

Bible Study for November 30 – December 6, 2020

For the season of Advent and Christmas, we are going to be looking at Bible Studies provided through Lutheran World Relief, one of the largest, yet relatively unknown, relief agencies in the world. While their work takes place in most countries around the globe, this study will give us some perspective on what they are doing in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. . The full study, including videos, is available at: https://lwr.org/ai_file_subscribe/file/4638

AFRICA | KENYA

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

LEARN How your love helps neighbors in Kenya Located along the Indian Ocean on the eastern coast of Africa, Kenya is home to over 53 million people and some of the world's most exquisite wildlife. Kenya is bordered by the African countries of Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. Swahili and English are widely spoken and serve as the country's official languages. Since the early 1980s, you have been helping farming families in Kenya get more out of their land. You help farmers learn better ways to grow, process and store crops and, ultimately, increase the quantity and quality of their harvest. You help entire communities preserve and manage their natural resources in ways that improve their crop and livestock production. And you support farmer organizations to strengthen their technical and organizational capacities so that they can provide sustainable, equitable and quality services to their members. In arid regions of Kenya, where drought is persistent and water is scarce, You provide farmers with drought-tolerant seeds and show them how to conserve and manage water for year-round irrigation.

DISCUSS or Ponder

1. What do you know about the Kenyan landscape?
2. Think of a time the weather altered your plans. What did that feel like? What do you imagine it would be like to farm in a hot, dry climate as you wait and pray for rain?
3. Despite the lack of rain and challenging conditions, Regina (interviewed in the video) still gave thanks to God and could see how God had helped her and her family. Have you ever experienced someone with seemingly so little express gratitude for the gifts God has given? What is at the heart of that gratitude?

BIBLE STUDY

In today's Bible reading from 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, the apostle Paul is writing to the young church in Corinth. Later in his letter he expresses a list of grievances he has with

the budding church, but first he begins by giving thanks to God for them. Read verses 4-5.

4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in Him, in speech and knowledge of every kind.

1. Paul began his letter by giving thanks to God for those who would receive it. How do you think that impacted the Corinthians' response to the rest of Paul's words?
2. How might your own difficult conversations be influenced if you gave thanks to God for the person you disagreed with before beginning the conversation?
3. In the midst of the challenges you have faced in 2020, for what can you give thanks to God?

PRAYER:

Gracious God, giver of all things, we have so much to be thankful for. Thank you for being in the midst of the challenges of this past year. Guide us to focus on your Word as we look forward to the hope that Jesus brings. Help us to give thanks in all circumstances. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One we long for in this season of hope. Amen.