how the Gospel of Jesus Christ transformed people—you will be encouraged!

Weekly soup suppers begin at 6 PM!







### 2017 Bible Reading Plans

PFC has a variety of Bible Reading Plans to help you dig deeper into scripture and strengthen your faith. Pick one up in the Fellowship Hall. There also are some electronic Bible Reading Plans available. YouVersion.com offers great plans. Select a plan to read through the Bible in a year, or choose one to deepen your prayer life, grow in your leadership, find purpose in your work or overcome addiction. There's a plan for everyone.

# NEW OIKOS PRAYER CARDS NOW AVAILABLE



If you've been around PFC for any amount of time, hopefully you've heard about Oikos. Oikos is a Greek word meaning extended household—it's the 8 to 15 people that God has supernaturally and strategically placed in your life—friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers. Nobody is better equipped to share the truth of Jesus with them than you are. New Oikos prayer cards are now available for adults and children.



Are you wanting to read and study the Bible, but not sure where to start?

Are you wanting to be part of a group with PFC - but not sure which one to join?

Then "Starting Point: Bible" is for you. We are offering this once monthly, one-hour class on the first Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is **March 1** at **6:30 p.m.** 

Pastor Corey and team will lead this group and help give you a good "starting point" with the Bible. The goal of the 6 session class is to give you a Bible introduction, practical help for how to use the Bible in everyday real life, and connect you to your next step.

If you are interested in "Starting Point: Bible" fill out a communication card on Sunday, e-mail Pastor Corey <a href="mailto:thelaugers@yahoo.com">thelaugers@yahoo.com</a> or call his cell (509) 336-9154. Child-care will be provided for any who need it.

Starting Point will break in April and re-start in May!

WWW.PFC.PALOUSECHURCH.ORG [3



### KID CARPOOL

By Brenda Cook bjcook@hotmail.com

Do you have an extra seat or two in your car and the desire to bring more youth to church and church events? We believe that there are many kids in our community that would attend Bible classes, youth group, church services and other church events if they had a consistent ride to church and back home.

**How would this work?** PFC would pair you with a youth or two, ideally in your own neighborhood, that you would consistently offer to take to age appropriate church events.

**Example #1** You have a 13-year-old daughter and she knows a 14-year-old neighbor that she could invite to go to Bible Class every Sunday morning at 10 and join you and your family for the 9 AM or 11 AM service. You also could invite her to go to youth group Sunday afternoons and other youth game nights, etc.-anything kids her age would be involved in and/or anything she is interested in.

**Example #2** Your child has a friend that he'd like to invite to attend Bible classes and church with your family.

**Example #3** You have an empty seat or two in your car, and you would like to fill it to bring someone to church and other church events!

If many of us could commit to bringing one youth (or an adult!) to church events, what a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus with our neighbors/Oikos and help them grow in Christ!

Please come to an informational group meeting if you'd like to help with this new program: March 8 at 7 PM (just after Lent Soup Supper). You may already have a neighbor in mind!

### **PFC LEADER NEEDS**

YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER - ESPECIALLY A FEMALE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR(S)

We currently have TWO very important leadership va-

We need more **youth ministry leaders and volunteers**. Are you willing and able to hang out with 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders every Sunday from 3-5:30 PM? Please contact Pastor Corey or Mikel Nisse for more information. Mikel will be transferring to EWU in the Fall, and we will therefore lose him as a leader. Also, we have been in need of a 20-year-old or older female for youth ministry.

We are in need of a **Director(s)** for Vacation Bible School for summer 2017. The Director position is in charge of organizing the overall theme and curriculum, as well as recruiting and leading the VBS team. The Director does mostly administrative work, with area leaders and volunteers doing their share of the planning, setup, delivery and cleanup. So, if you are an organized person and decent at leading people and you care about the Gospel being shared with children, then this job could be for you.

Note: If we don't have a director by end of April, we will likely not have a VBS this year.



No...we haven't moved...but we have changed our mailing address.

We've noticed some items still being mailed to our old P.O. Box. Much of what's been coming are your tithes and offerings. We encourage you to contact your bank and update the church's mailing address to ensure your gift is received.

Please send all communication to:

Palouse Federated Church 635 N. Bridge St. Palouse, WA 99161

## REFLECTIONS ON UGANDA IN A PHILOSOPHICAL VEIN

By Kay Tronsen

We are back – back in the midst of our busy lives, jobs, and responsibilities. Uganda seems very far away; how quickly we lose that immediacy of experience and real-ness that accompanies trips like ours; we quickly forget the cadence of that African experience and the feeling of walking in another world, with real people and sharing their real lives. The whole time I was in Africa, I felt the distinct ease of my life in America. In Uganda, every trip was long, hot, and loud. Now, I complain about such trivial things like potholes as I drive my luxury car around them; I complain about having to take time

to go to the supermarket where I buy what I want and then pack the stuff home to unload it into cabinets, refrigerator, and freezer; I complain from the midst of *muchness* and *richness* that Ugandans can't begin to imagine.

"The poverty was still there, but this time I saw the fierce ability to survive and work hard."

The first time I went to

Uganda, I noticed the poverty. That sounds rather benign — "noticed" doesn't quite get at the scenes as they assaulted my nose and my eyes, traveling through the villages, seeing the dirt and garbage, and hard lives. The poverty was highlighted over and over everywhere I went. Once I got to Hope for All Children Orphanage, that experience was magnified as I watched them cook over a wood fire, use facilities that we would only consider in the wilds of camping for a couple nights, sleeping in tiers of bunk-beds, constantly fighting the dirt. But this trip, my second trip to Uganda, I saw something



else. The poverty was still there, but this time I saw the fierce ability to survive and work hard. Some scenes come to mind.

**Scene 1:** As we traveled through

the crazy roads in Kampala, a big city, street vendors wandered the lanes of cars, hot sun glaring down, trying to sell everything from toilet paper to sunglasses, drinks, newspapers, candy, gum, soccer balls, shoes...l even saw one fellow selling educational supplies like maps and posters of the ABCs. Mostly they are young teens, probably hired by some enterprising guy taking advantage of the incessant slow, often-stopped traffic in the heart of the city. Dale called it the

African version of drivethroughs!

Scene 2: At the beginning of our safari, we traveled to Queen Elizabeth National Park where our first adventure was a five-mile hike around the Crater Lakes through banana farms where we saw first-hand how farmers exist and work. As we



were driving later, we saw loads of green bananas, called matoke, impossibly loaded high on bicycles as the farmers struggled over hills to get the fruit to a village where trucks were waiting to buy them. I was so amazed at the shear strength and effort it took to get their produce to market. We probably saw a dozen of these loaded bicycles. Our driver pulled up next to a farmer and asked him how much he would earn from getting those bananas to market that day. The man estimated 150,000 shillings or about \$47 USD. We had seen large trucks loaded with these green bananas in Jinja and in the villages and everyone was buying them. Our safari driver said they will sell these bananas in places like Kamapla for twice what the farmer received. As a national dish, matoke is cooked and mashed to eat, a staple in the Ugandan diet (we ate it at the orphanage with a peanut sauce).

Scene 3: We tried to prepare Connor, my seven-year old

"So, I guess the bottom line is this: people are people no matter their outward circumstances." grandson, for the kids at the orphanage, explaining they were poor and didn't really have toys. He played so hard all day long when we were there, filthy within ten minutes of our arrival. He told his mom, "I like being poor. You have lots of friends to play with." A different perspective.

As I reflected on our second trip, I realized that the poverty was still the same, but this time I noticed how hard the people worked despite the poverty. Women washed clothes and dishes and babies in pans on the ground, small huts crowded the road as people tried to sell whatever they could, brick makers tore up their ground to form bricks to sell, men and women worked in the fields with crude tools . . . I think it's called tenacity. So, I guess the bottom line is this: people are people no matter their outward circumstances. We are quick to judge others from our comfortable perspectives, quick to conclude negative things based on appearances.

I hope in future articles to tell you about some of the people we are supporting in Uganda who work hard and live fierce lives to survive.

WWW.PFC.PALOUSECHURCH.ORG 5



### Prayers for these individuals and families:

- Pray for Lorraine Gilliland's health (on Hospice).
- Pray for Don Comstock's health.
- Pray for Brittany Sawyer's cousin Todd—recovering from cancer surgery.
- Pray for Honey Gibler's cousin April—recovering from back surgery.
- Pray for Bruce Baldwin's bone marrow transplant.
- Pray for Patty Myott and her declining eyesight.
- Pray for Donna Thompson (cancer)
- ♦ Pray for Virginia Baldwin
- Pray for Callie Anderson (4-year-old with cancer)
- Pray for Judy Hart (stroke)
- Pray for Sue Foster (cancer)
- Pray for Brenda Brown (cancer)
- Pray for Meredith Willcox-Norris (cancer)
- ◆ Carol Heinlen's niece Barbara (cancer)
- Pray for an additional female youth leader to join our ministry.
- Pray for our national and community leaders, their families and communities.

- Pray for your Oikos—those that God has strategically and supernaturally placed in your life.
- Pray for active duty service members.

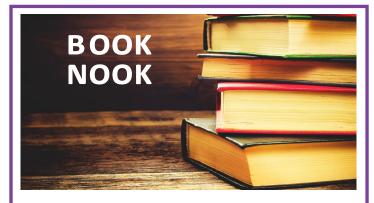
### **Praises and Prayers for these Missions and Ministries:**

- Praise God for the Bishop Place worship service. Pray for Pastor Matt Jorgens and his family.
- Pray for the Bible study at Eastern State Hospital and the residents.
- Praise God for providing volunteer youth ministry leaders. Pray for youth to come to Christ.
- Pray for our missionaries and partner church and orphanage in Uganda (pastors, teachers, orphans).

### **Remember our Shut-Ins:**

Richard Keyser Patty Myott Bob & Dory Tuttle
Reuben Merry Joanie Bagott Don & Lorraine
Virginia Baldwin Arnetta Tompkins Gilliland

Our shut-ins would love to have a visit from their church family. If you're interested in visiting, contact Pastor Corey.



Written by theology professor Nancy Guthrie, What Grieving People Wish You Knew About What Really Helps (And What Really Hurts), uses Guthrie's own personal experience losing two young children due to a genetic disorder, together with scripture, research and the experience of others in their grief in a manner that is sure to bless any who are brave enough to read or listen to it.

### White Horse Inn Podcast | Oct. 16, 2016 "Comforting Those Who Grieve"

www.whitehorseinn.org/show/comforting-those-whogrieve/

Have you ever struggled with what to say, and not say to a grieving person? If you have, you are far from alone. Nancy Guthrie, a mother who has had two children die from a rare genetic disorder was interviewed on the "White Horse Inn" podcast consider listening in to this very helpful interview.





**PFC-Palouse Federated Church** 



@PalouseChurch
@Corey\_Laughary



pfc.palouse



### **SUNDAY NIGHTS AT PFC**

Are you looking for more joy in your life? Do you think our culture could benefit from the Joy of Jesus?

Join us on Sunday Nights at PFC for "Joy for the Journey," our new series studying the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians; a letter full of instruction and encouragement regarding joy and unity. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us.

5 PM | Community Dinner 5:30 PM | Discussion

Let's Get Spiritual (Spiritual Gifts & Disciplines) 6 PM | Simple Service & Communion | Joy for the Journey Childcare available starting at 5:30 PM

### WHAT'S COOKING IN MARCH?

Did you know that PFC hosts a weekly meal? **Every Sunday night at 5 PM** we gather in the fellowship hall to share a meal and good conversation. All are welcome! This is a great weekly event to bring a friend along with you. Each week has a "theme" and there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall where you can volunteer to bring an ingredient and/or come early and help us set up. Here are the meals you can look forward to in February:

March 05<sup>th</sup> | Spaghetti March 12<sup>th</sup> | Baked Potato Bar March 19<sup>th</sup> | Taco Night March 26<sup>th</sup> | BBQ Hot Dogs

### PFC CONNECT WEEKLY E-MAIL

If you haven't been receiving our "PFC Weekly E-mail" and you would like to, please send your e-mail address to Tim Sievers at: <a href="maileo:timasievers@gmail.com">timasievers@gmail.com</a> or share your e-mail address on your communication card on Sunday. The Weekly E-mail is a great way to keep updated on PFC events, prayers, and community needs.

### **BISHOP PLACE WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sundays at 1:30 PM. All are welcome.



Men's Breakfast will take place Saturday, March 18. We gather at 7:30 AM to cook and start eating at 8 AM. Bring your favorite breakfast item to share and bring a friend.

### **ROSS POINT WOMEN'S RETREAT**

April 21-23, 2017

Our theme is "Having A Mary Spirit," a weekend retreat with DVD speaker and author, Joanna Weaver, who will teach us how to allow God to change us from the inside out while we focus on his saving grace. It's a special all-area retreat just for women to grow closer to God and to each other with

wonderful object lessons, discussions and scriptures.

Our Ladies Bible Study group will be directing the retreat. Worship will be led by Kay Tronsen, Tracy Lee Sievers and Nancy Dernell.

The retreat begins on Friday evening with dinner and session and goes through Sunday morning, ending with worship. Mark your calendars ladies! And invite a friend to join you. More information available at www.rosspoint.org.



17



Each year, area churches, in partnership with Palouse Federated Church, offer a scholarship opportunity for high school seniors. The program helps students transition from youth to adulthood, and from high school to college and career through participation in three sessions covering a variety of topics including: personal finances, healthy relationships and finally a discussion of the future. Students leave Life Lessons knowing they are loved and supported by the community and church; and that Jesus loves them and has a plan for their lives.

Life Lessons 2017 begins this month. Participants who successfully complete the program receive a \$250 scholarship.

The first meeting takes place Sunday, March 26 at 6:30 PM at Garfield Christian Fellowship.

WWW.PFC.PALOUSECHURCH.ORG

March 05	9 & 11 AM	[Imperfect] Lives: Lessons in Restoration from Judges	Selections from Judges
	6 PM	Joy for the Journey: Joys	Philippians 1:3-7
March 12	9 & 11 AM	[Imperfect] Lives: Lessons in Restoration from Ruth	Selections from Ruth
	6 PM	Joy for the Journey: Affectionate Prayer	Philippians 1:8-11
March 19	9 & 11 AM	[Imperfect] Lives: Lessons in Restoration from Esther	Selections from Esther
	6 PM	Joy for the Journey: Christ Proclaimed	Philippians 1:12-18a
March 26 9 & 11 AM [Imperfect] Lives: Lessons in Restor		[Imperfect] Lives: Lessons in Restoration from Jonah	Selections from Jonah
	6 PM	Joy for the Journey: Live or Die	Philippians 1:18b-26



### Miss a Sermon? | www. pfc.palousechurch.org

Click on "Resources" then "Audio Sermons"

CDs or mp3 files also are available upon request—
contact Tim Sievers.

Our mailing address has changed. We are no longer using a P.O. Box. If you are sending something to the church - please use our physical address: 635 N. Bridge St., Palouse, WA 99161. If you make your tithe or offering through your bank, make sure you update your bill pay to ensure your gift is received.

Palouse Federated Church 635 N. Bridge St. Palouse, WA 99161

# PALOUSE FEDERATED CHURCH CALENDAR

Saturday	4	11	Men's 18	25	Bible studies with an * indi- cate they are held at PFC.
	m	01	7.30 AM   Men's Breakfast	24	31 Bible studi
Friday					
Thursday	2	6	16	23	30
Wednesday	6 AM   Coffee & Ashes at the Green Frog Café 10 AM   Ladies Bible Study* 6 PM   Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM   Starting Point	8 10 AM   Ladies Bible Study* 6 PM   Lent Soup Suppers	15 10 AM   Ladies Bible Study* 6 PM   Lent Soup Suppers	22 10 AM   Ladies Bible Study* 6 PM   Lent Soup Suppers	29 10 AM   Ladies Bible Study* 6 PM   Lent Soup Suppers
Tuesday		5:30 AM  Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM   Bible Study*	5:30 AM   Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM   Bible Study*	5:30 AM   Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM   Bible Study* 7 PM   Board Meeting	5:30 AM  Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM   Bible Study*
Monday		3 PM   Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	3 PM   Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	20 3 PM   Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	27 3 PM   Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's
Sunday		9 AM   Worship 10:15 AM   Fellowship Sunday School 11 AM   Worship 1:30 PM   Bishop Place 5 PM   Community Dinner 6 PM   Simple Service	9 AM   Worship 10:15 AM   Fellowship Sunday School 11 AM   Worship 1:30 PM   Bishop Place 5 PM   Community Dinner 6 PM   Simple Service	9 AM   Worship 10:15 AM   Fellowship Sunday School NextSteps 11 AM   Worship 1:30 PM   Bishop Place 5 PM   Community Dinner 6 PM   Simple Service	26 9 AM   Worship 10:15 AM   Fellowship Sunday School 11 AM   Worship 1:30 PM   Bishop Place 5 PM   Community Dinner 6 PM   Simple Service

# Depending on Jesus to Restore Our [Imperfect] Lives