

## Readings for Meditation and Prayer :: Stories

**Reading:** Isaiah 40:6-11

When it comes down to it, all men are like grass, all nations are like grass, all corporations are like grass—they might have glory for a moment, but eventually they wither, they dry out, they fall. But the word of God stands firm forever, it can't be shaken, its promises can't be broken. And this word has a message for the entire world—that God cares for us and for the health and well being of all creation. When we place our hope and trust in him, the 'grass' that once defined us is grafted into the tree of life that will live forever.

**Reading:** Matthew 5:13-16

These verses start out not with what you must do but with who you are. You ARE the salt of the earth; you ARE the light of the world. It's easy to think that if we obey and do something then we'll be the salt and light of the world. But it's really the other way around. We are the salt and light of the world, Jesus has given us that identity, and now we're free to obey: "I'm accepted therefore I obey."

**Memory Verse:**

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." -Isaiah 40:8

**Psalm and Prayer:** Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. May the people praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.