

The Fifth Night of Kwanzaa, Principles Five and Six. December 30, 2020

Pastor: We begin in the Name of the One God, Eternal Love, Creator of all, and of The Only Begotten Son Christ Jesus, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN

Leader 1: Good evening. My name is _____ and I am speaking to you from the City of _____ in the State of _____. I will be giving the opening prayer. Please pray this prayer silently as I say it aloud. Bless us, O God, as we come together to give you thanks and praise. Tonight we are pleased and grateful to continue our celebration of Kwanzaa. This is the fifth night of our celebration. Tonight we are including both the fifth and sixth themes. The fifth principle is Nia (NEE-ah) which is Swahili for Purpose. The sixth principle is Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah) which is Swahili for Creativity. We dedicate these short worship services to you as we explore and embrace the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Veronica Floyd: Good evening. My name is Veronica Floyd, and I am speaking to you from the City of Johns Creek in the State of Georgia. I will be sharing with you some words of introduction for the fifth and sixth principles.

Leader 1: Each night we will look into Scriptures for some guidance on how to apply the principle to our lives. Our reading tonight is in the First Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians, Chapter 3, verses 12 through 17.

Leader 2: Good evening. My name is _____ and I am speaking to you from the City of _____ in the State of _____. In this reading, we have the purpose-driven Christian life explained for us with the highest purpose being to “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Christ.” If Christ invites us to do everything in His name, then surely Christ will provide all the creative abilities we will need to carry out His Will for us. Here is the reading.

12 As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called into the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And **whatever you do, in word or deed, do**

everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Christ.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Leader 3: Good evening. My name is _____ and I am speaking to you from the City of _____ in the State of _____. We will now light the candles on the kinara. Please light the first candle the black candle for Unity, Umoja (oo-MO-jah). Light the second candle, the outside red for Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-GOO-lee-ah) Self Determination. Light the third candle the outside green for Ujima (oo-JEE-mah) Collective Work and Responsibility. Light the fourth candle the second red candle Ujamaa (oo-jah-Mah-ah) Cooperative Economics. Light the fifth candle the second green for Nia (Nee-ah) Purpose. Now we add the sixth candle the third red for Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah) Creativity.

Pastor: We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. (Philippians 4:13)

Veronica Floyd: Closing prayer: O, Loving and Life-giving Good and Gracious God, we praise you and thank you as we call and relay the fifth principle of Kwanzaa: Nia, Purpose, and the sixth principle of Kuumba: Creativity. Help us to continue to share our creativity with the world through music, painting, food, dance, worship, architecture, scientific research, all the healing gifts, all the medical sciences, every study of all the gifts you give us in this Universe, and all endeavors in which we engage. We honor the creativity of all your people of every ethnicity, every culture, every ethnic story from every time and every place. Inspire us to reach out to every story of all of your people. Further, help us to embrace in the fifth principle of Kwanzaa: NIA, purpose your design for our lives. We acknowledge that we exist for the purposes of worship, ministry, evangelism, fellowship, and discipleship.

We hear the words of Ecclesiastes 12:13b (KJV) says, Respect, Love, Honor God, and keep God's commandments: for this is the whole duty of humanity.

ALL: NIA! We will keep God's commandments! This is our purpose. We will love God and our neighbor as ourselves; this is our purpose. We will live as a beacon to the world; we will live as those who give light to the world; and as salt that gives flavor to the world. This is our purpose. Nia! KUUMBA! We acknowledge the creative genius of God that is provided for all creation to enjoy. Allow us to keep our minds and hearts open so that You, our loving and life-giving God can create what the world needs through us. Kuumba!

Pastor: May Almighty God Bless us in the Name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN

Pastor: We go forth in peace, glorifying the Lord by our lives.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

(** The closing prayers and responses for each Kwanzaa event are based on information found on this web site:
http://www.theafricanamericanlectionary.org/PDF/Kwanzaa_WR_Dec2808.pdf **)

=====Further Reading and Information=====

There are many symbols of Kwanzaa. The Kwanzaa candelabra is called a kinara. The straw mat that the kinara is placed on is a mkeka. Ears of corn are also placed on the mat, one to represent each child in the household. They are called the vibunzi (or muhindi). A fruit basket is placed on the mkeka, and is called the mazao. The unity cup is also placed on the mkeka, and is called the kikombe cha umoja. The seven candles that are placed in the kinara are called the Mishumaa Saba. Finally, all the gifts are called the zawadi and are traditionally given on Imani - the last day of Kwanzaa."

These are the seven principles of Kwanzaa:

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| First Night | Umoja (oo-MO-jah) | Unity |
| Second Night | Kujichagulia)(koo-jee-chah-GOO-lee-ah) | Self Determination |
| Third Night | Ujima (oo-JEE-mah) | Collective Work and Responsibility |
| Fourth Night | Ujamaa (oo-jah-Mah-ah) | Cooperative Economics |
| Fifth Night | Nia (NEE-ah) | Purpose |
| Sixth Night | Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah) | Creativity |
| Seventh Night | Imani (ee-MAN-nee) | Faith |