

## Getting Ready for Sunday

Devotions for the week of May 15 through May 19

**Monday:** Last Sunday we talked about our home in heaven with Jesus. This week our topic is being with Jesus while we're here on this earth. We start by reading John 14:15-17. Jesus says that if we love him he will give us the Holy Spirit to be with us here on the earth, in the here and now. So as we look forward to our home coming, we can have assurance that the home coming that we are anticipating is real because right now we have the presence of Jesus Christ with us through the Holy Spirit. Lord allow us to celebrate the touch of Your Spirit on our lives today. Enable us to live out our faith so that others might be able to know that You are living in our hearts. Amen.

**Tuesday:** Today we read more from Jesus' words by reading John 14:18-21. I really like the idea that Jesus gives us in our passage today, saying that he won't leave us orphaned. We might know that we have a family in heaven. And we might look forward to being a part of that family there, but we also are reminded that we have part of our ultimate heavenly family here with us now. We experience it in the form of the church just like we experience it in the form of the Holy Spirit with us. Lord we certainly aren't orphaned. Not only do we have you but we have all of our brothers and sisters in you as well. We all live in anticipation of being with the heavenly Father in our eternal home. Amen.

**Wednesday:** Today we read from Acts 17:22-31. In this story of Paul proclaiming Jesus to those in Athens we read that Paul lives out his internal experience of Jesus with others who don't know him yet. To help them relate to the Good News that he has had in Jesus, Paul uses something that they are familiar with; a worship spot dedicated to an unknown god. This God that is unknown to them, Paul says, is God the Father who has sent his son Jesus to be the judge of the world one day soon. To avoid being excluded from the family of God, that has been established in Jesus, Paul says we only need to seek his presence in our lives, for He is not far from any of us. The way to be a part of the family of God, Paul says is through faith in Jesus, which has been proven by Jesus' resurrection from the dead. As Paul has illustrated, when you have something wonderful, like an eternal home and Christian family here on earth, you don't need to keep it to yourself. It needs to be shared so that others might find the goodness of God through Jesus. Amen.

**Thursday:** Today we read an Old Testament testimony of what God has done in the writer of Psalm 66:8-20. This individual celebrates over and over the saving power of God in their lives and that is what our lives are about as we are a part of the family of God here on the earth. We live to celebrate the God who has saved us. And we do celebrate Him through our words and our actions. Amen.

**Friday:** Today we read the advice of Peter as he shares with us from I Peter 3:13-22. He tells those to whom he is writing that they need to always be ready to share their faith even if it means that they might have to suffer for sharing it. He tells us that Jesus even shared the testimony that he had with those who were spirits imprisoned in death. So let us stand up and share what God has done for us, for it is certainly better to suffer for doing the good of sharing than it is to just suffer the regular stuff of life. Amen.