

few moments in prayer asking God to show you the areas in your life where you have allowed your guard to drop in regards to keeping the sanctity of life. Ask the Holy Spirit to gently remind you when you are tempted to watch TV shows that aren't as wholesome as they could be or listening to music that promotes a lifestyle you really wouldn't want to live. Thank God for the sacred gift of life and for the gift of salvation.

### **Saturday – Choose Life**

This sacred life we've been given designed to bring glory to God. Worshipping Him through music is one of the many great delights He has given us. Please join me in worshipping Him to through this song, "So Will I (100 Billion X)" by Hillsong United <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2U7ffUM5Ec>.

God of creation, There at the start Before the beginning of time With no point of reference, You spoke to the dark And fleshed out the wonder of light. And as You speak A hundred billion galaxies are born; In the vapour of Your breath the planets form; If the stars were made to worship so will I; I can see Your heart in everything You've made; Every burning star A signal fire of grace; If creation sings Your praises so will I.

God of Your promise, You don't speak in vain, No syllable empty or void; For once You have spoken, All nature and science Follow the sound of Your voice.

And as You speak, A hundred billion creatures catch Your breath, Evolving in pursuit of what You said; If it all reveals Your nature so will I; I can see Your heart in everything You say; Every painted sky, A canvas of Your grace; If creation still obeys You so will I; If the stars were made to worship so will I; If the mountains bow in reverence, so will I; If the oceans roar Your greatness, so will I; For if everything exists to lift You high, so will I; If the wind goes where You send it, so will I; If the rocks cry out in silence, so will I; If the sum of all our praises still falls shy Then we'll sing again a hundred billion times.

God of salvation, You chased down my heart Through all of my failure and pride; On a hill You created The light of the world, Abandoned in darkness to die.

And as You speak, A hundred billion failures disappear; Where You lost Your life so I could find it here; If You left the grave behind You, so will I; I can see Your heart in everything You've done, Every part designed in a work of art called love; If You gladly chose surrender, so will I; I can see Your heart Eight billion different ways, Every precious one, A child You died to save; If You gave Your life to love them, so will I.

Like You would again a hundred billion times; But what measure could amount to Your desire, You're the One who never leaves the one behind.

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Joel Houston / Benjamin William Hastings / ben tan

So Will I (100 Billion X) lyrics © Hillsong Publishing

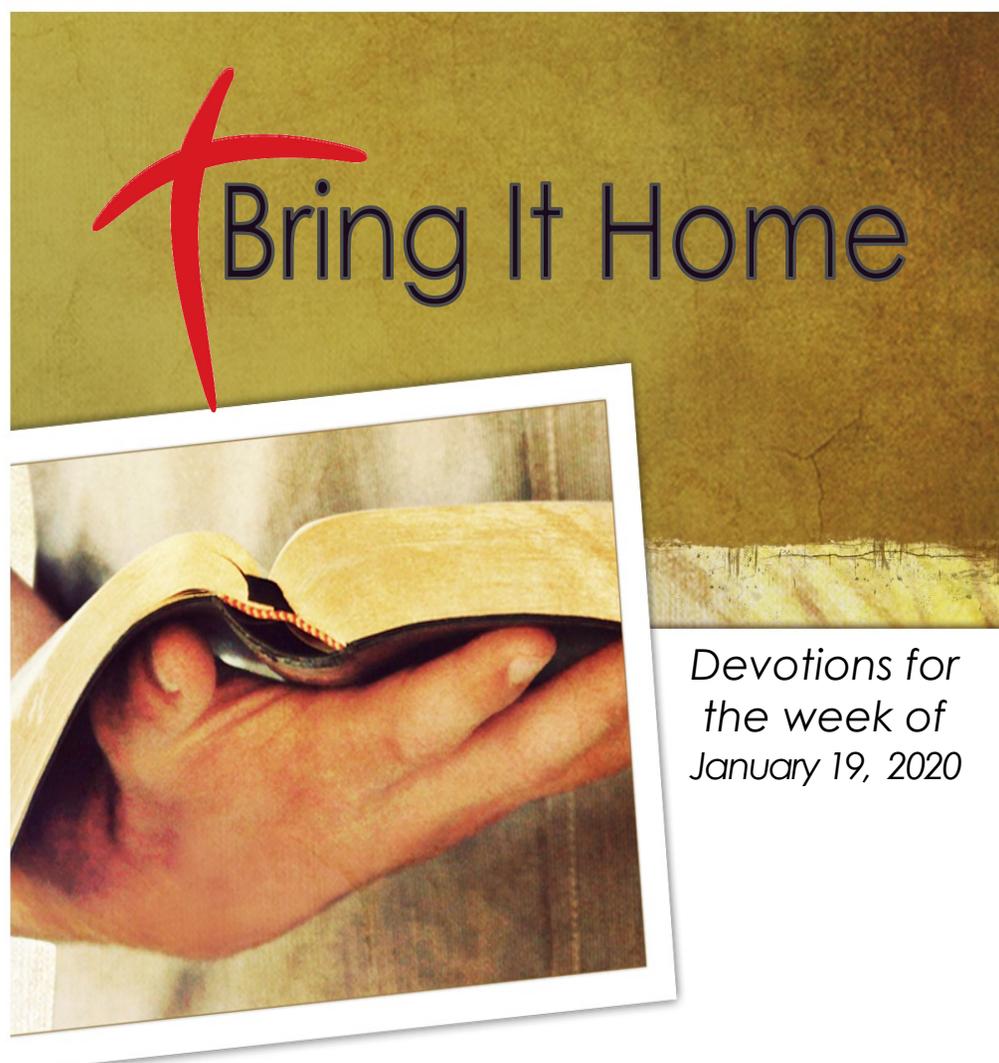
Used by Permission CCLI License #875069

### **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

4650 Sunview Drive, Loveland, Colorado 80538

This week's *Bring it Home* devotions were written by Rhonda Frerichs.

This publication may be reproduced and shared.



### **What Now?**

- This week reflect on how precious God's gift of life is to you.
- Consider some different ways that you can very intentionally "choose life" this week and celebrate that amazing gift.

### **Monday – Sanctity of Life**

Yesterday was Sanctity of Life Sunday. In 1984, on January 13<sup>th</sup>, it was President Ronald Reagan who issued a presidential proclamation designating Sunday January 22, 1984 as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. This date was the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling on Roe vs. Wade. That's over thirty years ago, and yet as humans we have struggled to understand how sacred life really is for a lot longer than 30 years. How can we as followers of Christ help others see their worth and how life is a sacred gift? As believers we do not need a National Day of Sanctity of Human life. As we see from our Old Testament reading in Deuteronomy 30:15-20, "God has told us that He is the life Giver and all of Human life is holy and sacred." God is calling to you and to me to choose life, choose to live your life in such a way that the people around you know that life is sacred and a holy gift from a Holy God. Love your family and friends with a love that reveals their worth as a human. Remind your children, grandchildren, your parents, your grandparents how much they mean to you and why that's important to understand. Pray that today and throughout this season of darkness in the world that we would be Christ's Epiphany lights reflecting His love and grace.

### **Tuesday – Who Give Us Life**

For the rest of the week I want us all to look at two different things – first, into the countenance of the One Who created us and gave us life, and second, to look deeply into just how truly great this gift of life is. Please take a few moments to read Numbers 6:22-26 and Psalm 95:6-7. Now I want to encourage you to sit quietly in a restful pose – wherever you are sitting just rest your hands on your lap with your palms up and open. Perhaps you need to do a slow shoulder roll to get your neck and arms relaxed. Once you feel relaxed close your eyes and imagine God the Father facing you. On His face is a smile and eyes that are shining brightly, looking right at you. Take this in. Your Heavenly Father loves you. When we sit in His presence, we cannot help but be changed. If you feel like crying let yourself cry, it is a very human and proof-of-life thing to do. Whatever comes to mind or whatever you feel, let it be. Don't judge – that's not your job. Take the rest of the time you have to talk with God about how you felt or feel, what you think or thought. Then praise God that we can come before Him. We are His people, the flock that He shepherds.

### **Wednesday – Imago Dei**

The Image of God – that is what humanity is created to reflect. Please read Genesis 1:26-27 and Genesis 2:7, 20b-23. Take a few moments to picture this scene. Try to engage all your senses – feel the coolness of the dirt. Does it feel soft and damp? Does it sift softly through your fingers or is it more like clay? Can you smell the earth? Our readings for today say that "the Lord God formed

the man from the dust." I imagine a Sculptor, sitting at a table with just a lump of clay. Father God takes the clay in His hands and with a smile on His face shapes a head, then connects a torso, adds some long limbs on the bottom and shorter limbs off the sides at the top. Then He adds some small pads with phalanges to the top limbs and some larger pads with phalanges to the bottom limbs. Next He does the intricate work of designing internal organs and a face – eyes and ears at just the right height to take in the sights and sounds of creation, the mouth to take in and taste the goodness of God, and a nose to receive the breath of life directly from our Creator. What do you imagine? If you have children at home, talk it over with them. This can be a great bonding and soul-forming time. Take some time to let your creativity flow – everyone has this gift to some degree. Throughout this day be mindful of the ways you use the various gifts of our humanity. Thank God for the beautiful sunrise you witness or the cold crisp air you can feel on your face.

### **Thursday – What is Life?**

Our Heavenly Father gives us life, a special life. We are not just a creature but the image bearer of our Creator. Today we will ponder what life is. Please read Genesis 1:28-30; 2:8-17, and 3:1-24. As you read through these, try to picture yourself there in the garden. What would it have been like to walk with God in the cool of the day through the garden? As we read we no longer live in Eden, but the duties God lays out for us are still our duties today. Take some time to think and write down some thoughts about what the tasks are that God has given to humanity. Then ponder how you have been fulfilling these duties. Now read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9. We have been enriched (life-giving) in every way not just to fulfill these duties, but we are also restored in our relationship with God. We can walk with Him through our day. We can include Him in making a plan to add an area or responsibility that you may think or feel you have neglected. Perhaps you are a great gardener so perhaps you could share your gardening tips with others or share your garden goodies with others. Maybe you enjoy pets and would have room to adopt a rescue pet. Talk it over with your family get others involved. Take some time today to thank God for all of the ways He has gifted you to fulfill your calling on earth. Thank Him for restoring your relationship with Him. Ask for God's wisdom and guidance to discover new ways you can work in His Kingdom.

### **Friday – The Sanctity of Life**

As I was preparing to write the devotions for this week one of the things I did was to look up the definition of sanctity. Sanctity means holiness of character: Godliness. It also means the quality or state of being holy or sacred: inviolability. I could understand holiness, godliness, and sacred, but inviolability I again had to look up. Inviolability means incapable of being violated, incorruptible, and unassailable. Inviolability put a deeper emphasis on the sanctity of life. This means that we are called to be guarding our hearts, minds, and souls as well as those of others from the things that seek to corrupt us and violate us. Read again Deuteronomy 30:15-20. Hear the call of our great God to choose life. Spend a