

# *The Family Together – Week 4*

## *Daily Devotions For The Family*



**Sunday**

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Read Together Proverbs 4:23-27

Hymn for the day: Open My Eyes That I May See

Practical Pointers From Proverbs

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a forward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all they ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove they foot from evil" (Proverbs 4:23-27)

Here's a good sermon from Solomon, and sound advice for the assembly:

- Keep your heart - No seed can survive the heart that's full of weeds.
- Watch your mouth - A "forward" mouth is a crooked one. Ever notice how ugly your mouth looks when you say ugly things?
- Open your eyes - Don't be distracted, and don't go to sleep. Will the Lord give attention to those who yawn in His presence?
- Look where you're going - Worship must be directed to the throne. It won't arrive there accidentally.
- Stay on course - Keep your mind between the ditches of indifference and excessive enthusiasm.
- Get Wisdom. Bring her with you to worship.

- Jason Moore

Pray together: Help me to be in the spirit today on the Lord's day.

## Monday

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Read together James 3:1-12

Hymn for the day: "Wonderful Story of Love"

### Fired Up

"The tongue is a fire" (vs. 6). And gossip is just like a good fire. It sometimes begins innocently, even accidentally. There is a theory that the great Chicago fire of 1871 started when a cow kicked over a lantern. "Behold how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire" (vs. 5). All it takes is one careless match, one slip of the tongue, and a whole community of people can be brought down. It spreads rapidly. It doesn't take long for a flickering flame to become a raging inferno. And gossip catches on even quicker. You may not be able to control what other people are spreading around, but you can be the one who keeps it from going any further. The righteous do not "take up a reproach against a friend" (Psalm 15:3). It's one thing to not pass it on; it's quite another to not even listen to it. It is difficult to extinguish. It starts easily, but have you ever tried to put one out? You might be able to correct the matter with people you told. But how will you ever track down the people they told, and the people they told... Its damage is usually irreversible. It's impossible to put back together a home destroyed by fire. What about taking back the words you used to burn someone else? You can apologize, but your mouth has already spoken that which fills your heart. The tongue is "the very world of iniquity" (vs. 6). That's putting it mildly. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Lord, I will use my mouth today to only praise you and give honor to You.

## Tuesday

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Read together Luke 6:12-19

Hymn for the day: "Room In God's Kingdom"

### The Twelve Apostles

Consider the twelve men Jesus chose. Simon - impetuous, impulsive, impertinent Peter. There is room in the kingdom for the extrovert. Andrew - went back to bring his brother, Peter. There is room for the second fiddle. James & John - cousins of Jesus who sought chief seats. There is room for the overly ambitious. Philip - made the simple reply to doubting Nathaniel, "Come and see." There is room

for simple men. Bartholomew - likely the Nathaniel whom Philip brought. There is room for the honest skeptic. Matthew - a publican, an office despised by his countrymen. There is room for the outcast. Thomas - the doubter. There is room for those with imperfect faith. James - called "the less" likely because of his youth. There is room for the young. Simon - member of a militant Jewish nationalistic sect. There is room for the misguided.

Judas - called Thaddeus, of whom the gospels record only his naïve question. There is room for the ignorant. Judas - the betrayer. There is room even for the betrayer, except the unrepentant one. All these men were under construction at the time Jesus called them. There is room in the kingdom for men like them who are willing to become what the Lord can make of them. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Let me find my place to do the most for the kingdom of my God. Help me to see there is room for me.

## **Wednesday**

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Read together James 3:1-12

Hymn for the day: "Take My Life, and Let it Be"

### **Self Destruction**

The trouble with the tongue is not just that we use it to hurt one another. It's that we end up hurting ourselves even more. The inevitable result of all lying, gossiping, slandering, and cursing is death by our own poison. "The tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body" (vs. 6). Don't believe the old adage about sticks and stones. Words will harm you. In a matter of seconds, they can crumble reputations that took years to build. They have the power to separate intimate friends, destroy influence, and bring about any man's demise. And if somehow you escape life unscathed by your words, don't count on the Lord letting them slip by. Jesus said that "every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment" (Matt. 12:36). "The tongue is a restless evil" (vs. 6). The word restless denotes instability, a result of blessings and cursings coming from the same mouth. Nature will not allow a fountain to bring forth fresh and bitter water or a fig tree to produce olives. Neither will it allow those made in the image of God to use their tongues for both good and evil. Such inconsistency is a self-destructive sin. But the one who does not stumble in what he says is a "perfect man" (3:2). He is complete, lacking

nothing, attaining his true purpose. And he has probably bitten a hole through his bottom lip. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Create in me a new heart to speak kind things to others.

## Thursday

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Read together Nahum 1:1-10

Hymn for the day: "Prepare To Meet Thy God"

### The Lord Will Have His Way

It's a terrible mistake to think the Lord God will not vindicate Himself. His character demands it. If God were to tolerate evil and not punish it, He would be only slightly different than His creatures. Paul said, "Behold the goodness and severity of God" (Romans 11:22). For God to be good, He must also be severe. Nahum warns us about this side of God's nature. He is "slow to anger," he says, but just as He has His way with nature, He will have His way when He metes out His indignation against ungodliness at the end of things. He is a "good stronghold in the day of trouble," but He will "with an overrunning flood" devastate His enemies when all is said and done.

Make no mistake about it, there will be a time of judgment, a time when He who was the Savior will come as the Judge. And there will be no excuses then, no "reasons" for evil, no "reasons" for excesses, no "reasons" for disobedience of any kind. "God is jealous" (vs. 2) says that He will not tolerate competition. You either serve with all your whole being or you don't serve at all; there is no middle ground. Even though it's hard to do, take a little time today to consider the severity of God. Think for a few minutes about His judgment and how it will be with you when that time comes. Such thinking may make you a better, more dedicated person. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Make me know the judgment of my Father and my God.

## Friday

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Read together Ruth 1:1-18

Hymn for the day: "A Beautiful Life"

### The Story of Ruth

The book of Ruth is like a rose among thorns, an oasis of refreshment in a parched, deserted land. Ruth is a testimony to the possibility of living a godly life in an ungodly generation. She lived in the time of the Judges when everyone did "what was right in his own eyes." Not so Ruth. She was an exception. She proved that we can be exceptions. Ruth is a tribute to the enthusiasm of first generation believers. Her faith was simple. Her affection is genuine. Her devotion is absolute. She doesn't know that she's not supposed to believe. Ruth is a model of the worthy woman. Put her in any age. Place her in any culture. Shoulder her with any burden, and she'll bear it with courage. She is the picture of unassuming, unpretentious, unsoiled virtue. Women in our age would beautify and beatify themselves by following her lead. Ruth is an OT example of the Good Samaritan spirit. She, an outsider to the covenant and an enemy of Israel, showed unexpected kindness to another in need. She went beyond what justice required, and operated on the principle of mercy. It is the better way. It is the Savior's way. Ruth is easy to read, easy to love, but hard to follow. Blessed are the ruthful. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Thank you Lord for the example of Ruth. May her life be an example for my life today as I show your beauty in my life.

## Saturday

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Read together Mark 16:14-16

Hymn for the day: "The Gospel Is For All"

### The Good News About Salvation

"Gospel" means "good news." It heralds some great new happening. In today's reading we are told how the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples who had been told of His resurrection and didn't believe it. Seems that problem still exists today. "Lord, who hath believed our report?" (Isaiah 53:1). It is sad indeed that, after all He has done for man, he still rejects Him. The gospel is not restricted to one race or class of people; it's for everyone, Jew and Gentile, black and white, male and female. The reason is simple: everyone needs it. It's everyone's "good

news." The gospel is the good news about salvation. It is to be believed and obeyed. Those who reject it will be lost (Mark 16:16). Paul says of that gospel that "it is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). He told the Corinthians it was the means "by which ye are saved" (I Corinthians 15:1-2). It concerns the Son of God, born of the seed of David, declared the Messiah by the resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:3-4). If you suddenly found a cure for cancer would you make it available to as many as possible? Surely you would. The gospel treats the most deadly disease of man - sin. The gospel is available for all and many don't yet know it. Will you not tell it today? - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Make me a mouth piece today to tell people the good news of Jesus.