

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: (Luke 9:62 NKJV) But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
- [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 O with F, N with S ...)

O Z E P D Z K N P Q L E H F J H H F L

N S O O L E P K C N Z O H F P N Y E L N L K H

H P X L J E L K Z H R Z E H F W H Z V L

D Z X Y J E L Q R P H F H F L C A Z E W R F P D F

N F J A A V L E L B L J A L Q P K S N .

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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 28, 2003

K I N G D O M

DAY ONE

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Citizenship in the Kingdom—The Called/the Chosen

Read Matthew 22:1-14 and search for how the Kingdom of Heaven is like the king who arranged a marriage for his son.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Discuss this parable and answer together:

- [1] Who were called to the marriage feast?
- [2] Who were the servants who refused to come?
- [3] Who were those who killed his servants?
- [4] Who then were invited?
- [5] Was everyone who was invited and came allowed to participate? Why not?
- [6] What is the apparent basis for being chosen?

It is apparent from this example that the call was indiscriminate (the good and bad). It was customary on occasions like this for the father to provide wedding garments. For one to enter in, but refuse to wear the provided garment was an offense to the father. Read Isaiah 61:10 and discuss:

- [1] With what should a member of the Kingdom of God be clothed?
- [2] Who provides this?
- [3] What does it mean to seek to be a part of the Kingdom without having a wedding garment?
- [4] Who are “chosen” in the Kingdom? (Eph. 4:3-10)

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

Citizenship in the Kingdom—Judgment

Read Matthew 13:38-43, and Matthew 13:47-51 and search these descriptions of the Kingdom for what type of people are part of the Kingdom, and what bearing that has on their ultimate destiny.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Discuss these two parables and answer together:

- [1] In the first parable, what is gathered out of the kingdom?
- [2] After this, where will the righteous be (where they will shine forth as the sun)?
- [3] Are any added at this point (i.e. if they are there at the judgment, how did they get there)?
- [4] In the second parable, does this dragnet gather from all of the sea?
- [5] Where are the just, and how did they get there?
- [6] Where are those who were not in the dragnet?

Some accuse the Church of having hypocrites in it—is this possible? Read Revelation 20:12-15, and discuss, when the good and bad are separated...

- [1] On what basis are they “judged”?
- [2] On what basis are they “sentenced”?
- [3] Read Exodus 32:33, Revelation 3:5, 1 John 5:4-5, and discuss — who is it that will be written in the Lamb’s “Book of Life”?

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

Citizenship in the Kingdom—Fit, Worthy

Read Luke 9:57-62; 17:32-33 and search for the characteristics of those who “looked back”.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Discuss these characteristics together and answer:

- [1] Why would Lot’s wife look back?
- [2] In what way is looking back condemned by Jesus as being unfit for the Kingdom?
- [3] What judgment is involved in “looking back”?

Read Acts 13:44-46 together and discuss:

- [1] By what practice had these judged themselves “unworthy”?
- [2] In what way were they “unworthy”?
- [3] In what way can people judge themselves “worthy” (Romans 8:18)

Read Hebrews 11:13-16, and answer:

- [1] What value was placed on the promises compared to the possessions?

Make a list of at least three ways that we can value God’s ways above the ways of the world. If these ways are valued above the ways of the world, should we “look back”?

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.