

The Family Together – Week 2

Daily Devotions For The Family



Sunday

Read Together: Isaiah 59:1-2

Hymn for the day: Did you repent, fully repent

Nothing Between Us?

If anything at all stands between us and the fullness of our Father's fellowship, the removal of that hindrance ought to be a matter of great concern to us. On any scale of importance or urgency, our relationship to God must rank first. If we're cut off from Him, how can we concentrate on anything else? It is sin, of course, that alienates us from God. We can be thankful that by the atoning death of His Son, God has made it possible for us to be forgiven. By virtue of His Son's death for us, He is able to justify us without being unjust Himself (Romans 3:26). But God has moved as far in our direction as He can without overriding the freedom of our will. As things stand now, the next move is ours. The process of reconciliation cannot even begin until we openly acknowledge, without excuse, that we NEED to be forgiven. And God's requirement of repentance (Luke 13:3) means that we must make a radical turn, not just feeling sorry for our sin but actually committing ourselves to its removal from our lives. We can't have our sin and be forgiven of it, too. In Isaiah's day, the spiritual conditions in Jerusalem were deplorable. Continuing to practice flagrant sin, the people still came to the temple to worship. But their sins, unacknowledged and unrepented of, stood between them and God: "When you spread out your hands," God said, "I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear" (Isaiah 1:15). The problem lay not in God's inability to forgive but in their unwillingness to repent. So Isaiah said, "The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." Who among us can read these words and not think of penitent steps that we need to take so that God can show His love to us? - Gary Henry

"Nothing has been capable, dear Lord, to hinder you from being all mine, neither heaven, nor your divinity, nor the gibbet of the cross; grant me the grace, that nothing may hinder me from being all yours, to whom I owe myself both for creation and redemption" (Lucy Herbert).

Pray together: Dear Father help me to repent fully of my sins and cease from its power.

Monday

Read together: John 3:1-15

Hymn for the day: "Come To Jesus Today"

"How Can These Things Be?"

Nicodemus was himself a teacher of the Jews (see vs. 10), one who instructed people in the law; and yet he had the same difficulty many people have today - a failure to differentiate between the physical and the spiritual. Jesus talked with him about the new birth, one that would make entrance into the kingdom possible. "Marvel not," said the Lord, "for you see the effects of things without seeing the things themselves; just as you see the effect of the wind, you will see the effect of the new birth." Nicodemus had some things to recommend him and the Lord knew it. It was for that reason that He took some time explaining things to him. Nicodemus was humble. The key to all learning is the humility to expose your ignorance openly. It is never out of order to say "I don't know." It's the pathway by which you are apt to find out. Nicodemus was interested. He had seen the miracles of Jesus and knew that no ordinary man could do them. He was interested in this new kingdom and asked about it. We know he asked because the narrative says, "Jesus answered..." Nicodemus learned. At the end of Jesus' life Nicodemus, along with Joseph of Arimathaea, courageously took the body of Jesus to the tomb. We can learn spiritual truths if we are humble and interested enough to ask. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Help me to be humble in my spirit today, interested in the power of God today and willing to sacrifice all for Jesus.

Tuesday

Read together: Mark 1:14-20

Hymn for the day: "Into Our Hands"

Fishing For Men

"Come after Me, and I will make you become fishers of men," was Jesus' invitation to the sons of Jonah. Curious isn't it that Jesus should call fishermen to preach His gospel? Maybe not. Fishing for men is not so unlike seeking God's gilled creation. Fishing takes patience. Sometimes you catch a boat load, like on the day of Pentecost. Other times you only catch one, like the Ethiopian nobleman. Still other times, you don't even get a bite. One thing is certain. You'll never make a catch until you throw out your line. Fishing takes persistence. You may return to the same hole a dozen times before you make a catch. Sometimes a stormy day causes one to bite who only ignored your efforts when the sun was shining. People like are fish are different, unpredictable. You just have to keep coming back until they're hungry. There's at least one significant difference between catching fish and men. When fishing for men, you never do catch your limit. There's always more fish in the sea. Too many in fact. Too many to be sitting in the boat playing with our tackle. Let's go fishing! - Jason Moore

Pray together: I want to be a fisher for the Lord. Give me strength today to share thy word.

Wednesday

Read together: Proverbs 3:9-12

Hymn for the day: "Our Father And Our God"

Giving God Our Best

True honor is never cheap. If it's legitimate honor, it's never accorded without a price. "I will not give that which costs me nothing," said David (2 Sam. 24:24). Few things are more precious than true honor. The Lord will not take second place, nor should He. He is God, the Almighty, the Creator, the Sustainer of life, the Giver of all there is. We should honor Him in the highest way we can - with "the first fruits," not the leftovers. The highest honor we can bestow on Him is to give Him the best of all that we have - our substance, our talent, our time, our energy. Nor should we be displeased with the Lord's chastisements. To receive them appreciatively and with confident resignation is a sure sign of honor. Did our parents not chasten us, and for our good? Correction is part of love, a vital part. The chastening of the Lord is a sure sign of His interest and concern for us, of His desire to make us into all we have the potential to be. This can't be done without some advice, some instruction, even some rebuke. We honor Him when we accept it willingly. Let us honor God in our lives today. Let us begin by giving Him first place and let us not despise His chastenings when they come, knowing they are for our good. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: I will put God first in everything I do today and honor Him.

Thursday

Read together: Ezekiel 33:1-7

Hymn for the day: "Watch And Pray"

Watch And Pray

Ezekiel was a watchman himself (3:17). He returns to that idea and implores the people to set before them a watchman. Two things are implied in the concept of a watchman. First, he must watch, an indication that danger may be present. Second, he is a watch man, indicating that the work is not for a novice. Ezekiel warns about the seriousness of being a watchman. If he is not diligent and watchful, the disaster which befalls the people will bring disaster to him (vs. 6). Our Elders watch for our souls. They are commanded to "tend the flock of God which is among you" (1 Pet. 5:2). Elders are those who "watch for souls, as those that must give an account" (Heb. 13:17). We need to heed the advice of our watchmen. If they warn us and we hear, all's well. If we don't hear and heed their warning, they will not be charged, for they have done their work; but we will be lost for not listening to their warning. There is a real sense in which all of us are watchmen. We watch for one another, encourage and edify one another on account of our

common enemy. To watch out for someone is to love one another; to love one another is to watch out for one another. Let's do it! - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Bless our shepherds as they watch out for our souls. Help me to be a watchman.

Friday

Read together: Psalm 1

Hymn for the day: "More Holiness Give Me"

The Blessed Life

The first Psalm is a bit of a paradox. It sounds more like the Proverbs and other wisdom literature than poetry. But, at the same time, you could not write a more fitting introduction to the Psalter. In a book of songs and prayers intended for worship to God, Psalm 1 first settles the matter of who is worthy to come into His presence. It depicts the kind of life necessary for true worshippers - the blessed life. The right attitude. You can't have the right attitude towards good things when you don't have the right attitude toward evil things. Since the blessed man doesn't want to end up in the seat of the scornful, he stays as far away as possible from the counsel of the wicked and the path of sinners. That also keeps him closer to God. The right conduct. The secret of the blessed life lies in verse 2: delight and meditation in the word of God. We don't have the right to expect Him to listen to what's on our mind when we have not read and obeyed what has been revealed about His. The right influence. A firmly planted, fruit-bearing, prosperous tree stands as a testimony to the world of what faith in God can produce. But the wicked are useless chaff, separated from what is truly valuable, blown by the winds and whims of worldliness. The right destiny. How foolish that some believe in a destiny without a destination. The Lord knows the way of the righteous because it is His way. Those who seek their own path to God end up lost. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Let me today have the right attitude, the right conduct, the right influence to show others the right destiny.

Saturday

Read together: Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn for the day: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

The Day God Became Man

In connection with the resurrection, the birth of Jesus is the most significant event in all of human history. The narrative you have just read tells us in brief, but powerful terms how God became man. Joseph was told, "fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." How thrilling that God became man. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins,"

the angel further stated. Could there be a more important event in all history? What a hearld was the angel on that day! God became man that He might do for man what he could not do for himself. Oh, blessed thought! Notice, further, that all this was done in fulfillment of prophesy, particularly Isaiah 7:14. Listen to its assurance, hear its promise: "they shall call His name Emmanuel, which is being interpreted, God with us." Jesus became a man, and fulfilling all prophesy, became our sacrifice on the cross to procure our salvation. Special days are important to us, none more special or more important than when the Son of God became a man that He might redeem us from our sins. Let us serve Him diligently today, let us love Him supremely, let us accord to Him the highest honor, for He it was who died for our sins. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Thank you God for Emmanuel.

Memorization challenge:

- Help me to learn the books of the New Testament

1. Matthew	11. Philippians	21. 1 Peter
2. Mark	12. Colossians	22. 2 Peter
3. Luke	13. 1 Thessalonians	23. 1 John
4. John	14. 2 Thessalonians	24. 2 John
5. Acts	15. 1 Timothy	25. 3 John
6. Romans	16. 2 Timothy	26. Jude
7. 1 Corinthians	17. Titus	27. Revelation
8. 2 Corinthians	18. Philemon	
9. Galatians	19. Hebrews	
10. Ephesians	20. James	