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UNDEFEATED
BY SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS
March 14 and 15, 2020

What does God want us to see in the COVID 19 pandemic? Can we still claim the title "Undefeated"? Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see!

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 353

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

M In the name of the Father and the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

Psalm 38

M O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.
C **For your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me.**

M My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.
C **I wait for you, O Lord; you will answer, O Lord my God.**

M I confess my rebellion.
C **I am troubled by my sin.**

M Lord, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God.
C **Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior.**

M Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
All Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M Your Savior has come quickly to help you. Through his life, death, and resurrection Jesus has rescued you. God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
C **Amen.**

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE 373, vv. 1, 2, 5

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

O Jesus, King most wonderful, O Majesty renowned,
O Conqueror invincible, In whom all joys are found,

When once you visit darkened hearts, Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs, Then kindles love divine.

Oh, may our tongues forever bless And honor you alone,
And may we in our lives express The image of your own!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

God of grace and mercy, we bow before you in humble sorrow for our sins.

C **We are unworthy to receive the least of your blessings.**

M In this life we carry around “a body of death.” The sinful nature that still lives in us makes us spiritually blind, weak, and prone to every form of vice and addiction

C **Yet, Father, you sent Jesus, who endured the pain of flogging, beating, and the cross to rescue us from this body of death forever.**

M May your great love for us strengthen us and work faithful love in us. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14, Bible page 1176

Paul uses the metaphor of darkness in describing the spiritual blindness that characterized the Ephesians before God’s grace came to them.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed (*Isaiah 53:6*).

GOSPEL

John 9:1-7; 13-17,34-39, Bible page 1074

Jesus heals a blind man of his physical blindness while seeking at the same time to heal the spiritual blindness of the spiritual leaders of the day.

HYMN OF THE DAY 343

Christ Is the World’s Light

SERMON

John 9, Bible page 1074

Pastor Peter Panitzke

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 321

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name

CLOSING PRAYER

M Let us pray.

Jesus, your great love for the world moved you to take on our human flesh and blood. In more ways than one, you allowed yourself to be broken so that we could be made whole.

C **We stand in awe of the sacrifice you made for us. As we go out into the world, make us lights that shine for you.**

M We pray, Jesus, in your name. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen.**

TODAY'S MUSIC (*Sunday 7:45 am*) **By Faith**, by Keith and Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend
(*Sunday 9:15 am*) **Jesus, Lover of My Soul**, arr. by Valerie Floeter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONITORED ENTRANCES

St. Paul's leadership has been discussing safety issues in light of the events at Miller Valley. It is already our practice in the school to limit the number of doors open and to monitor the entrances when the doors are open. We will do the same for our worship services beginning the weekend of March 22. Only the church lobby doors will be unlocked. The east and west wing doors will remain locked at all times. An usher or greeter will remain at the church lobby door as long as it is unlocked. The same will be true at The Bridge.

JOIN US ONLINE

We livestream The Bridge every Sunday at 10:15 am on the platforms below. Past messages are also available on each platform. Full HD replays of complete services are available on our YouTube channel.



www.thebridgemuskego.org
www.stpaulmuskego.org



@ The Bridge at St. Paul's



@ The Bridge Church Muskego

ST. PAUL'S PASTORS *Office (414) 422-0320*

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 303-1241
Pastor David Kuehl	Ext. 121	dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 861-0635
Pastor Peter Panitzke	Ext. 122	ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 350-1436
Pastor Nate Strobel	Ext. 293	nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 426-8236



St. Paul's

Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of March 16, 2020

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	6:30 pm	Strings Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
TUE	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room)
	9:30 am	Ministerial Growth Team Meeting
	10:00 am	Walking Group (Trinity Gym)
	10:30 am	Ministerial Team Meeting
	6:00 pm	<i>DivorceCare</i> Ministry (School Classroom 9)
	6:30 pm	Alzheimer's Support Group (Church Library)
	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	6:30 pm	Volleyball League (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:00 pm	Dorcas Society (Grace Room)
	7:45 pm	Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
WED	9:30 am	<i>Mommy and Me</i> (Faith Room)
	3:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	4:30 pm	No Soup Supper
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
	7:00 pm	Card Players' Group – Hearts (Faith Room)
FRI	8:15 am	Lutheran School Chapel (Main Church)
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	11:00 am	Hospitality Training for Usher and Welcome Teams (Grace Room)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
	8:00 am	Easter Festival Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room)
	8:00 am	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (School Classroom #8)
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Kids Club
	9:45 am	The Bridge Holy Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service

CORONAVIRUS AND THE CALL TO LOVE

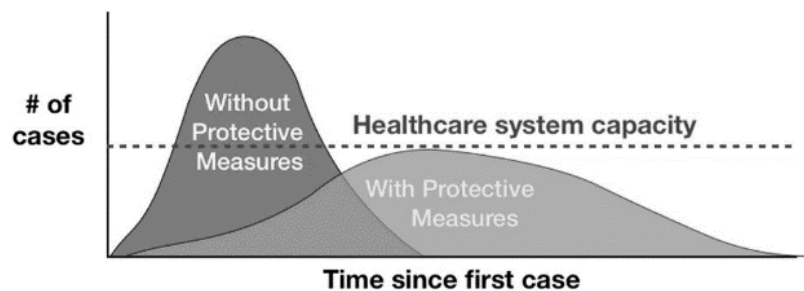
COVID 19 and Those Most at Risk

For the vast majority of patients, COVID 19 may not pose a serious health risk. However, the CDC reports: “Older people and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions — like heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes, for example — seem to be at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.”¹



COVID 19 and our Nation’s Health System

“Flattening the curve” is the goal of all the measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Health officials hope to spread out new infections so that our health care system is not overwhelmed. For example, in northern Italy, hospitals have run out of ICU beds and ventilators to treat COVID 19 patients.²



Adapted from CDC / The Economist

Out of Love for Other

While there may not be an immediate threat to you, out of love for those who are at higher risk and out of love for our community, we at St. Paul’s want to do all that we can to slow the spread of the virus when it arrives in our community. Now is the time to act since we do not know when it will arrive.

St. Paul’s Staff Response

Disinfectants used by our cleaning crews are rated to kill the coronavirus on surfaces. We will also be encouraging all staff and volunteers to frequently wash their hands and stay home if sick. We will continue to monitor communication from the Centers for Disease Control and our local governments to determine any next steps.

Your Part in our Response

1. If you have any type of symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, fever, nausea, achiness, or any flu-like symptom, stay home.
2. Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands often.
3. Say “hello.” When asked if churches should be limiting activities like shaking hands, Surgeon General Jerome Adams responded, “It is prudent to limit touching, especially hand-to-hand.”³ While shaking hands and hugs are part of our culture, feel free to simply say, “hello,” rather than make physical contact. For the time being, our greeters will not be shaking hands with all who enter.

¹ Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

² NBC News: <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/what-flatten-curve-chart-shows-how-critical-it-everyone-fight-n1155636>

³ From *Christianity Today*: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2020/march/your-church-and-coronavirus-advice-for-churches-from-surgeon.html>

CORONAVIRUS AND THE CALL TO LOVE

4. Communion practices:
 - a. Communion distributors will be reminded to wash hands immediately before distribution.
 - b. The distributor will place the bread in your hand rather than place it on your tongue. We will use only individual communion cups.
 - c. We will suspend kneeling at the altar rail during this time. Instructions will be given at our next communion services the weekend of March 29.
5. We will cancel our last three Lenten soup suppers.
6. We ask that everyone complete a Connection Card so that we have an accurate record of those attending our services if it becomes necessary to track those exposed to the coronavirus.

Your Worship Patterns

You may determine that is best for you to alter your worship pattern. Perhaps you will want to worship at a service with a smaller attendance. Typically, our Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 7:45 and 10:45 am, and Wednesday 7:00 pm services have a smaller attendance. A smaller attendance may allow you to leave more space between you and other worshippers.

As the disease progresses, more individuals, especially those in the “at risk” population, may need to worship online. You can watch The Bridge service live on Sundays at 10:15 am:

- TheBridgeMuskego.org/live-stream/
- Facebook: The Bridge at St. Paul’s Muskego

This week we will also begin recording the entire traditional service. Find it at StPaulMuskego.org/past-messages/sermons/. Recordings of entire Bridge services are available on our YouTube Channel: The Bridge Church Muskego.

Help Those Who Don’t Have Access

If you have a friend or family member who does not have internet access, you can bring the worship service to them on your smartphone or tablet. If you or a friend or family member is unable to worship because of coronavirus infection, please contact the church office at (414) 422-0320 or use the contact form at StPaulMuskego.org and let us know so that we can continue to provide the Lord’s Supper to these individuals.

Gathering Offerings

Rather than pass the offering plate during the service, we will ask our ushers to stand at the doors with the offering plate to receive your offering. Consider using our online giving options for one-time or recurring gifts from your checking or savings account (most cost effective for St. Paul’s) or credit card. You can also text a dollar amount (example \$25) to 414-316-6733.

An Overabundance of Caution?

While this may seem like too much to some, we as a congregation want to be sensitive to the needs of those most at risk in our own St. Paul’s family and the reputation of God’s church. “If we are reckless and allow our churches to become centers of disease, then we danger the reputation of the Gospel in our communities.”⁴

⁴ “Religious bodies have heaped shame on themselves in Asia. In Singapore and Korea, huge shares of the infected became infected via religious gatherings. In many cases, these were Christian gatherings.” (“Prepare Your Church for COVID 19,” a paper produced by a Lutheran missionary in Hong Kong.)

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

BAPTISMS

Paisley James Kolbow, daughter of Alexander Kolbow and Brittany Machesky, was born December 19, 2019, and baptized in a private ceremony at St. Paul's on Saturday, March 14, 2020.

Dylan Mira Heinrich, daughter of Darin and Kaela (nee Kozlowski) Heinrich, was born November 21, 2019, and will be baptized after the Saturday service on March 14, 2020.

Riley Abigail Sturdevant, daughter of Steve and Kimberly (nee Thalman) Sturdevant, was born December 5, 2019. Amelia Lynn Mitov, daughter of Metodi and Allyn (nee Sturdevant) Mitov, was born January 3, 2020. Cousins, Riley and Amelia, will be baptized after the 10:45 am service on Sunday, March 15, 2020.

We celebrate with these families in the saving faith given to Paisley, Dylan, Amelia, and Riley and ask the Lord to bless and keep them today and always.

FUNERAL

LaVerne Martin, born August 16, 1936, entered eternal peace with her Savior on Saturday, March 7, 2020. Funeral arrangements were pending at the time of this printing. May our God of all comfort and hope be with the loved ones of LaVerne today and always.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Carol Beyer, David Burkowitz, Steve Drobka, Carol Gosseck, Janelle Gray, Lois Guhr, Connie Hikade, Josh Nagel, Judy Schmidt, Jeanne Steinbrecher, Dick Sternberg, and Al Wolfsohn.

HOSPITALIZED

Marlene Sobczak is at Linden Grove Mukwonago. Audrey Wefel has returned to Virginia Health Care, Dorrette Probst is in home hospice care, and Richard Garbe has been discharged from the hospital.

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

We have a staffed nursery every Sunday during the 9:15 and 10:45 am services in the east wing of the church equipped with a silent pager system to alert parents if any need arises. A worship host will be happy to direct you to the nursery if needed.

ATTENDANCE

897 attended last weekend's worship services. 278 attended midweek Lenten services.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW JESUS BETTER

Pastor Nate would love for you to join him while he walks through the basics of what the Bible teaches and how it relates to God's promises for you Tuesdays at 7:00 pm or Sundays at 8:00 am. Register on the back of your Connection Card or at nstrob@stpaulmuskego.org.

GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY: PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

Join Dan Kolosovsky in a study of Colossians: *Lord Over All Who Brings Full Forgiveness to All*. Sundays, 9:15 to 10:15 am, Sundays through April 5.

HOSPITALITY TRAINING – REMEMBER TO RSVP

Ushers and Welcome Team members, Saturday, March 21, at 11:00 am is our hospitality training event you don't want to miss. RSVP by March 19 with Outreach Coordinator Sally Wallner at swallner@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 294.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

April 9	Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion	3:30 and 7:00 pm
April 10	Good Friday	1:00, 3:30, and 7:00 pm
April 11	Easter Vigil *	5:00 pm
April 12	Easter Sunrise *	6:00 am
	Easter Festival	7:45, 9:15, and 10:45 am
	Easter at The Bridge	10:15 am

* The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunrise services will be identical.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Join us for worship on Wednesdays at 3:30 or 7:00 pm. Walk with Jesus through his final hours. Hear the Passion History, compilations of the four Gospels on the sufferings of Christ, between the night of the Last Supper and his death. Come and be reminded of all that our Savior suffered so that you can declare “undefeated” as your status. No soup suppers for the remainder of Lent.

EASTER FLOWERS

Purchase one or more of the flowers that will beautify the altar on Easter Sunday. The flowers will be placed at the altar for all Easter services and may be picked up after the 10:45 am Easter worship service. Sign-up sheets are on a table in the lobby. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 22. Please make payment out to St. Paul’s, place it in the envelopes marked, “Easter Flowers,” and place in the lock box provided. Please contact Heidi Schuh at hschuh@stpasmuskego.org with questions.

WISH LIST

The items listed below would greatly benefit the ministry at St. Paul’s. These items are above and beyond the budgeted expenses. If you would like to give toward a Wish List item, clearly mark your envelope, “Wish List,” with the item title, or give online at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give.

Item	Est. Cost	Received	Still Needed
iPads for PreK Classrooms	\$8,000	\$8,000	Fully Funded
Photo Feature Walls for church lobby and Trinity Café	\$4,000	\$1,875	\$2,125
Church Signage Updates	\$6,373	\$0	\$6,373
Church Family Room Furniture Updates	\$8,850	\$3,003	\$5,847
Martin Luther College Tuition Grants for St. Paul’s and Garden Garden Holmes student members	\$4,000	\$1,150	\$2,850

Photo Feature Walls

Four photo feature walls will be installed in the church lobby and Trinity Café to visually communicate our core values to members and guests and to celebrate the gospel ministry God does among us.

Family Room Update

The furnishings below will update the family room used by our guests and result in furniture that is also easy to clean.

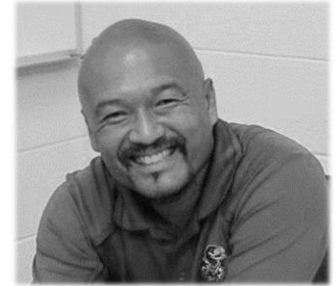
\$2,600 – Leather loveseat (Fully Funded)
 \$2,500 – Two Leather recliners

\$2,600 – Leather loveseat (\$2,196 remaining)
 \$1,150 – Mirror and two end-tables

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY MARCH SPOTLIGHT

Each month the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society highlights a missionary they support. March takes a look at Mr. Paul Krause, teacher at East Fork Lutheran High School on the Apache Indian reservation in Whiteriver, Arizona.



Our church body's first missionary to the Apache reservation set up camp over one hundred years ago under an old cedar tree that is still standing today. Pastor Paul Meyerhoff had a dream of God's Word reaching the Apache people. Recently a celebration of 125 years of God's Word being taught to the Apache people occurred. God be praised!

Currently there are two Apache pastors and one Apache evangelist serving the congregations. God has blessed the Apache people by having six churches on the northern reservation and three churches on the southern reservation. There are two grade schools, one on each reservation. 2019 saw the first graduating high school class of East Fork Lutheran High School since its reopening. God's Word will continue to be taught in truth and purity. Please pray for this mission work to remain strong for years to come.

Save the date for the 2020 Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Spring Rally in Milwaukee, April 25. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center to learn more.

CAREGIVER NEEDED

One of our member families is seeking a caregiver to help with after-school care for their 18-year-old child with Angelman Syndrome. See the Grace Room bulletin board for details.

HOPE AND HEALING IN THE HURT OF DIVORCE – TUESDAY EVENINGS

DivorceCare has started a new 13-week session on Tuesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, in school classroom 8. Contact Kristen Miller at kmiller@stpaulmuskego.org, or (414) 422-0320, ext. 130, for more information. Come when you can; each week can stand alone in its content.

CHURCH CEMETERY WREATHS AND ARRANGEMENTS

It is time to remove all Christmas wreaths and arrangements from our cemetery. After March 18, any remaining items will be placed behind the old church.

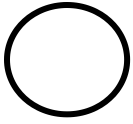
NOW IS THE TIME TO ENROLL

Registration for the 2020-21 school year is open for our 3K to 8th grade Lutheran school. School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons would love to give you a tour of our school facilities and answer any questions you may have. He can be reached at sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 118. You may also register online at www.stpmuskego.org/tads.

CLASS OF 2020 – LET US KNOW YOUR PLANS

St. Paul's will be celebrating our teens graduating from junior and senior high school this spring. Contact Dr. Joel Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145, with the following:

- What school are you graduating from?
- What are are your plans for fall 2020? 8th grade graduates - what high school?
12th grade graduates - what college, branch of military, or area of work?



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Connector Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

1. Talk about the fears and concerns that people have because of COVID-19. Then pray together this prayer sent out from our church body:

Lord God, our Redeemer and Protector, we come to you seeking the help that only you can give. We ask that you spare people in our country and around the world from any harm to body and soul. Grant healing and comfort to those who may be afflicted with this or any other disease. Be with those who care for the sick and keep them from danger. Give wisdom and steadfastness to our nation's leaders and a spirit of courage and cooperation to our communities. Calm our fears of the unknown. Use your Word to work in us a strong faith and trust in your promise to use all things to work for the good of those who love you. We can be confident in you and your promises in this uncertain and difficult time because of the love and faithfulness you demonstrated in sending your Son to the cross for us and for all people. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on you, our Refuge and Strength. Amen.

2. This is a time of great uncertainty regarding our health and the health of our loved ones as well as the economic fallout. King Jehoshaphat of Judah experienced that kind of uncertainty. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30.
 - a. What was the crisis King Jehoshaphat faced?
 - b. People "came together to seek help from the LORD." What phrases stand out to you in Jehoshaphat's prayer in verses 5 – 12?
 - c. The LORD gave Jahaziel a great prophecy (verses 15-17). What promises of the LORD our God comfort you as you think about COVID-19 and its possible effects on you and those whom you love? After sharing your own promises, look up the following and comment on how they can comfort us.

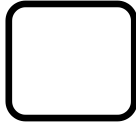
Psalm 145:8-9

Psalm 145:14

Psalm 145:15-16

Psalm 145:18-20

- d. God's promises enabled King Jehoshaphat to meet his enemies with thanksgiving (2 Chronicles 20:20-21). Let us meet the challenges of COVID-19 with that same spirit of thanksgiving, confident that the LORD our God hears and already knows how he will answer our cries for help. Join in reading Psalm 103 as your song of praise.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

Undefeated by Spiritual Blindness

John 9, Bible page 1074

What do you see?

1. The LORD of Justice?

- a. Who sinned? The lessons from _____!
- b. Who sinned? A lesson for _____!

2. The LORD of Mercy?

- a. Wash? Can the Lord show _____ mercy?
- b. Wash! Can the Lord show mercy _____ me?

3. The LORD of Glory?

- a. "Lord, I believe!"
- b. "Are we blind too?"

My Next Steps to an Undefeated Life

- **Admit your fears:** God's people have been afraid in the past. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 and work through the GroupWork questions so that the LORD our God calms our fears.
- **Wash!** Memorize Acts 22:16, "Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name." By faith go back to your baptism and claim again that your sins are washed away.
- **Glorify!** Ask the Lord to open your eyes to opportunities to show love to family members, friends, co-workers and classmates who will be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Let the Savior's love be evident in your love for those who are in need.