

# *The Family Together – Week 6*

## *Daily Devotions For The Family*



### **Sunday**

---

Read together Proverbs 14:14-16

Hymn for the day: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

#### Practical Pointers From Proverbs

"The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways. The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps. One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless." (Proverbs 14:14-16) Three good rules to apply to your listening: 1. Keep working. The backslider's bucket is filled too early, but a good man is not content until he's digested what he's heard. 2. Watch your step. Don't leave your bible study to the preacher. The simple believe every word - check it for yourself. 3. Check your pulse. Don't hasten to put the worst construction on what is said. You have no right to disagree until you've first understood what is said. *Get Wisdom. She'll help your hearing.* - Jason Moore

Pray together: *Make my path to be full of activity, awareness and wisdom.*

### **Monday**

---

Read together Ephesians 5:21-33

Hymn for the day: *"God Give Us Christian Homes"*

#### How Submission Honors God

Although this section of Scripture is meant to teach lessons about the church (vs. 32), it has one overriding sentiment, submission. "Submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God," it says. In the rest of chapter five and into chapter six, he cites the areas of this submission. Wives are to submit to their husbands. God's law of order was set forth at the beginning (See I Cor. 11:2). The husband is to be the spiritual head of the house. The wife is to be his "help meet." In connection with her salvation she has no higher calling. The husband is to submit to the role God has assigned. He is to see that the family is what it ought to be; this begins by loving his wife as he ought, in the same way that Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. Husbands are to submit to their role as fathers. It's the responsibility of fathers to nourish their children, bring them up in the admonition of the Lord. To fail to do so is to fail to submit to God's law. Children are to submit to their parents. Loving father and mother is the beginning of that submission. Children are to respect and honor them, as they would God. They do so "that it may be well with thee." Let each submit himself to his role and things will go well. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Help my family mold itself into the image designed by God. Help me as a man to take my place; as a woman to take my place; and as a child to serve God in my home.

## Tuesday

---

Read together Genesis 19:1-26

Hymn for the day: "Trust And Obey"

### Salt of the Earth

Jesus referred to this account with a simple statement, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32). Notice that He didn't have to say, "Remember Lot's wife, the one who became a pillar of salt." They knew her story. They may not have known her name, but they knew her lot in life. Still, they continued to turn back from God. In reflecting on this story, Jesus wanted them to remember that: God does not ask the impossible. There was nothing too difficult about what He commanded Lot's family. "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you" (vs. 17). That was simple and straightforward, without room for misunderstanding. He didn't require them to do something they were incapable of doing. His commandments do not create burdens, they lift them. God does not give partial credit. Lot's wife almost got it right. She escaped for her life, she left the city, but she looked back and became a pillar of salt. With God, there is no such thing as partial obedience; to obey in part is to disobey. You can't pick and choose parts of His law and discard the rest. Do it all or you have done nothing at all. God does assess punishment on those who disobey. She became a pillar of salt. This woman became a testimony to all generations of what happens when you disobey the commandments of the Lord. "It is our business to see that we do right. God will see that we come out right" (Donald Barnhouse). In due season. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Teach me to follow all your will today as an example of true salt.

## Wednesday

---

Read together Proverbs 6:20-23

Hymn for the day: "Be With Me, Lord"

### Pondering A Proverb

Proverbs teach us general truths about life. They are stated in memorable ways; sometimes they are subtle, sometimes brutally frank. The section we have just read is right to the point and deserves our careful attention. Ideally, fathers and mothers give instructions intended for the good of the children, so those instructions are to be regarded highly. He charges that they are to be bound to the heart of the child and tied about his neck, an obvious reference to making sure the instructions are near when they're needed. When Jesus was tempted, He answered each of Satan's temptations by saying, "it is written." He had the word available when the situation called for it. Solomon says that if that word is near, it will keep you, no matter the

circumstances. He further states that "it will talk with thee," indicating that His word is proper fodder for contemplation. Right thinking produces right actions, for "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." He then cites the affectivity of the word in three figures, each beautiful in its own right: He says it is a lamp, to light our way. It is a light, furnishing the illumination need to work and worship. It is a reproof, giving the proper discipline so that we stay straight. It is a proper proverb to ponder, don't you think? - Dee Bowman

Pray together: *Guide my life by thy word, O God that I may think in right ways as I am guided by your word.*

## **Thursday**

---

Read together Psalm 8

Hymn for the day: "All Things Praise Thee"

Star Search

Some have speculated that Psalm 8 was used in nightly temple worship. The congregation may have looked into the heavens and sung, "When I consider...the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained" (vs. 3). The starry sky is still a source of contemplation and instruction. God is. Have you ever looked at a sunset and heard someone say, "I don't know how anyone can see that and not believe in God?" That's because the heavens are telling the handiwork of their Maker. There can be no design without a Designer, no order without an Orderer, no creation without a Creator. These things are "clearly seen" (Romans 1:20). Man seems rather small in comparison. When you consider the arrangement of the universe it's easy to think you're insignificant in the grand scheme of things. "What is man" (vs. 4) that God has show favor to Him? That Hebrew word for man means "frail man," describing his weakness in his own eyes. But man is greater than matter. He is the climax of creation. He has been made a little lower than the angels, crowned with glory and majesty, made to rule over the very moon and stars that first caused him to contemplate his role. The mountains, the seas, the animals are all majestic in their own way, but they are not made in the image of God. What response should this evoke in him? Not pride, not ambition, not arrogance. Humility. "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is THY name in all the earth" (Vs. 9). The glory goes back to God. - Bubba Garner

Pray together: *Give me a humble heart to see your greatest in your Creation.*

## Friday

---

Read together Numbers 22:21-35

Hymn for the day: "In Heavenly Love Abiding"

### Lesson From A Donkey

We don't often think about God's grace being expressed in discipline. We usually think of God's blessings in a positive fashion when we think of grace. But sometimes God shows favor to man when He disciplines. He did in the case of Balaam. Balaam was behaving stubbornly - so stubbornly that God used his donkey to rebuke him. The alternative to the donkey's reproof of Balaam was for the angel to slay the disobedient prophet. Yet God in His grace spared his life and used the occasion to teach Balaam a needed lesson. The Apostle Paul learned this same lesson when he prayed three times for the Lord to remove his "thorn in the flesh." The response came back from the Lord, "My grace is sufficient for you." This thorn in the flesh which was a curse to Paul was actually a gift of God's grace to keep Paul "from exalting himself," from losing his humility. You may run into some walls today or come across some bumps in the road or some blockade to your path. Don't be overly sensitive to such hindrances to your progress. We have no revelation from donkeys or from men to guarantee that our trouble is divinely sent. But there are certainly some difficulties we will encounter that are the product of our Father's gracious discipline. Don't despise such lessons. They'll keep you in the right path. - Jason Moore

Pray together: May I learn today the bounty of your grace; in all of the challenges of the day.

## Saturday

---

Read together Matthew 26:47-56

Hymn for the day: "I Gave My Life For Thee"

### Jesus: Provision Of God For Man

The story of Jesus is the most pensive and poignant story of all time. It is filled with joy and pathos, joy and sadness, defeat and victory. In it is the joy of our salvation, the assurance of our victory, the hope of our souls. The story here is sad, because Judas comes and betrays the Lord by, of all things, a kiss. Jesus is led away as if He were a common criminal. Peter strikes the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Jesus rebukes the action, stating it interfered with the plan of God for man's redemption in accordance with the scriptures. Perhaps the saddest thing of all is that "all the disciples forsook him, and fled." Jesus' purpose for coming is predicted in Isaiah 53. "Yet it pleased the Lord to crush Him; He hath put Him to grief: when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed...He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall My righteous servant justify many for He shall bear their iniquities" (vss. 10-11). God's goodness is indescribable, His mercy unfathomable, His grace incomprehensible. He gave His Son and His Son gave His life.

"But all this was done that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled" (Matt. 26:56). Think some today about the noble sacrifice Jesus made on your behalf. It will do you good. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Father, help me to see your love for sending your son; his love for dying for me.

### **Enthusiastic Ideas (Gary Henry)**

---

#### Establishment

Choose to act -- rather than delay.

Choose to build -- rather than destroy.

Choose to persevere -- rather than quit.

Anonymous

A skyscraper must be able to bend or flex slightly with the wind, but it can't do that if it's not established on a solid foundation. In a similar way, we must be established as human beings. To "establish" a thing means to make it firm or secure. So to enjoy the benefits of establishment, we must be stable. Consider three areas where stability is especially important.

**Principles.** Our principles are our beliefs about what is real, and about what kind of conduct people ought to engage in. These convictions determine every other thing about us, so it should go without saying that we need to be careful. If we haven't established what our convictions are, then we're at the mercy of every wind that blows.

**Character.** It takes a while for us to finally figure out what kind of character we really want to have as mature adults, but eventually, we need to have an established character. That doesn't mean we can't grow or change, but it does mean that we know who we are and that the character that we've chosen is stable, rather than wishy-washy.

**Conduct.** Based on the establishment of our principles and our character, we then need to erect a consistent pattern of behavior. People around us need to be able to count on some predictability in our manner of living. Our lifestyle needs to be one that is solidly built.

All three of the above are important, but of the three, our principles are more basic than our character, and our character is more basic than our conduct. In other words, our character is an outgrowth of our principles, and our conduct is an outgrowth of our character. Too often, we try to reverse these: we try to establish our conduct without having established our character, and we try to establish our character without having established our principles. But that procedure never works, at least in the long run. Life's great challenge, then, is first to find out what the valid, true-north principles are. When we discover these and establish ourselves upon them, both our character and our conduct will stand firm. And out of them, good things will grow. *"Character is the evidence that we are built on the right foundation." Oswald Chambers*