

Season 6 – Week 15 (January 12, 2014)
Arise, Shine

Good morning. In the past, we always thought that you would need to head to Florida or Arizona to avoid the cold and snow of winter in Chicago. Based on the forecast for the next few days, we could head to Anchorage, Alaska and still have it 40 to 50 degrees warmer than it is in Chicago. If this is global warming, then somehow we are heading in the wrong direction in temperatures. While kids are excited that many schools have already canceled school on Monday, they are forgetting that when May (or June) come and they are still in class, that is the real effect of having 'snow days' or 'too cold days' (or whatever we are calling these events). I am not sure if businesses will also consider letting workers stay home but I know for many, if the kids are home, someone else needs to be there too. I have to tell you that most Mondays, I do not look forward to getting on a plane and heading to San Francisco BUT this will be an exception. It will be about 60-70 degrees warmer than here even if it is only for a few days. But I promise that I will be thinking of you the whole time and I will send you my warmest wishes.

We are in the third week of the series entitled **Arise, Shine** and we will continue to look at briefly next Sunday when we will begin a new series. Our series is based on several verses using the words **Arise, shine** or similar words in the verse. These verses are on the cream colored papers so take one and bring it next Sunday as well.

Our first verse last session was from **Job 25:3** (repeat together) **“Can his forces be numbered? On whom does his light not rise?”** (NIV © 2011) His so-called friend Bildad speaks in this chapter of the place of God in the heights of heaven where he is unreachable by man. Clearly he does NOT cheer up poor Job. The verse has two great questions. The first, **“Can his forces be numbered?”** is a great reminder that even if it were just you and God against the world, you would be on the winning side. Job felt attacked by evil (which he was) and left alone by God (which he was NOT). The second question, **“On whom does his light not rise?”** reminds us that God is the God of the whole universe. We kid ourselves and truly limit our faith when we try to put boundaries around God and his Love. We talked about stretching in the mornings so that more things become possible for us to reach or touch which may not have been the case earlier. God is asking us to keep stretching and to keep reaching every day of our lives. We need to remember that we have countless forces to support us and wherever we go, his light will surely follow us.

Our second verse last week was from **Job 11:17** (repeat together) **“Life will be brighter than noonday, and darkness will become like morning.”** (NIV © 2011) This verse is from Zophar who is rebuking Job for holding on to some evil or wickedness must be repented to find favor with God. Zophar cannot believe that such pain and hardships are not a direct punishment for what Job must have

