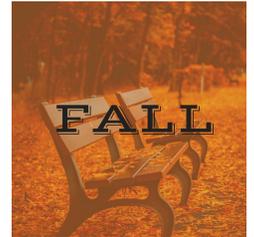


ME TIME

Fall Interlude October 22-27, 2018



"They are like trees
planted along the
riverbank, bearing fruit
each season. Their leaves
never wither, and they
prosper in all they do."

Psalms 1:3



Monday October 22

LIVE // This image of trees that never wither and are always bearing fruit might seem a bit at odds with what you're seeing out your window, but think about the trees that live in the tropical zones of our planet and don't really experience the seasons like we do: they are able to produce fruit all year long! And unlike trees, you and I get to decide if we want to be fruitful all year long. If the Psalmist is right, we stay connected to God when we spend time getting to know God through hearing from God, praying to God, talking about God, and living for God. Trees are always connected to their nourishment through their roots and, in the same way, we can be rooted in God.

Tuesday October 23

HEAR // One of the reasons we love fall is that it's so different from summer. And then we love spring again because it's so different than winter. The change in seasons usually always gives us something to look forward to. What's even better than that? Knowing that nothing changes how God feels about us, that God's love for us *endures forever*. Nothing we can do or anyone else can do will ever change God's love. You. Are. Loved. By. God.

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER."

Psalms 107:1

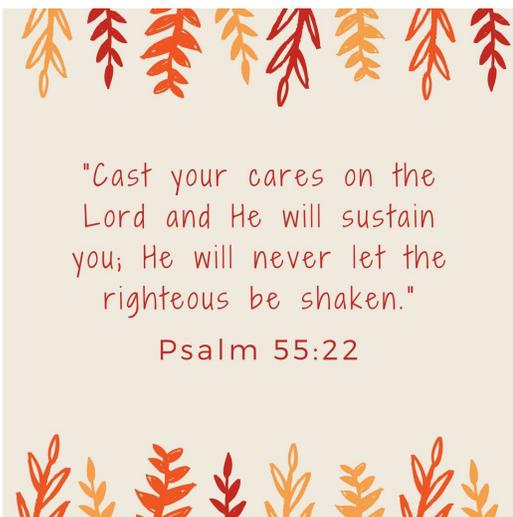


Wednesday October 24

PRAY // What does it mean to "cast" something on the Lord? Casting means throwing and when you throw something, you let go. This doesn't mean that you cast your homework at God and expect it to get done magically though! It could mean that you work as hard as you can for as long as is healthy and then say to God, "I did all I can do!" and know that your worth doesn't come from your grades, but from the fact that God calls you a child of God. So what needs cast to God today in your life? And what promise from God can sustain you?

"Cast your cares on the
Lord and He will sustain
you; He will never let the
righteous be shaken."

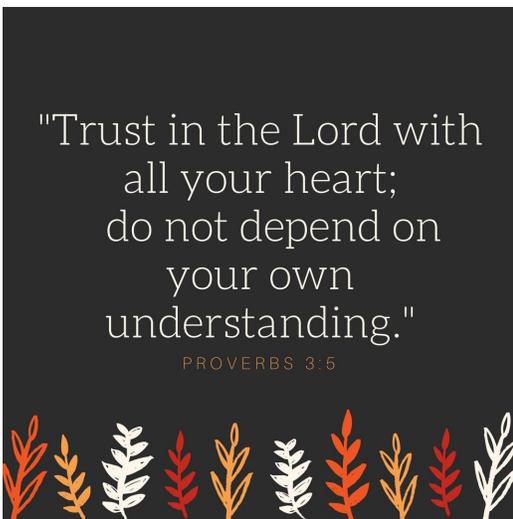
Psalms 55:22





Thursday October 25

LIVE // Have you ever noticed that whenever someone asks how we're doing, we usually want to answer with, "Busy"? Being busy is sometimes something that can't be helped and we have to endure being busy for a while or a season. But seasons *change* into new seasons eventually. If you are feeling busy (or sad or overwhelmed or tired or whatever it is) and it's been a very long season, it might be time to start looking for some changes. God wants *good* things for us and if there's no end in sight for whatever season you're in, it might be time to talk to someone about what you can change so this season can come to an end.



Friday October 26

TALK // How do you know the seasons are changing? You look for signs. It takes longer for the sun to come up in the morning and it leaves quicker in the evening. You wake up one morning and you need a jacket. The leaves start changing and dropping. These are dependable signs! No one sees them and thinks that they will lead to something wacky like a second summer. And it's the same way with God: we trust God in the present because of God's trustworthiness in the past. If you have trouble accepting that God has been trustworthy in the past, ask others to tell you stories of God's faithfulness so you can learn to trust God as well.



Saturday October 27

HEAR // Does fall have you thinking ahead to what's next: finishing college applications? Winter sports? Christmas!? It's easy to look forward to the next thing when you know what to expect. When Paul wrote that verse, he was looking forward to being *with* God in heaven. We've been talking in Youth Group about *knowing* God, but let's remember the promise that we have in Jesus: one day we will also get to be *with* God. And here's the amazing thing about that: God wants to be *with* you too! God doesn't just tolerate us, God *loves* us and has gone to amazing lengths to make sure nothing will ever separate us from God's love.