

The Family Together – Week 21

Daily Devotions For The Family



Sunday

Read together Matthew 11:25-30

Sunday Morning Starters:

You Are Cordially Invited.

Who? "All who are weary and heavy laden."

What? "Come."

Where? "To Me."

Why? "I will give you rest."

Please RSVP before it's too late.

Pray together: May our worship today be a day of praise.

Monday

Read together Genesis 7:1-24

Hymn for the day: "There's A Great Day Coming"

Surprise!

The account of the flood serves as a reminder to every generation that the God who created the world is capable of destroying it. He has done it once with water and he has promised to do it again with fire. I imagine the second judgment will be just as surprising to some as the first one. Among all the wickedness and corruption of the ancient world were surely those who ridiculed Noah and his family while they built the ark. But don't you know their countenance changed when they saw storm clouds covering the sky and felt the rain drops covering their feet? They climbed to higher ground, thinking they could escape the rising waters. They clutched at the ark as it floated by, hoping they would be allowed on board. But they drowned in a flood they thought would never happen. "In the last days mockers will come...saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'" (2 Peter 3:3-4). Sadly, the day of judgment will be the surprise of a lifetime for a lot of people. Knees will hit the ground that was once too proud to bend. Tongues that once cursed the name of God and blushed to speak His name will confess Jesus as Lord. But they will be condemned on a day of reckoning they thought would never come. Salvation is for those who are armed not alarmed at the judgment. Get on board. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: I will live today with a thankful heart for God's saving grace.

Tuesday

Read together Ecclesiastes 7:1-9

Hymn for the day: "Let The Beauty Of Jesus Be Seen In Me"

Practical Principles For Living

Practical principles for living are so very important. They are neglected in today's society; and that's a shame, for they are the key to health, happiness and peace. Here are some practical principles for living. A good name. Every person would do well to strive to gain a good reputation – one of faithfulness, diligence, and fairness. A good name is one of life's greatest possessions. A bad name is shameful. Learning life's real lessons. We are all headed in the same direction – toward the grave. To ignore that fact doesn't mean it will go away. We will all die. We should learn that from seeing the funeral procession, the obituary column, the graveyard. Discipline is good for us. Nobody likes to be rebuked or rebuffed, but we all make errors and it is foolish not to listen to those who lovingly correct us. Failure to listen to discipline is failure to understand life. Heed good advice and live well. Perseverance is advisable. No matter the project, to see it through is to be wise. To stop short shows a lack of sense. Finish what you start, for the end is always better than the beginning. Anger without a cause is foolish. Pent up anger does no good for anyone. It retards good, diminishes love, demeans relationships. Practice practical principles and live happily. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me – TODAY!

Wednesday

Read together Genesis 1

Hymn for the day: "Our God, He Is Alive"

In The Beginning, God

The Genesis account of creation has always contradicted the contemporary views of science. The popular science of Egypt with which Moses was familiar said that creation was an accident that resulted from cosmic struggle between the gods. Science really hasn't changed much. Then the Big Bang was a clash of gods. Now the Big Bang is a clash of...well, something - scientists just don't know what. They just know it wasn't God. The ancients understood our science better than modern scientists. They understood what we claim to understand – that stuff doesn't just happen. Even accidents are caused. The difference in modern myths and ancient ones is that men have taken religion out of the myth. The ancients at least had enough sense to see that the order of the universe demanded Somebody not just some things. The idea of a creator or creators, as they speculated, was not just wishful thinking. It was thinking, period. It's the modernist who has wished God out of the world. I would rather believe in the myths of the Romans – in Jupiter and in Neptune – than in the mythologies of the present age. There is more logic to the superstitions of those who bowed to the idols than in those who fancy that man descended from apes. At the Judgment, the idolaters of the past may stand and condemn our generation that with all its telescopes and satellites and probes cannot see what it plainly saw. "In the beginning, God." - Jason Moore

Pray together: Thank you God for being MY Creator; MY Maker; MY Savior; MY Lord.

Thursday

Read together 2 Timothy 3:1-7

Hymn for the day: "O To Be Like Thee"

Leaving Your First Love

When Paul describes the character of men in the last days as "unloving," he doesn't mean that they don't know how to love. They just don't know what to love. They are: "Lovers of self." What is the first thing that Jesus requires of those who wish to come after Him? "Let him deny himself" (Matthew 16:24). Sin is a selfish choice, a decision that you are going to do what YOU want to do, regardless of what the Lord has said about it. There is a sense in which we need to love self, but this is the kind that interferes with the rights and interests of God and other people. "Lovers of money." Money is called "the daughter of selfishness" because some think that it's the only way to make yourself happy. The Lord never says you can't have any when you're a Christian, but He does warn that "some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith" (1 Timothy 6:10). Money can be an agent of great good in the kingdom, but the love of it is a root of all sorts of evil. "Lovers of pleasure." The devil can make sin look really good, can't he? Especially when he disguises it as pleasure. The sting of sin may be blunted by momentary gratification, but it is not taken away. And if you give yourself to a love of pleasure in this life, you won't have any pleasure in the next one. Saul Bellow once said, "A man is only as good as what he loves." So, how good are you? - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Help me, Lord, to love you more and more because I am loved more and more by YOU.

Friday

Read together John 12:27-36

Hymn for the day: "Near The Cross"

The Drawing Power Of The Cross

"And, I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." Death has a natural drawing power, an attraction that is both captivating and frightening. There is horror, mystery, and uncertainty attached to it. But we are drawn to Jesus' death for different reasons. We are drawn to His attitude toward death. He spent His whole life in service to His people, "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve," so that He could ultimately give His life "a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Death is man's greatest fear; for Jesus, it was His greatest feat. We are drawn to His attitude in death. He carried His own cross "like a lamb that is led to the slaughter" (Isaiah 53:7) and gave no answer to the abuse hurled at Him. Even when the nails were being driven through His innocent hands, He prayed for the pardon of His executioners. We are drawn to the significance of His death. "It is finished" was His cry. Not "I am finished; "it" is finished, what He came to do. His sacrifice for sins completed, the debt paid, He could now await His glorious resurrection and ascension to the right hand of His Father. Through His death, we have life. Don't be drawn away from Christ and Him crucified. It is "to those who are perishing, foolishness, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18). - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Jesus keep me near the cross.

Saturday

Read together Jeremiah 20:7-18

Hymn for the day: "I Walk With The King"

Fighting Discouragement

God's people are not exempt from discouragement; even "the weeping prophet" had a limit as to how much he could endure. Life, in its very nature, is full of twists and turns, peaks and valleys, highs and lows that can quickly crush the most cheerful optimist. Avoid these pitfalls of despair. Don't overstate your case. "Everyone mocks me" (vs. 7) and "all my friends, watching for my fall" (vs. 10) were certainly exaggerations. Be honest with yourself and about your situation. Learn from Paul who, when he was "despaired even of life," said, "we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). Don't give up on God. "Cursed be the day I was born" and "why did I ever come forth from the womb" is the language of one who has given up. If the Lord has led you to the mountain, do you think He will abandon you in the valley? We take the credit when things are going good and then blame God when they go bad. I may not have all the answers on how to overcome depression, but I do know that it can't be done without Him. As Paul Earnhart has observed, "Christians may suffer from discouragement, but they do not yield to it." What are you doing about yours? - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Keep my spirit in you, O Lord, to keep my focus in you.