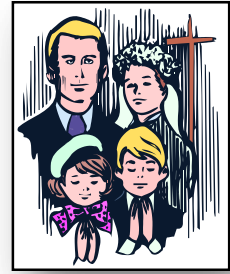


# The Family Together – Week 3

## Daily Devotions For The Family



### Sunday

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Read together Proverbs 4:1-9

Hymn for the day: Take time to be holy

#### Practical Pointers From Proverbs

"Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee" (Proverbs 4:5-9)

Solomon, the great herald of Wisdom, tells us why we should make her our companion today:

- "She shall preserve thee" - She keeps you from sinking when you're in over your head.
- "She shall keep thee" - She shows you where to build fences to prevent you from trespassing.
- "She shall promote thee" - She makes the young man wise beyond his years and the old man wise beyond his time.
- "She shall bring thee honor" - Fame is the prize of those in the news; honor is the reward of those in the right.
- "She shall crown thee" - Victory is her promise. Maybe not today. Maybe not tomorrow. But someday. Guaranteed. Get Wisdom. She is man's best friend.

- Jason Moore

Pray together: Let me seek the wisdom of God this week in my life.

### Monday

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Read together: Hebrews 2:9-18

Hymn for the day: "Wonderful Story of Love"

#### The Price Of Salvation

You cannot reflect long on God's redemptive scheme without wondering with David, "What is man that You are mindful of him?" God has made man His occupation. All creation, even the angels, serves some role in God's plan to save sinners. God has spared no expense. The sun, the moon, the stars sing to us of His glory. The birds, the beasts, the teeming seas all declare the Maker's praise. The seed, the plant, the flower, the fruit all tell the tale of His providence. There are still other productions - the craft of spirit-beings who arrange the sets and work behind the scenes - the effects of which we witness but the operations of which are still a

mystery. In a single day you will pass a thousand vistas, and hear a thousand songs, and be told a thousand tales all with the singular purpose of producing in you a single impression: God has been mindful. And all these spectacles of nature are orchestrated to make mindless men mindful of God. Were God's investment in our salvation limited to these countless expressions of His care, it would be enough. Enough to attract our attention. Enough to prod our amazement. But not enough to save. It took another investment. It took a Son. It took a cross. It took a tomb. It took Jesus. It took all creation and God's only Son to redeem sinners. It took the best. It deserves our best in return. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Thank you God for your presence in the world and your presence in Jesus Christ.

## **Tuesday**

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Read together: James 3:1-12

Hymn for the day: "Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen"

### **Speech Patrol**

My reading habits have changed over the last six months. Where Reader's Digest and the sports section once cluttered our coffee table, a new monthly magazine now sits: New Baby. I found this quote in an article a few weeks back. "You spend the first two years of your child's life teaching them to talk and the next sixteen trying to get them to be quiet!" Tongue trouble is, in fact, a lifelong struggle. You never reach the age or level of maturity where you have completely conquered it, for "no man can tame the tongue" (vs. 8). Anyone who thinks otherwise dangerously underestimates its power and potential. Solomon said that death and life are in its hand (Proverbs 18:21) and that the one who guards his mouth is able to keep his whole soul from trouble (21:23). The first twelve verses of chapter three make up James' sermon on the tongue. It is a subject he introduced in chapter 1 saying, "everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger" (Vs. 19) and "if anyone thinks himself to be religious and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless" (vs. 26). This section first appears to be a lesson for teachers: let not many of you be "masters" (KJV), for few can master the tongue. But the applications reach to include anyone who speaks. David referred to his mouth as the "door of my lips" (Psalm 141:3). More often than not, it needs to be shut. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Lord, teach me to use my mouth for your glory today.

## Wednesday

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Read together: Proverbs 3:21-26

Hymn for the day: "There Stands A Rock"

### No Fear

No Fear. I see that logo everywhere. Especially on the automobiles and t-shirts and ball caps of young people. I detest it. It seems arrogant to me. It depicts a life of frivolity, an attitude of carelessness, a foolish daredevil posture toward life and toward authority. The wise man describes the only life that is without fear. It is a life of wisdom and discretion. Wisdom consists of information about what is right and just to do and about what is to be avoided. Discretion equips a man with the ability to discern that what is permissible is not always practical, that what is lawful is not always expedient. This pair of virtues provides a twin-edged sword for cutting to the heart of difficult decisions. Observe the foes that wisdom and discretion will conquer. Fear of falling - "your foot will not stumble." Fear of conscience - "your sleep will be sweet." Fear of financial disaster - "do not be afraid of sudden terror." Fear of enemies - "do not be afraid of trouble from the wicked." Trouble is a guarantee for life under the sun. The wise man admits this in our reading. He says, "Do not be afraid of trouble...when it comes." Trouble, with a capital T, will come your way. But wisdom and discretion will prevent you from being the source of it, will help you to provide a solution to it, and give you a way to navigate through it with no reason to fear it for "the Lord will be your confidence." - Jason Moore

Pray together: Give me courage today to live without fear; let me live with faith in my heavenly Father.

## Thursday

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Read together: James 3:1-12

Hymn for the day: "Love One Another"

### A Small Package

When you think about all the organs and muscles that make up your body, the tongue seems rather insignificant. "Yet it boasts of great things." The two examples that James uses indicate that a little can do a lot. Even children can guide the direction of a horse when they have control of its mouth; for a little bit goes a long way. And a captain can steer a massive ship through the winds and waves of a storm with a small rudder. He overcomes the elements by controlling that little device. "The tongue is a small part of the body" (vs. 5). So don't let it deceive you. Don't underestimate its potential for good. Silence is not always golden. There is a time to speak (Ecclesiastes 3:7), a time to use the tongue, a time to unleash its power and influence for productive things in the kingdom. It is true that Jesus said, "By your words you will be condemned." But it is just as true that He said, "By your words you will be justified"

(Matthew 12:37). Don't underestimate its potential for evil. How tragic when we use it to tear down instead of build up, to hurt instead of heal, to make war instead of peace. We've heard a lot recently about "weapons of mass destruction." Perhaps the biggest one is in the mouth. As Wordsworth observes, "we rule irrational animals with a bit, how much more ought we to be able to govern ourselves." If you can't, your religion is worthless. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Help me Lord to use my tongue for praise today.

## **Friday**

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Read together: I Kings 3:3-15

Hymn for the day: "Psalm 19"

### **The Greatest Choice Of All**

When I was a small boy we played a game called "three wishes." We took turns telling what we would wish for. A silly kid's game? Maybe. Read on. The Lord appeared to Solomon, son of David and heir to his father's throne, and said, "Ask what I shall give you." Solomon could have asked for riches, fame, or power, but he didn't. He asked for wisdom. "Wisdom?" you ask, "how strange." But wisdom is the most basic of all man's needs, for man is the only part of God's creation made with the freedom of choice, and making good choices is what wisdom is all about. Wisdom is the ability to apply what you know to a set of circumstances so as to achieve the best end for all concerned. Wisdom is the need of parents, of children, of employers, of rules and those ruled. Wisdom means making good choices, choices where everyone involved benefits. The wisest of all human choices is the choice to serve God. It's wise because it means we will receive forgiveness of sins if we obey Him; it's wise because it means we will become more like Him if we serve Him; it's wise because we will be rich beyond our dreams when we receive that eternal crown at the end of matters. What other choice makes any sense? Ask God for the wisdom to choose well. It is the richest and choicest of all God's blessings. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Teach me Lord to ask for wisdom and the wisdom to choose well.

## **Saturday**

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Read together: Matthew 3:13-17

Hymn for the day: "Tell Me The Story Of Jesus"

### **The Baptism of Jesus**

The baptism of Jesus was like no other baptism. Jesus did not require it, as John pointed out, because Jesus was not a sinner. So why was He baptized? "To fulfill all righteousness," Jesus Himself explained. Jesus' baptism fulfilled John's ministry. The descent of the Spirit at Jesus' baptism was a sign to John that Jesus was the Christ. It was a sign to the prophet that he should decrease and Jesus increase. It constituted the inauguration of Jesus' earthly ministry.

Jesus' baptism was an endorsement of John's work. Had Jesus not submitted to John's baptism, His rebuke of the Pharisees who rejected John's baptism and teaching would have had no impact. The connection between John as forerunner and Jesus as the coming king was made clear to all. Jesus' baptism identified Him with sinners. He was not a sinner, but He received a sinner's cleansing as if He were. He took upon Himself the appearance of a sinner in anticipation of His taking away the sins themselves. His baptism was a foreshadowing of His death, burial and resurrection of which our own baptism is a pattern. Thus it was fitting for Jesus to be baptized. It was a fitting end and beginning. It was a fitting seal for John and disavowal of His opposers. And it was a fitting sign of Jesus' mission. It fulfilled all righteousness. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Thank you God for your Son. Thank you Jesus for your baptism and what it means to me.