

Sunday, August 28, 2022

## Scripture Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14

*The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain. —Dolly Parton*

Last winter, motorists passing across the Forbes Avenue bridge over Fern Hollow Creek in Pittsburgh's Frick Park were shocked when it collapsed! At least 10 people were injured; the tally could have been more severe. Thankfully, no one perished.

According to one report, an analysis of "607,380 bridges from the latest National Bridge Inventory, [showed] that 65,605 were 'structurally deficient' — needing repair or replacement because at least one major component has serious problems — and 20,808 were 'fracture critical,' which means there is no backup to prevent the bridge from collapsing if a key element fails. Even worse, 7,795 bridges fell under both categories."

"We have a term for unsafe bridges, and that is 'closed,'" Massachusetts State Highway Administrator Frank DePaola said.

In "The Wired Word," a sister publication of *HomeTouch*, this story was addressed in the weekly lesson last winter. One of the questions posed by the curriculum was: "Where do you see signs of stress, fracture and deterioration in your personal life, after two years of pandemic?"

It's a pertinent question because many of us long for the days when it was not so difficult to be among friends. One had a social life then. We had fewer things to worry about, and Lord knows we have our share as it is, without a pandemic. So, to keep our social and spiritual bridges from collapsing takes some thoughtful care and planning.

Another series of questions were: "What are the foundations of your faith? What practices do you use to regularly ensure the foundation is strong? When have you experienced cracks in the foundation of your faith? What was the cause? What repairs were needed? Were they short-term or longer-term repairs?"

There's a lot to think about when considering these questions. In a final analysis, we might need to decide whether we've built our "house" on sand or solid rock. (See Matthew 7:24-29.)

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, I would like to keep the infrastructure of my faith and practices strong. But, for this to happen, I need insight. Search me, in the words of the psalmist, "and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Amen.*

*Blessings,  
Pastor Ben Metz*

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** Galatians 4-6

**Monday:** 1 Chronicles 4-6

**Tuesday:** 1 Chronicles 7-9

**Wednesday:** 1 Chronicles 10-13

**Thursday:** 1 Chronicles 14-16

**Friday:** 1 Chronicles 17-19

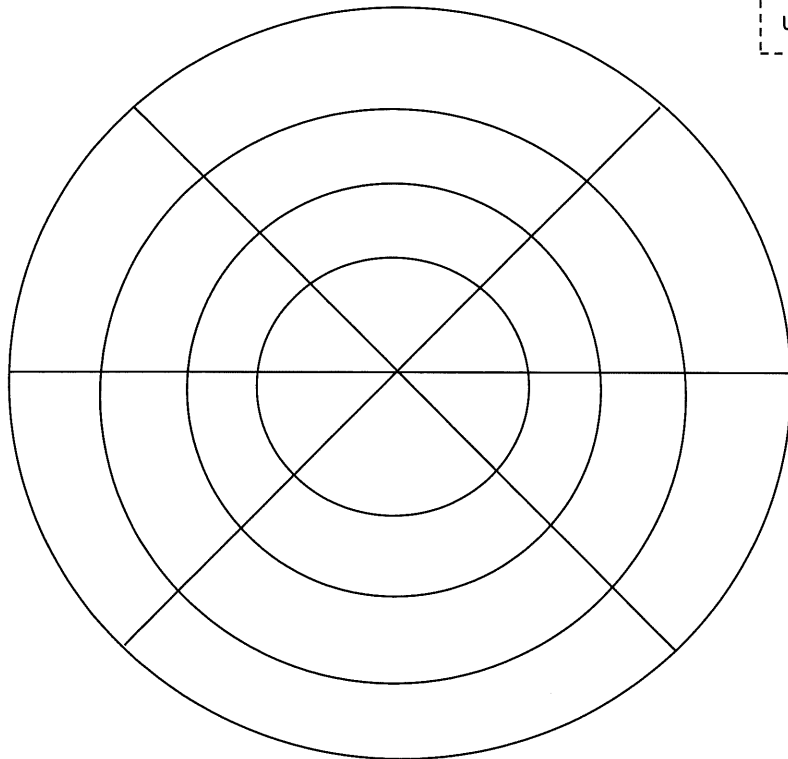
**Saturday:** Psalms 94-96

*Verse to Remember*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

—Galatians 5:22-23

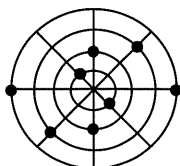
**DOTS and CIRCLES:** Can you place eight dots on the target below in such a way as to have two dots on every circle and two dots on each straight line?



**TRIVIA:** Test your general knowledge of rather unimportant facts from history and culture.

1. Which chess piece may only move along diagonals on the board?
2. What term for a non-rigid floating airship can be seen above sporting events, often sponsored by Goodyear?
3. What common condiment, often used on burgers, is made from seasoned puréed tomatoes?
4. What late 1950s fad supposedly got its name from the hip motions used in a Hawaiian dance?
5. What actress has more Oscar acting nominations than any other, but only won three times, most recently for 'The Iron Lady'?
6. What is the common name of the human bone called the patella?
7. What 5-letter acronymed American civil rights group was founded in 1909 by people including W.E.B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells?
8. What bourbon-based cocktail is considered to be the official drink of the Kentucky Derby?
9. By what name was the Duke of Edinburgh, aka Queen Elizabeth's husband, better known as?

**SOLUTION TO DOTS AND CIRCLES**



**ANSWERS TO TRIVIA:**

1. Bishop, 2. Blimp,
3. Ketchup, 4. Hula hoop, 5. Meryl Streep,
6. Kneecap, 7. NAACP,
8. Mint Julep,
9. Prince Philip.