

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: Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful..
- [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 E with L, O with N,...)

FOZ EPD KN OQD LHQJ JPFHS

JCYEP ZQYOL LQQZ, XQH YO ZKP

NPFNQO JP NCFEE HPFR YX JP

ZQ OQD EQNP CPFHD.

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THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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

December 7, 2003

PILGRIMS AND DRIFTERS

DAY ONE

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Pilgrim - one who journeys in foreign lands

Read 1 Peter 2:11-17 and search for at least eight of the aspects of a Christian's life which has to do with being a pilgrim. Discuss each one and how the concept of being a pilgrim applies to each one.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Read 2 Timothy 2:3-7 and discuss how this text fits together with the text of 1 Peter:

- [1] Is being a soldier of the cross and not being entangled in the affairs of this life for Timothy only, or for us as well?
- [2] Does this mean that those who are soldiers cannot marry, or have children?
- [3] What does Paul mean when he speaks of "entanglements"?

Read 2 Cor. 10:3-7, and discuss the spiritual "warfare" of the Christian:

- [1] What is the ultimate purpose of our "warfare"?
- [2] What are the weapons of our "warfare"?

After reading these passages, consider again the concept of being a pilgrim, and discuss this. Ask each other how being a pilgrim affects our daily lives, and especially our attitudes about the world in which we live.

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

Drifter - one that travels or moves about aimlessly

Read Hebrews 1:13-2:8 and search for reasons why we should be afraid of "drifting away".

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Read Eph 4:11-15, and look for ways to avoid drifting:

- [1] What is the goal which will prevent Christians from being "drifters"?

Read 1 Timothy 1:5-7 and John 6:27

- [1] What is the purpose of the commandment?
- [2] What is the purpose of keeping the commandments?
- [3] What is the primary difference between the purposes of a pilgrim vs. a drifter.

Read James 4:1-4 and search for differences in attitudes between pilgrims and drifters in respect to "desires":

- [1] What is "friendship" with the world?
- [2] What are the consequences of "friendship" with the world?
- [3] Does "friendship" with the world bring satisfaction?

Discuss how a person can be transformed from a pilgrim to a drifter, and what attitudes must change in order to accomplish this.

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 Luke 18:1-8 (parable of the unjust judge) and search for thing in this story which might cause a person to "lose heart"

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Separately—make a list of things which might cause a person to "lose heart" and how this might cause a person to abandon being a "pilgrim" and become a "drifter"

Together—discuss and compare your lists.

Read 2 Cor. 3:12-4:1 and look for the primary reason given here for not "losing heart"

- [1] What "ministry" is being spoken of in 4:1?
- [2] What is the compelling reason why this ministry should keep us from "losing heart"?

Heart in this context is speaking of "disposition" or "love, desire". If one "loses" heart, he then loses his disposition to serve God, and his love and desire to serve God.

Read 2 Cor. 4:16-5:2 and discuss another reason to not "lose heart":

- [1] Compare this text with Gal. 6:9, and discuss how losing sight of our goal can cause us to lose heart
- [2] What can we do to help keep our goal in focus?

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.