

The Family Together - Week 12

Daily Devotions For The Family



Sunday

Read together Ephesians 5:15-21
Hymn for the day: "Sing and be happy"

Sunday Morning Starters:

Sing and you'll be happy.
Pray and you'll be content.
Read and you'll be edified.
Commune and you'll be humbled.
Encourage and you'll be motivated.
Listen and you'll be challenged.
Try and you'll be better.

Pray together: Make my worship today be filled with joy.

Monday

Read together Matthew 5:13-16
Hymn for the day: "Ye Are The Light Of The World"

Proper Concern For Influence

The public acknowledgment of sin I've heard more than any other is, "I've been a bad example." I would not discourage the penitent man seeking forgiveness, but I have at times been concerned for some who've made such a confession. I fear that some concern themselves with influence only after they've been caught. It may be that they've been "a bad example" for a long time, but only lately were seen by someone who cared about their conduct. If your light is only turned on when somebody who stands for righteousness is watching, God receives no glory in that. The "bad example" confession may also be used to avoid the shame of admitting your real sin. We don't need a public confessional nor to make the preacher an intermediary for the penitent saint. But if you've been drinking with the boys and it's known abroad at work or school, the church ought to know to what extent you've hurt their influence. More than anything else, I fear that we're not shining

our light. I fear the Christians influenced by worldly peers partake of worldly pleasures. They repent for having partaken and join their associates once again, resolving within themselves to avoid their past mistakes, but never openly, unashamedly shining their light before their friends. Their light is hidden, as Jesus pointed out, under the bushel. Shine your light. I mean *really* shine it. You can see the difference can't you? - Jason Moore

Pray together: Help me Lord to be a good example to others today.

Tuesday

Read together

Proverbs 3:11-12

Hymn for the day: "O Thou Fount Of Every Blessing"

The Chastening Of The Lord

The chastening of the Lord comes in a variety of forms as the Scriptures themselves illustrate. **Punishment.** The child conceived by David's adultery died as punishment for David's crime. The penalty invoked shows the distinction between the guilt and the consequences of sin. God forgave but still ordained that David suffer consequences for his sin because he had "given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme" (2 Sam. 12:14). "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23). **Preventative.** Were we privy to the counsel of God we might find that some of life's difficulties were intended for our own safety. Paul was privileged to learn that the reason for his "thorn in the flesh" was to prevent him from being "exalted above measure" (2 Cor. 12:7). The Lord at times may build a fence to keep us within safe bounds. **Pruning.** "Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit" (John 15:2). Sometimes our good deeds, kind words, and godly conduct will be rewarded with evil. Take courage. Such is evidence of your fruitfulness. The Lord may be trimming some of the dead wood so that your harvest will be sweeter and more abundant still. Don't despise the chastening of the Lord in whatever form it comes. In fact, pray that it comes for it's a sign of the Father's love for His children. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Let me know your chastening is because you love me, Lord.

Wednesday

Read together John 4:46-54

Hymn for the day: "Love Divine"

Healing Of The Nobleman's Son

The power of Jesus was not bound by time and space. As the crow flies, Capernaum was 17 miles from Cana. Yet the nobleman's servants confirmed that at the same hour Jesus said, "Your son lives," the fever left the deathly ill boy. It's a marvel to contemplate that there was such power in Jesus' word. Without seeing the boy, without inquiring for his address or the nature of his ailment, Jesus spoke and that one boy out of all the world's boys received the blessing of His power. **Trust Jesus' power.** Is Jesus less capable or less willing to answer our pleas now that He is in heaven? If He was not bound by time and space while dwelling below, He surely is not bound while reigning above. Trust Him. Ask Him. Wait on Him. **Trust Jesus' word.** The same tongue which said, "Your son lives," also said, "Seek first the kingdom...and all these things will be added to you" (Matt. 6:33). We may not see the provisions Jesus has made when we are called upon to act on our faith. But when we, like the nobleman, are walking by faith, news may come sooner than we expected that God has done what He promised. **Grow your faith.** Jesus responded to the cry of a man with imperfect faith. That gives me courage. But that's not excuse to stay where I am. "Go your way," He said. "Go" we must if we're to grow. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Thank you Lord for your power. Give me courage to trust you in every way today.

Thursday

Read together Nehemiah 2:11-20

Hymn for the day: "Soldiers Of Christ, Arise"

He Did It Anyway

The story of the rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem is one of the most stirring in the Old Testament. It is a story of determination and courage. **It took courage for Nehemiah to set his proposal before the King.** In fact, it took courage for Nehemiah to be sad in the presence of the king, for to appear before him unhappy might have sent him into rage with dire consequences for the young cup-bearer.

But he did it anyway. **It took courage for Nehemiah to ask for the king's help for the mission.** After all, the King had no feelings for Jerusalem, no particular interest in her restoration. As long as she paid her tribute, he was satisfied. But Nehemiah asked anyway. **It took courage for Nehemiah to deal with his detractors, Sanballat and Tobiah.** They had no pleasure in his mission. They opposed him at every turn. But he did it anyway. **It took courage to gather the men for the rebuilding of the walls.** The survey by night took courage. The recommendations took courage. The work itself was so dangerous that each man did his work with his instrument of war at his side. They did it anyway. It takes courage today to do what God says, to be what God wants you to be. You may face many battles if you try to do it. But be like Nehemiah. He did it anyway. So can you.
- Dee Bowman

Pray together: Give me courage today to not be discouraged but to have faith.

Friday

Read together Acts 3:1-4:4

Hymn for the day: "In The Morning of Joy"

The Joy Of The Resurrection

The resurrection is the central theme of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Without it, there would be no gospel, no "good news." Actually, the good news is that since He was resurrected from the dead, He secured the possibility of our being resurrected also. In our reading today, Peter told the lame man who asked alms, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give to you." There are things that are worth more than silver and gold, and good health is one of them. But there are things worth even more than good health, and that's a hope of the resurrection and the eternal life that accompanies it. The resurrection is the theme of Paul's preaching. He always refers to it as paramount (see Romans 1:1-5 as an example). In I Cor. 15, he tells the Corinthians that "if in this life only we have hope, we are of all men the most pitiable" (vs. 19). If this life is all there is, we spend our time in an endless exercise which is doomed to failure. But "this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality," then "Death will be swallowed up in victory." Physical health is one of the choicest and richest

blessings, but it is nothing to compare with the blessings of eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Thank you for hope.

Saturday

Read together Psalm 8

Hymn for the day: "O, Lord, Our Lord"

Consider The God We Serve

The excellencies of God! What an inexhaustible subject. How wonderful are His blessings, how genuine His love, how marvelous His grace, and how wonderful just to say all that! In the Psalm we read today, David pours out the most intense feelings of his heart in an effort to praise Jehovah. He praises His creation. God made the earth and the heavens before He ever put man in and under them. They were made for man. What a glorious God we serve! And when you observe His great creative power, you, like David, are constrained to ask, "What is man that you are mindful of him?" And yet Jesus was "found in fashion as a man," came and lived and died as a man so that we might entertain the hope of life eternal. What a glorious God we serve! God never gives up on man. He is mindful of him even when he is in sin. Man has rejected Him as His provisions again and again. Yet He still is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). Take a few minutes sometime today and reflect on the goodness of God, on His blessings. It will lead you to sing, with David, "*Oh Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth!*" - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Thank you my God for all your boundless goodness. Thank you.