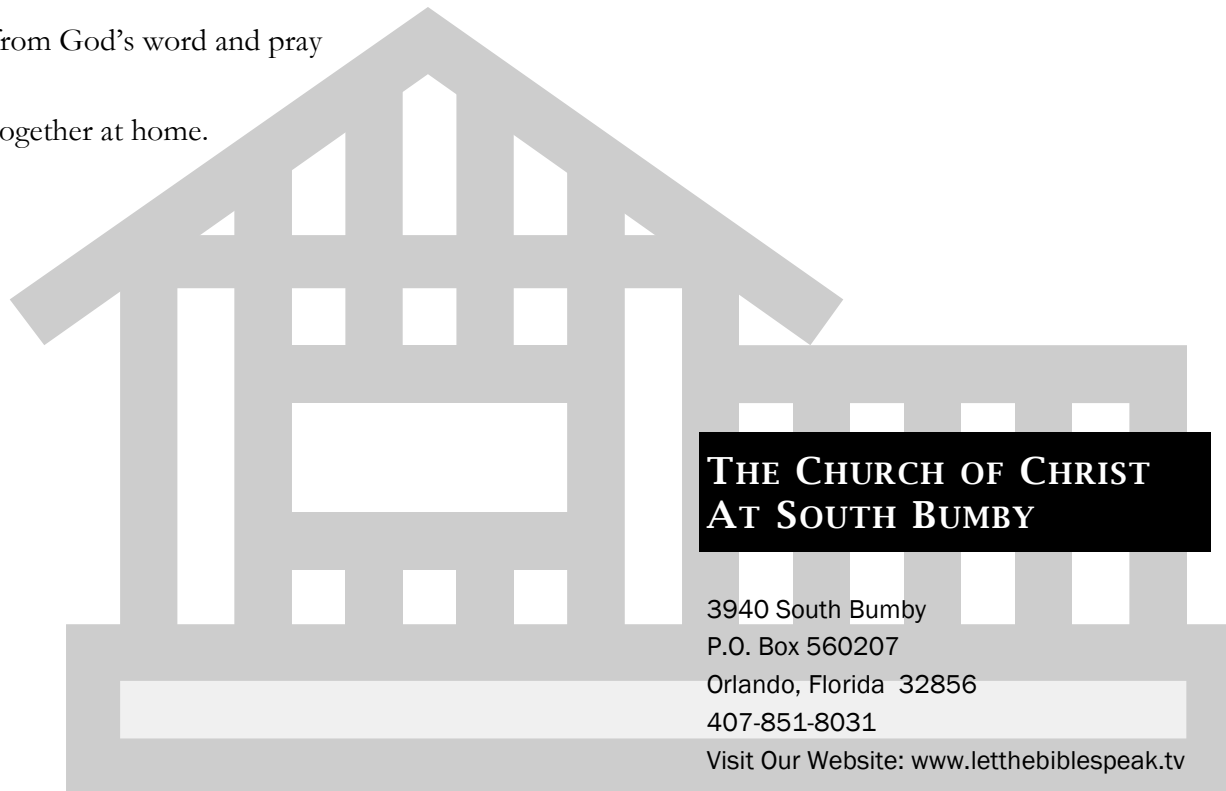


About Growing Together @ Home

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: (Matthew 25:13) "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."
- [2] Help your children prepare their lessons for Bible class. Let your children help you prepare for Bible Class.

**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

February 22, 2004

STEWARDSHIP

DAY ONE

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Stewards of our time

A steward is one who has been entrusted with something very valuable, and thus carries great responsibilities. Jesus has made us stewards of many things, one of which is our time. Read *Matthew 25:1-13* and contrast how the wise and foolish virgins used their time.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

After each family member has completed the search, sit down and discuss how the wise and foolish virgins either succeeded or failed as stewards of their time. Then, discuss these questions:

- [1] The foolish virgins were not so different than the wise. After all, they remembered their candles, the place of meeting, and the occasion. What then made them foolish...how many things did they forget?
- [2] The foolish virgins napped before the bridegroom came, even though they were not fully prepared for his coming. What does this tell us about how we should use our time?
- [3] We live in a society filled with busy schedules, and unless we are very careful we can allow our busy schedules to get in the way of the truly important things. What are some ways your family can be better stewards of their time?
- [4] Read *Vs. 13* again. How seriously does the Lord take our stewardship of time?

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, thanking God for the time He has given us, and asking for help in better using our time in His service.

DAY TWO

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Stewards of our talents

Read *Matthew 25:14-30*, comparing and contrasting how the three servants used the talents given to them.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

After each family member has completed the search, sit down and discuss what you found. Then, discuss these questions:

- [1] A talent was an enormous amount of money, so large that it would take an ordinary man 15-20 years of labor to earn one talent. Thus, talents are more than just abilities that we possess but include anything of value with which we are entrusted. What "talents" (abilities, resources, etc.) does your family possess?
- [2] Compare the rewards given to the servant entrusted with 5 talents with the reward given to the servant entrusted with 2, vs. 20-23. Were the rewards different? Which is more important...the number of talents that God has given us, or the way that we use them?
- [3] One servant did not use the talent God gave him. His punishment is described in vs. 26-30. How seriously does the Lord take the stewardship of our talents?

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, thanking God for the many valuable things that He has entrusted us with, asking for help in using these precious talents for His service.

DAY THREE

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Stewards of our opportunities

Read *Matthew 25:31-46* and contrast those on the right hand of Jesus with those on the left hand of Jesus at the Judgment.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

After each family member has completed the search, sit down and discuss what you found. Then, discuss these questions:

- [1] Both groups of people had the same opportunities in life to do good. What separated them?
- [2] *Galatians 6:10* states, "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." God gives us all opportunities to do good for others. What are some opportunities that your family has to do good for your fellow Christians and for those in the world? How well do you take advantage of those opportunities? How can you do better?
- [3] Read *Vs. 25-26* again. How seriously does the Lord take the stewardship of our opportunities?

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, thanking God for the many opportunities He gives us to serve Him, asking for help in taking advantage of each and every opportunity.

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