



Ministry at Home



Family Devotional for Wednesday, May 6th

Note for Parents: You are doing an awesome job!!! There's obviously a lot of things that could be fighting for your attention and the attention of your family, but it says a lot about you and your dedication to being a Godly parent that you are taking time to do this quick study with your family. This is where ministry really happens! Thank you from everyone here at Robinson Ave.

Instructions: Pray together to start. Tonight's scripture comes from several passages. Read them as a family. Some thoughts on the scripture and discussion questions have been provided below. These are there if you want to use them, but feel free to go wherever the conversation takes you. The important thing is to simply sit and talk about the Word of God for a little while. This is your class so lead it as you see fit. Close in prayer.

Scripture: Mark 12:28-31

Thoughts: Jesus answers the question by quoting two Old Testament passages (Deut. 6:4-5, Lev. 19:18). The order in which he lists the two commands is very important. The first is to "Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength" and the second is to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Loving God comes first because that is the foundation that everything else is built on. The loving relationship we can have with God is completely unique. It teaches us what it means to truly love our neighbor. When our relationships with our neighbors are influenced by the relationship we have with God then we are doing it right.

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus says the greatest command is to love God and the second is to love our neighbor. Why does God come first? Why do other people come second?
2. Why is "loving" God and our neighbor more important than the other commands in the Old Testament like "Do not lie or murder?"

Scripture: John 13:34-35

Thoughts: At this point, Jesus has been with his disciples for 3 years. He has built a special relationship with them. He has demonstrated what it looks like to follow the two commands from Deuteronomy and Leviticus, and now he has something new for them. Jesus' "new" command is really an old one with a twist. The old command was "Love your neighbor as yourself" and Jesus' new command is "Love one another as I have loved you." Do you see the difference? Jesus still wants his disciples to love others, but he has raised the standard. Jesus' love is a higher form of love. Instead of loving others as we love ourselves, we ought to love others as Jesus loved us. This was the distinguishing mark of Jesus' apostles and it should be of modern Christians too.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what way has Jesus shown you how much he loves you?

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Thoughts: When an expert in the law asks Jesus what to do in order to inherit eternal life, we find out that you have to follow the two greatest commands in the law. The two greatest commands in the Old Testament are these: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind” and “Love your neighbor as you yourself.” The expert in the law follows up his original question by asking “Who is my neighbor.” In response to this question, Jesus tells a story of a Samaritan man taking care of a helpless, needy Jewish man when no one else would. The Samaritan loves him swiftly, selflessly, and sacrificially. He does not hesitate, he cares about the man’s well-being, and he gives his time and money for the man. In Jesus’ eyes, the Samaritan was the definition of “love your neighbor as yourself.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was the Samaritan more of a neighbor than the priest or the Levite that left the man on the side of the road?
2. Who is your neighbor?
3. How can you show them the love of Jesus?