

The Family Together – Week 1

Daily Devotions For The Family



Sunday

Read together: *Genesis 1:1-5*

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and void, and the darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening, and there was morning, one day." (*Genesis 1:1-5*)

Pray together: Thanking God for His marvelous creation and for sending His only begotten Son who is the Light of the World.

Monday

Read together: *Ecclesiastes 1:1-11*

Hymn for the day: *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

Monotony Of Life Without God

Life apart from God is just one big, monotonous bore. Listen to the wise man. One generation passes, another comes. So it has been from all time. This generation will pass away and another will take its place. The courses of life are inalterable. The sun goes up and down and a day is past. This same process occurs 7 times and becomes as week, a week becomes a month, a month a year, and on and on it goes. The hydrological cycle has been in place almost since the beginning. Mountain snows melt and fill little streams, little streams empty into big ones, the big ones into little rivers, little rivers into big ones, and the big ones into the oceans. Oceans evaporate and the whole process starts all over. Man is never satisfied. He has never seen, heard, felt, known all he wants to see, hear, feel, and know. There is no new thing; everything stays essentially the same. Life without God brings no true joy, but living for God does. It makes the life worth living, the joy worth giving. It makes family important, the job fulfilling, even discipline appealing. God's life, lived in God's way is refreshing and wonderful, always new, for it promises an everlasting one. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: *Give me courage to walk with God today in everything I do.*

Tuesday

Read together: Genesis 13:1-13

Hymn for the day: Standing On The Promises

Which Way Would You Go?

God had promised Abram both an heir and an inheritance. Soon after his arrival in Canaan, a famine drove him to Egypt. He returned only to face a conflict with Lot because of the quantity of their combined goods. Abraham, in his generosity, not only gave up the prized portions of the land but also the possibility of making his beloved nephew his heir. Jehovah's promises must have seemed distant to father Abram. Given his choice, which way would you go? Lot was not the only one with choices on this occasion. Abraham had the right to choose his own abode without considering the wishes of his brother's son. The fact that he let Lot leave while he was still childless and the fact that he let Lot choose the choice land while he took the leftovers is another indication of the great faith of Abraham. I ask again, which way would you go? Every day you make choices not so unlike Abraham's. You make choices about where you will pitch your tent, choices about your education, your career, your companions, your abode, your standard of living - all of which have spiritual repercussions. You are deciding now which way you would have gone. Look at your life. Look at where you live. Look at what you're doing. Look who you're with. Look at who your friends are. Tell me. Which way would you have gone? Which way are you going? - Jason Moore

Pray together: May I make the right choices today.

Wednesday

Read together: Matthew 23:1-12

Hymn for the day: "O Worship The King"

The Direction of Worship

There is more to religion than observing certain rituals. Further, it is not a social occasion where people come to see one another worship and praise God. True worship is an adoring reverence, an intense longing of the creature for the Creator. Jesus sternly rebukes empty worship and vain service in this section. The Pharisees bind stern discipline and impose heavy burdens, but all for show, He says. Their worship and service is hypocritical. They have employed theatrics as a substitute for praise. Worship, all of it, is God-ward, not man-ward. To go through the motions is repugnant to God. It neither praises God nor edifies the worshiper. "I despise your feast days," He told the people who had desecrated worship by their own devices (Amos 5:21). We must take care not to do the same today in either our private or public worship. Worship is special. It must not be polluted by false doctrine or personal whims; but it can have all the right implements and be done for all the wrong reasons. True worship holds

God's presence as special, His being as wonderful, His blessings as innumerable. It is personal and private, even when it's done in public. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Today will be a day of true worship to God.

Thursday

Read together: Romans 1:21-32

Hymn for the day: "To Christ Be True"

How Men Leave God

Men are not original in the way that they leave God. It happens the same way every time. "They knew God" - not everything about Him but enough to know better "for God made it evident to them" (v. 19) "They did not honor Him...or give thanks." Men quit praying before they actually leave. They quit worshipping regularly. Something always comes up. An emergency. A convenient one. "They became futile in their speculations." Men never just leave. They justify their leaving. They point out the hypocrisy of others, the nitpicking of the elders, and the austerity of the preacher. They forget their accountability to God. "Professing to be wise, they become fools." The reprobate are always provoking their self-sufficiency, that they can make it without the Lord and without the help of His people, forgetting that that road has been tried oft before. "They exchanged...God for an image." Idolatry has not ceased. It's just more sophisticated. Men always leave God for something or someone. And in order to live with themselves they make God into a god who smiles on their ungodliness, who gives them time to sow wild oats. Or they so immerse themselves in pleasure that they don't think about God so that fun become their idol. Not smart. But there's nothing smart about leaving God. It's folly. It's just plain dumb. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Give me strength today to never leave God in my decisions I make today.

Friday

Read together: John 1:1-18

Hymn for the day: "He Loves Me"

The Word Became Flesh

Jesus Christ was with God in the beginning. It was by Him that all things were created (Heb. 11:2) and it is through Him that all things continue to exist (Col. 1:16-17). What a glorious thought that the same Word became flesh and dwelt among men. What a grand miracle was the God-man, Jesus, that "light that shines in the darkness," that "true light that lights every man." What love is shown in Him, what mercy and grace. God's love for man manifested in the flesh. Jesus came to be the sacrifice for sin. The miracle of His incarnation, in connection with the miracle of His resurrection, constitutes the whole of the redemptive process, the cornerstone

of Christianity, the hope of heaven for His creatures. The love that is seen in One so mighty leaving the portals of heaven to die on a cross is beyond the comprehension of the most astute, beyond the dreams of the most imaginative. He was God; He became man. Consider that, if you will, for it is the basis of our salvation. Would you give some thought to these grand themes today? Read the passage again. Think on the love it reports, the significance of the Gift it describes. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Thanking Jesus for being God and being man.

Saturday

Read together: Revelation 1:4-20

Hymn for the day: "Do All In The Name of The Lord"

Jesus Among the Churches

Jesus is not disinterested in the affairs of churches. John's vision of Jesus among the lampstands dictating letters to the churches of Asia is testimony to His care for their well-being. He is interested in their growth. If the local church were not a help to the growth of the individual, Jesus would never have established it. Those who say they have no need of the local church, question the judgment of Jesus who said differently. He is interested in their trials. Jesus is witness to the sufferings of saints. He has "the keys of death and of Hades" (vs. 18). Their trials are not unfamiliar to Him, but lie along a path that He first trod and blazed by His resurrection. He is interested in the preparedness. Jesus selected John for the purpose of equipping the seven churches of Asia for "the things which must shortly take place" (vs. 1). His precautions to prepare them is assurance that He has taken similar precautions for all ages. He is interested in their loyalty. "He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God" (vs. 1). His interest in our affairs is just cause for Him to expect our sincere interest in His purposes. Jesus stands among the churches today watching, helping, and hoping that we'll be faithful. Let us as soldiers take courage from His presence. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Pray for the Trenton church to grow in spirit and number and faith.