



Scripture

Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. ¹³ I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

-Philippians 4:11-13

About the show:

The Wizard of Oz is based on the 1900 novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, by Frank Baum. This book has been the inspiration for many musicals. Most famously, the 1939 movie, *The Wizard of Oz*, captured the imagination of movie audiences everywhere. The Library of Congress says that it is the most watched movie of all time. There have been several stage versions including, 1902 (Broadway), 1987 (London), and many more versions are still being performed in theatres around the world.

Open: Who has seen the movie? The Musical? Do you like it?

Prayer: Please open and close in prayer.

The Wizard of Oz

1. Dorothy is the central character of the Wizard of Oz. She is a character that is filled with anxiety. She is not content with her situation, especially after landing in Oz. Part of journey down the yellow brick road is learning to find peace and contentment in her situation.

- a. **We often struggle with being at peace in our current circumstances. The Scriptures teach us our faith is the source of our peace. Take time to read Philippians 4:11-13, out loud. (Paul writes this text while in prison.) Who does Paul say is the source of strength, peace, and comfort? Why?**
- b. **Do you struggle with being content? What brings you anxiety? What brings you peace? Here are a few additional scriptures about finding contentment though God: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; John 4: 12-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-10.**

2. The Wizard of Oz is about the journey of Dorothy to find home. It would see Dorothy is an orphan, living with her aunt and uncle and the workers on the farm. Through her journey, down the yellow brick road, Dorothy learns that she is not alone, she has many wonderful people in her life.

- a. **We are not alone, but sometimes we can feel lonely. The good news of our faith is that God is always with us. Read the announcement of the birth of Christ found in the book of Matthew 1:20-24. Read also, Psalm 23. Where is God? Is God far away in these scriptures?**
- b. **We often talk of our faith as a journey. The journey is to draw closer to God, just like Dorothy's journey brings her closer to her family. How do grow closer to God? Does serving others bring us closer to God? Ask if anyone has an example of how serving others helped them grow closer to God. Read Philippians 2:3-5. Remember, Paul writes the church from prison. What is he saying to us today? How does Paul encourage us to live? What another way to grow close to God? Do you have an example?**



Scripture

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.-

Romans 12:4-8

DID YOU KNOW:

In the original book, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, the slippers Dorothy wears are silver, not ruby.

DID YOU KNOW:

Toto the dog was not part of the original show. Dorothy had a pet cow, "Imogene."

Wizard of Oz

3. The Lion, the Tinman, and the Scarecrow are Dorothy's companions on the journey to Oz. Each of them has a unique personality, complete with flaws. Regardless of their shortcomings, they are important to each other. Each character helps make the journey successful.

a. Just as Dorothy needed her friends, we also need one another. God did not design us to be solitary people. Read Romans 12:4-8. The church is made up of unique people, complete with flaws, but we need each other.

b. What gifts do you think you bring to the body of Christ? How can you use them to make a difference?

Want to know more about the Wizard of Oz? Here are some great links:

<https://www.history.com/news/8-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-wizard-of-oz>

<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/oz/ozsect2.html>

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/66583/13-facts-about-l-frank-baums-wonderful-wizard-oz>