



Ministry at Home



Family Devotional for Wednesday, May 27th

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. There is not a designated scripture for tonight. Instead, some thoughts 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 your faith and experiences. This is your class so lead it as you see fit. Close in prayer.

Question: If you had to sum up these past few months with one word, what word would you choose?

Thoughts: Some members of your family may feel more upbeat about the past few months. Words like opportunity, beneficial, or revealing could be positive ways to describe what has occurred. On the other hand, members of your family may feel like the past few months have been over-all negative. Maybe people described it as difficult, draining, or even apocalyptic.

Question: In your own words, define the term "apocalyptic." What kind of imagery comes to mind?

Thoughts: When we think "apocalypse," we tend to think about the end of the world: fire, explosions, doom, etc. In a way, these past few months may have felt like the end of the world. A lot of really bad things have happened that would cause us to wonder if this is how it all ends. You may have found yourself reading the book of Revelation or thinking about Jesus coming back. This is an understandable reaction to the circumstance we find ourselves in.

You may be surprised to find out that the word "apocalypse" is heavily used in the bible, but it has nothing to do with the end of the world. It literally means "to reveal" and is used to describe events that take place where God reveals something about himself or the way he perceives the world. Some popular bible stories that are an apocalypse include:

- Paul meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19)
- Peter has a vision of a sheet containing a variety of unclean animals (Acts 10:9-23)
- Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3)

While our culture thinks of an apocalypse as a catastrophic event, the better way to think about an apocalypse is God revealing something to you. So in a way, these past few months can be an apocalypse in both senses of the word. Many difficult things have happened, but more importantly, God may be trying to reveal something about himself or the world to you. We need to have our eyes, ears, and hearts open because God is at work even in the most difficult circumstances.

Question: Think about your experiences over the last few months. Has God revealed anything to you about himself, the world, or anything else?

Follow-Up Question: What can we learn from what God has revealed, or “apocalypted,” to us?

Thoughts: When God reveals something, he does it with a purpose in mind. The information he gives is supposed to change our lives or cause us to do something in response. For the apocalyptic stories listed above, God’s purpose was:

- For Paul to join the Christian faith rather than persecute it.
- For Peter to see Gentiles as worthy recipients of the Gospel alongside the Jews.
- For Moses to become the servant of God and his mouthpiece to Israel.

An encounter with God is a life changing experience and the wisdom he gives should change us too.

Question: If God has revealed something to you, what should you do with this revelation? How will it change your life?