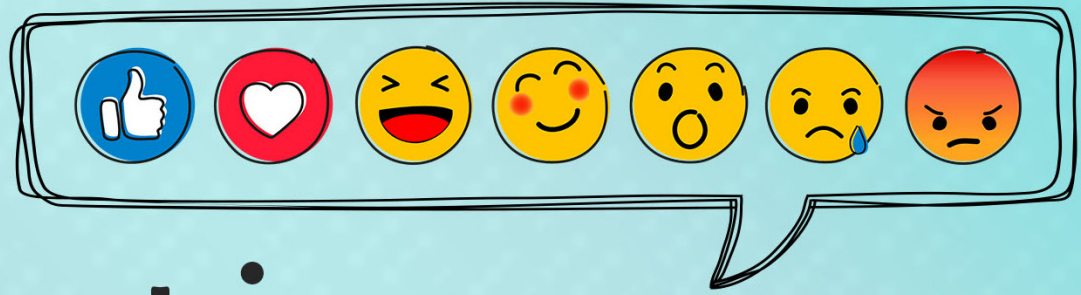


reactions

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

1. Life draws people toward you, and you leave an impression. Describe a time when the impression you left was not as good as it could have been or should have been. What was the cause? Was there a lasting impact?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-3. Part of Paul's credentials was his fruitfulness measured by his impact on those to whom he has been ministering. How would you measure fruitfulness in ministry? What are some ways in which it fruitfulness has been measured within the church?
3. How can the testimony - the actions and reactions of a person - be more powerful than a written letter as a reference?
4. Read the words of this short poem. What does it mean to be a "letter of Christ" or "letter for Christ"?
*You are writing a Gospel, a chapter each day,
By the deeds that you do and the words that you say,
Others read what you write, whether faithful or true.
Just what is the Gospel according to you?*
5. In today's world, anything can be said, anything can be made, any sentence begun. The opportunity is there. List the pros and cons of this.



reactions

6. Today we sing, "God bless America....my home sweet home." We look around and see situations and circumstances for people in our country that would not be described as "home sweet home." What comes to mind? What do the words of Micah 6:8 tell us to do in response? How can you personally respond?

7. Read Psalm 33:12-22. Trust enables us to have hope, and hope enables us to persevere. Have you ever lived through a situation or circumstance where hope was the only thing that kept you moving forward? Share your story.

8. What things do people in our country and our world trust in rather than trusting in God? Have you ever struggled to trust in God rather than the things of this world? What did you learn through that struggle?

9. Has trusting in God ever disappointed you? Has God ever let you down? Have you ever trusted in things of the world? Have those things ever let you down?

10. What does the psalmist say about honoring and fearing God together as a nation? Is it important for us, as a country, to have fear, honor, and respect for God? If so, what can you do to encourage those attitudes for God as you live your life?