

The Family Together - Week 7

Daily Devotions For The Family



Sunday

Read together Proverbs 14:17-21

Hymn for the day: Have Thine Own Way

Practical Pointers From Proverbs

"A man of quick temper acts foolishly, and a man of evil devices is hated. The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. The evil bow down before the good, the wicked at the gates of the righteous. The poor is disliked even by his neighbor, but the rich has many friends. Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor." (Proverbs 14:17-21)

Work on these and you'll be wise today:

- Be peaceable. Those soon angry are foolish. Peacemakers are most like the Son. "They shall be called sons of God," Jesus said.
- Be inquisitive. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness is an acquired appetite. Work at it, because "the simple inherit folly."
- Be good. It may not seem so from the headlines, but the evil will someday "bow before the good." In fact, "every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess" before the good God.
- Be merciful. Know someone who needs a friend? Don't ignore them - he that despises his neighbor sins. *Get Wisdom. And character will follow.* - Jason Moore

Pray together: Let my worship today show me the path of wisdom.

Monday

Read together Titus 2:11-14

Hymn for the day: "Amazing Grace"

Being Graceful

Amazing Grace is probably the most well known hymn of our time. It was written by John Newton, whose life story is summarized on his tombstone. "John Newton, once an infidel, a servant of slavers in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy." What is it that makes grace so amazing? The source. It is the "grace of God." It was God who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16). It was God who made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf (2 Corinthians 5:21). It was God

who found us dead in our sin and made us alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:5). Faith, repentance, confession, and baptism are all eternally important. But they mean nothing without grace, the gift of God. The accomplishment. "The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation." Grace is truly amazing, because of what it delivers - forgiveness of sins, redemption, pardon, justification. All who are searching for life's eraser or rewind button need look no further. The scope. "Bringing salvation to all men." It becomes more and more amazing when you consider that grace can save even "a wretch like me." No matter who you are or what you've done, there is no sin so great that it cannot be covered by the grace of God. You know the song; do you know the Savior? - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Thank you Father for your mercy and grace.

Tuesday

Read together John 1:43-51

Hymn for the day: "Who Will Follow Jesus?"

Jesus Calls

Jesus' calling of the apostles is interesting. He called all kinds of men, unlikely men. He called fishermen, a tax collector, even an insurrectionist. With these few simple men he "turned the world upside down," with the message of the Lord. Today's reading tells how He called Philip and Nathanael. It's an interesting story because of what you can read between the lines. Philip followed without question. There was no excuse, no turning back to get something left behind, no waiting until it was more convenient to do so. He was called and he went. "Philip found Nathanael." His first thought was to find one whom he loved and share with him the good news. He "found" Nathanael indicates there was some inconvenience in doing so; but he was willing to do whatever was necessary to find him and tell him what he had found. Philip shared the good news. He said, "we've found the one who was promised by Moses and the prophets, we've found the Messiah." He was not ashamed of what he had found, but excited about it. Nathanael was somewhat dubious it seems. "Come and see!" Philip said. We need to be like Philip. We need to follow no matter what; we need to find those whom we love and introduce them to the Savior; and we need to share the good news whenever and wherever we have the opportunity. Will you do it today?
- Dee Bowman

Pray together: Give me the courage to share the good news of Jesus today.

Wednesday

Read together Revelation 1:1-3

Hymn for the day: "Give Me The Bible"

Overcoming Revelation

"What is the book of Revelation about? The Lord and the devil get into a fight. The Lord wins" (Joe Wiltshire). I don't mean to oversimplify one of the more difficult books of the Bible, but if we can just remember that simple summary, we can better grasp its meaning and its message to every Christian. Revelation is a New Testament book about Jesus Christ just like Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. It contains letters to the New Testament churches just like Romans, Corinthians, Galatians and Ephesians. The difference is that it is written in a style of literature called apocalyptic. This type of writing tells the future using signs, symbols and visions. We can understand the book of Revelation. It is a message from God written in a special code to His people who were suffering persecution. His purpose was not to cover up the truth but to unveil and reveal it, as the name of the book suggests. The early Christians would have been very familiar with all of the imagery and symbolism, but the enemy, were it intercepted, would not be able to comprehend it. As with every inspired book, we must be careful not to take it out of context and apply it apart from its original audience. But we can take comfort in knowing that the same message of victory in Jesus to the 1st Century Christian is available in the 21st Century and beyond. Let us read, hear and heed the things written in this book (1:3). - Bubba Garner

Pray together: Thank you God for victory in Jesus Christ.

Thursday

Read together Jeremiah 10:1-10

Hymn for the day: "Father I Adore You"

Idols Of Our Age

It is a marvel that men even served idols. It is even more a marvel to read of the distinguished believers who fell prey to the folly of idolatry. Even Solomon, the wisest man of his age, succumbed to the practice. Men of lesser wisdom should take warning and observe the idols of our day. My hobby. He is the god of leisure. The god of simple pleasures gone to seed. The vestigages of his worship are the deer lease, the fishing boat, the woodshop, the golf course, the latest computer upgrade. There is nothing wrong with leisure, but we live in a time when folks are fat with leisure while their religion is anorexic. More stuff. He is the god of things. Bigger barns. Better cars. Louder speakers. Clearer pictures. Faster hard drives. The evidence of his duping of mankind is excessive credit. Men are slaves to indebtedness. They work not to share but to meet their minimum monthly payment. They have not the time or the means to invest in heavenly treasure

because men cannot serve two masters. Imbused. He is the god of the jet set, a people who are preoccupied with their own schedules. There is no nobility in being so busy that there is no time for God, for worship, for family. Good intentions won't do. That's the reason men worship idols. They expect less of you. They'll settle for excuses. Jehovah expects the best of your time and your person, not the leftovers, not lame sacrifices. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Teach me today to keep my eyes on eternal things and serve only God.

Friday

Read together I Samuel 17:41-52

Hymn for the day: "Soldiers Of Christ, Arise!"

You Can Slay A Giant

It is sad indeed that this great story has been relegated to the little people's classes. It has such important information for people of all ages - certainly for the little people, but for the big people, too. Let me give you three quick things to learn from David's battle with the Gathian Giant, Goliath: David went and did what he could with what he had. He quickly saw that he could not use a king's armaments, but he knew for a certainty how to use a shepherd's sling. The moral? Take what you have and put it to work in the kingdom. You, too, can slay a giant. David put his trust in God, not men's equipment. "This day the Lord will deliver thee into my hands," he told the giant. The sooner we see that we are incapable of doing what we need the sooner we will put our trust in God. We should not turn to Him as a last resort, but, like David, as a first one. David decided what he needed to do and then did it enthusiastically. The scripture says, "David hastened, and ran to meet the Philistine." There was no hesitancy, no waiting around. When he decided what God wanted him to do, he went and did it. Trust God. He will overcome. Spend no time on man's methods or man's plans; they don't work well. But God's never fail. Slay a giant today. You can do it. - Dee Bowman

Pray together: Help me to be a worker in the kingdom of God with my talents.

Saturday

Read together Luke 19:1-10

Hymn for the day: "Seek Ye First"

A Wee Little Man

The meeting of Zaccheus and Jesus is one of my favorite in all the Bible. The lessons abound. Jesus sees the little people. Zaccheus was a wee little man. He was small in the eyes of the multitude who saw his occupation and knew of his wealth and so despised him. But he was not too small for Jesus to see and for Jesus to visit. Jesus knows our names.

Zaccheus knew who Jesus was. Everybody did. How surprised he must have been to have Jesus address him! How surprised we might be to know how often we're on God's mind. In fact we've been on His mind since before time began. Jesus watches for those who are looking for Him. The multitudes came to see Jesus, but Zaccheus went farther. Perhaps we should take warning when we're only willing to go as far as the majority to see Jesus. Zaccheus went farther and Jesus found him. Jesus walks with those who suffer for Him. The crowd spoke disparagingly of Zaccheus, but also of Jesus. "He's gonna eat with a sinner," they said. Their criticism became Zaccheus' cue to unashamedly confess his resolve to fit himself for the Master's company. Deserved or not he took the rap and suffered loss for the sake of Jesus' reputation. Jesus is not ashamed to call such sinners His own. - Jason Moore

Pray together: Thank you Lord for saving me from my sins.