

## The Family Together – Week 20

### Daily Devotions For The Family



#### Sunday

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Sunday Morning Starters:

Witnesses To Resurrection:

The Plants. Plant a seed in the earth, and God gives it a new body “as He pleases, and to each seed its own body” (I Corinthians 15:38). If God has done so with grain, can He not do so with man? The animals. All animals have a body suited to their realm. Beasts have a body fitted for land, birds for air, and fish for sea (I Corinthians 15:39). Can God not make for man a body fitted for a heavenly abode? The Heavens. “There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, another glory of the stars” (I Corinthians 15:41). If God gave glory to the timekeepers He made to serve man, can He not glorify man himself? The Apostles. Jesus who died “was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve...by over 500...by James...by all the apostles...last of all” by Paul (I Corinthians 15:5-8). Did these men die for a fairytale? Indeed not! Christ arose!

Pray together: Thank you Father for raising Your Son. Praise God.

#### Monday

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Read together Judges 7:15-25

Hymn for the day: “Soldiers Of Christ, Arise”

Every Man Stood In His Place

Gideon’s defeat of the mighty Midian alliance has to be one of the greatest upsets in the history of war. Through the hand of the Lord, the underdog prevailed that day because “every man stood in his place” (vs. 21). The Midianites had joined forces with the Amalekites and the sons of the east. Their army was as innumerable as the locusts (6:5) and as the sand of the seashore (7:12), about 135,000 men strong (8:10). Enter Gideon’s army of 300. For every Israelite soldier, there were 450 on the other side. Yet every man stood in his place. Gideon’s band had no military training. In fact, one of the reasons the Lord did not drive out all of the nations of Canaan when they inhabited the land was so that “the sons of Israel might be taught war” (3:2). Yet, when the battle began, every man stood in his place. This ragtag army was greatly mismatched in number and skill and showed up to fight with a torch, a pitcher and a trumpet. Yet every man stood in his place. Didn’t they know they weren’t supposed to win? No, because they had an alliance with God, who is “not restrained to save by many or by few” (I Samuel 14:6). They knew they were marching under His leadership, fighting a battle He had already won. When you’re with the Lord, it’s the other side that’s mismatched. So find your place and stand. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Give me faith Lord to trust in you when I fight my battles today.

## Tuesday

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Read together Revelation 4:1-5:14

Hymn for the day: "We Shall See The King Someday"

### God On His Throne

I have seen some spectacular scenes, the kind that make the hair stand up on the back of your neck. Yet, when I try to tell someone about it, I seldom find the words that are worthy enough to describe it. Imagine John's frustration in trying to depict the immortal glory of God in terms that mortal man can comprehend. According to the old spiritual, "John couldn't tell it, John couldn't spell it, and John couldn't write it all down." Here's what I see in his vision of God on His throne. The Lord is still in control. While it looks like the devil has got a hold of the world, Jehovah has not lost the reins of His creation. He remains on His throne, ruling from heaven, watching over His children. When you're tempted to believe God is nowhere, be assured that God is now here. The worthy Lamb was slain for me. Jesus left His place at the right hand of the throne to be slain for my sins. With His blood, He purchased for God "men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (5:9). His death and resurrection make possible my victory over the grave. Any crown won on earth will be cast at His feet in heaven. "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and power forever and ever" (5:13). What a joy when we can behold them not through signs, symbols, and imagery but in sight, sound and reality. Thanks, John. We got the picture. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: I know that you reign oh my God and there is no one like YOU.

## Wednesday

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Read together Romans 5:1-6

Hymn for the day; "God Is Love"

### How Great Our Salvation!

This passage is God's plan of salvation in miniature. It states briefly what God has done to save us. Verse 1 – We are justified by faith. The radical idea in justification is forgiveness. It is because of our trust in God that we can be forgiven. We have peace with God when we have been justified, saved. Verse 2 – It is by Christ that it is all possible. We have access into the favor of God only through Jesus Christ. We can rejoice in our salvation on account of His willingness to die in our stead. Verse 3 – Because we have been saved, we are proud to suffer for His sake. We have fellowship in His sufferings in doing so (Philippians 3:10). Verse 4 – Such fellowship with His sufferings gives us experience and the patience we need to stay in our place and do His will, no matter the external difficulties. That, in turn, enlivens our hope. Verse 5 – Because of the love of God, our hope becomes a prime factor in determining our course of pursuit. Instead of being ashamed of who we are, we rejoice, even in the face of adversity. Verse 6 – We were powerless to relieve our malady of sin, but He came and willingly gave Himself that we – weak and frail – might be delivered. How grand the will of God, how marvelous His provisions, how wonderful our Savior! - Dee Bowman

Pray together: How awesome is my God; how wonderful is His NAME; how much he has GIVEN me.

## Thursday

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Read together Mark 1:16-20

Hymn for the day: "If Jesus Goes With Me"

### Following Jesus

The call of the fishermen illustrates essential truths about being a follower of Jesus. The call to follow Jesus never comes at a convenient time. The devil will make sure of that. If the fishermen waited until their hands were idle, until their chores were done, until all the nets were mended, they would never have left the boats. To follow Jesus, you've got to leave your nets – all the tangled web of excuses that hold you back. The call to follow Jesus is a call to "follow." It's not a call to occupy a pew, to just sit in church. The fishermen didn't just follow Jesus to the synagogue. They went fishing with Him – fishing for men. We've got to walk where Jesus walked – to the sick, to the afflicted, to the mourners, to the lost. The call to follow Jesus is a personal one. Jesus "saw Simon and Andrew." He went further and "saw James...and John." When Jesus looks upon the masses, He recognizes persons. He calls individuals. You can't wait on others to see what they will do. James and John left their father to follow Jesus. What honor do we show Jesus if we wait to see who else is coming along before we go? The time to follow Jesus is right now. "Immediately," the fishermen left their work to follow. It's not a matter of whether He'll be coming by the boat dock again tomorrow. It's not at all a question of whether Jesus' invitation will stand. It's a question of whether we'll still be here. We really can't afford to wait. Why would we want to? - Jason Moore

Pray together: When Jesus goes with me I know I am loved.

## Friday

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Read together Ephesians 5:21-6:9

Hymn for the day: "Where Love Is In The Home"

### The Joy Of True Submission

This passage of scripture deals with various roles of life and how they are to be played out. It is imperative that we listen to them, since God created them and He alone knows best how to manage them. He begins by saying, in 5:21 – "submitting yourselves to one another." Submission is the key to properly keeping every one of the roles of life. For instance: Wives are to submit to husbands (5:22). This is how God made the arrangement and we dare not fool with it. It is His way that is important. Husbands are to submit to wives (5:25). It is certainly not the same submission as that just mentioned, but the husband is to love his wife, to submit to God's will in the matter, to submit to his duties to support and care for her. Children are to submit to their parents (6:1-3). God set it up that way. Children are not governors nor do they have the right to control the home. They are to submit to parents. Parents are to submit to their children (6:4). Again, it is not the same submission as above, but it is nonetheless submission to the role of nourishing and disciplining children. No parent dare do otherwise. Even servants and Masters are to submit to their roles (6:9). Every person has his own role and he must submit to it or God is not pleased. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Lord help me make my home a place where you live and reign.

## Saturday

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Read together John 11:1-16, 38-45

Hymn for the day: "Resurrection"

### What Jesus Taught At Lazarus' Tomb

Jesus who taught us about life and living was not remiss in teaching us about death and dying. Jesus taught that death is no respecter of persons. Lazarus' sisters sent word, "Behold, he whom You love is sick" (vs. 3). Death gave no special treatment to the Lord's friends. It did not consider His affections. If Jesus' love and interest offered no special exemption from an untimely death, what's protecting you? Death is no respecter. Jesus taught that death is not beholden to our schedule. Jesus waited two more days before going to Bethany. But death did not wait on Jesus. How foolish to presume that death will wait until we get our house in order. We must prepare and stay prepared. If death was not obligated by Jesus' schedule, it certainly is not obligated by ours. Jesus taught that the one who recognizes His voice in life will recognize His voice in death. "Lazarus, come forth," said Jesus at the tomb of the one He loved. Lazarus, who had known Jesus' voice when he lived, heard Jesus' voice though he lay in the tomb. "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice" (John 5:28). Jesus knows the names of those who have known His name and responded to His voice in life. What assurance that death who respects no person and no schedule will be rendered powerless in the resurrection by the voice of the risen Savior. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Lord come quickly.