

Family Devotions
Matthew 25:31-40
Pastor Don Whitesel

Daily Bible Readings
May 25—31

Follow-Throughs

Monday Acts 2:46-47

Have you dedicated your home to God? What would it take for you to open your home to others? According to this scripture, why were people opening their homes?

Tuesday Ephesians 2: 19-22

The first century church's motto, according to Acts 2:42-47, is "what is mine is yours." How do you feel about that statement for your life? For your home? According to Ephesians 2:19-22, what does it mean to you to be members of the household of God? How has your life been changed now that you are a part of this holy temple where Christ is the Chief Cornerstone?

Wednesday Deuteronomy 6: 6-9

God told His people to write His Word on the doorposts of their homes. If we did it at our homes, how might we welcome and embrace those who have no families and extend hospitality to the lonely and neglected?

Thursday Hebrews 13:1-2

God has called us to practice Christian hospitality to open our homes and hearts to outsiders. What does this scripture ask us to do? What does the word "entertain" mean?

Friday Mark 3: 31-35

What was the purpose of Jesus asking this question, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" This month we have concentrated on Healthy Families. How do these verses go along with our theme that we are to be a "family of families?" Jesus was not teaching that we should exclude our natural families, but rather that we should open our hearts to those who share our common faith, to the extended family of God.

Warm-Ups

Saturday and Sunday

1. One characteristic of a wise family is that they fear God. Read **Acts 10:1** and think about the characteristics that made Cornelius so well-respected. What do you think having a family that "fears God" looks like?
2. A second characteristic of a wise family is that they weigh their words. Read **James 3:1-12** and focus on James' teaching on the tongue. How is the tongue utilized in your home? As a tool for building up or tearing down? What do you think needs to be done about that?
3. A third characteristic of a wise family is that they prioritize peace. Read **James 4:1-11**. Does your home reflect peace or agitation? What does this verse say about peace and prayer? About priorities?

We believe that God is honored by homes where Christ is revered as head, where husbands and wives live in mutual respect and love, and where children are nurtured in Christ-like character. We believe that families are to welcome and embrace those who have no families, and to extend hospitality to the lonely and neglected. We see the church as a "family of families," with families serving and loving people of all ages and stages.