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: (Proverbs 3:5 NKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

[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 H with G, F with T, N with W, ...)

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FOZEZ PD K NKQ FOKF DZZLD

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EPHOF FJ K LKS, CYF PFD ZSX

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PD FOZ NKQ JR XZKFO.

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THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
AT SOUTH BUMBY

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

December 14, 2003

SPLINTERS IN THE HAND

DAY ONE

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Read 1 Samuel 5:2-7 and search for how the Philistines reacted to the Ark of God being in the Temple of Dagon.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

It is important to note that the Philistines did not cease trusting in Dagon simply because God had demonstrated that Dagon was powerless. They developed new traditions about not stepping on the threshold because that was where Dagon's hands had fallen.

Discuss how people today can trust in things which are worthless, and even when confronted with the truth that the things in which they trust are powerless, still persist in them. In each of the following verses, search for the things in which the people trust, how they can be ashamed by this trust, and what is the end result of this trust:

[1] 1 Tim. 6:17-19 (money)

[2] 2 Cor 1:8-10 (ourselves)

[3] Luke 11:21-22 (strength, power)

[4] Zephaniah 3:1-6 (own ways)

Finally, read Philippians 3:18-21, and discuss what it means for people to have their "belly" as their "god".

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to give us the wisdom to love Him and His ways with all of our minds — placing value in His ways, and perceiving that His ways bring life.

DAY TWO

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Appearances.

Read Each of these passages and search for why trusting in the wrong thing could be viewed as "desirable", and why it would "appear" that the path taken was the "right" way to go. Make a list of these observations.

[1] 1 Kings 11:1-2

[2] Isaiah 30:1-5

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Make a list of three of the top temptations which we face today and for each one list the things which give these temptations an "appearance" of being the right way to go.

Compare these reasons to those you listed in step #1 above.

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10, and look for why people who desire to be rich are led astray:

[1] What are "harmful lusts" ?

[2] Are "lusts" (strong desires) for things which "appear" to be good?

Read Proverbs 14:12 and discuss how appearances can be deceiving.

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to help us always to desire his ways, denying ourselves and seeking to serve Him.

DAY THREE

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Read Isaiah 50:5-10, and search for the attitudes which are expressed by the writer in dealing with conflict when a man's faith is being tested. Separately make a list of actions and attitudes which the man of God had in these verses.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Together, discuss your lists from step #1, and talk about how Isaiah 50:5-10 is applicable to us today.

[1] When faced with conflict there is often two choices: (a) submit to the will of man, or (b) submit to the will of God. Find these options in these verses.

[2] Discuss the end result of these two choices — which one would lead to shame?

[3] As you face temptation, does it help to look ahead and consider which path leads to shame by trusting in the wrong thing?

Isaiah 36:6 describes the dangers of Judah trusting in Egypt from the perspective of the Assyrians. In this case their view is similar to God's view expressed in Isaiah 30:1-5. If God's people "leaned" on Egypt for salvation, they would only get splinters in the hand, and shame.

Consider Proverbs 3:5 NKJV, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;" and discuss:

[1] How can I perceive the right path so as to not be ashamed?

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to help us to serve Him with all our souls, submitting to his direction in our lives — to love the things that He loves, and to value the things that He values, being mindful of the things of God.