

About Growing Together @ Home

Growing Together @ Home is a brief guide provided by the South Bumby Church to give our families a framework they can use as they study from God's word and pray together at home.

Other Things To Do This Week:

- [1] Memorize: (1 John 4:11 NKJV) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- [2] Help your children prepare their lessons for Bible class. Let your children help you prepare for Bible Class.

Crypto-Quote:

(Each letter stands for another letter. For example, replace each occurrence of F with B)

FOZ EP DK NDQ LEHHKJ SQO CP

DQHS, SQO EHPQ FK DQHS CY EHH

SQOX LQYJOLZ, FKLEOPK CZ CP

NXCZZKY, "FK DQHS, RQX C EW

DQHS."

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GROWING TOGETHER @ HOME

*A Weekly Guide
For Family
Devotions*

Those who
love Your law
have great
peace, And
nothing
causes them
to stumble.

Ps. 119:165

November 9, 2003

LIKE GOD

DAY ONE

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Read together 1 John 4:7-5:3, and search for all the things which are said about those who love another and the consequences of not loving one another.

- [1] How is God's love made known to us?
- [2] Who or what is our propitiation?
 - Propitiate — to gain or regain the favor or goodwill of
- [3] In this passage, how are we to be like God?

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Discuss situations in which we can evidence love. How do we love and demonstrate that love when:

- [1] someone is thoughtless?
- [2] someone "appears" to be rude to us?
- [3] someone says something which we "take" as a "put-down"
- [4] someone criticizes us, do we ...
 - become angry and "blow them off"
 - provide them a list of all of the things that they are guilty of
 - consider whether there is some truth in their message, but only if ...
 - ⇒ they present it in a manner which lets us "save face"
 - ⇒ they do not appear to be gloating
 - ⇒ we think they are sincere

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to give us the wisdom to love as He loves, and to be patient and longsuffering with others.

DAY TWO

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Read Matthew 18:23-35 and search for all of the attributes of the master. Then discuss whether the master had a right to expect the servant to behave as he did.

Consider: (Mat 18:33 NKJV) 'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Consider the attributes of God as listed in this verse:

(Exodus 34:6 NKJV) "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,..."

If in Matthew 18, the kingdom of God is ...

like a kingdom where the king expected his servant to be "like him", and he demonstrated mercy, pity, forgiveness, etc.

... then, does God expect us to be merciful, gracious, longsuffering, etc.?

Discuss each trait and how we can demonstrate this trait in our daily lives.

Discuss how we can grow in each one of these traits. Think of at least 3 situations for each trait, in which we can plan in advance how to work on this including mental preparation as well as the action itself.

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to help us always to desire his ways, helping us to see the end from the beginning and choosing to be like Him.

DAY THREE

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Read separately the parable of the Sower (Mark 4:3-20), and read carefully the explanation of the seed which is sown among thorns. In this section search for and identify the things which caused people to turn away from God.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Together, compare your lists, and consider:

- [1] What did these people value (care about)?
- [2] Where were their hearts?
- [3] Where are our hearts?
- [4] Do we choose to be entertained by those things which God abhors?
- [5] Do we love the things which God loves?
- [6] Do we hate the things which God hates?

Two parents have a child. The mother likes onions, and the father does not. If the child likes onions, we say that the child is "like the mother".

If we love the "things of the world", the love of the Father is not in us (1 John 2:15) — we are not "like Him". If we are like Him, then we are "led by the Spirit" (Romans 8:14).

Discuss how our choices influence how we are "like God", or not "like God".

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to help you as a family to humble yourselves before him and to submit to his direction in your lives — to love the things that He loves, and to value the things that He values.