

Getting Ready for Sunday

Devotions for the week of May 8 through May 12

Monday: This coming Sunday will be Mother's Day and we'll be taking the opportunity to think some about the heavenly family that we have and the heavenly home that goes with it. Today we want to read from John 14:1-7. In the King James version of the Bible this passage talks about us getting a house of our own but it is better translated that we get to move into our Heavenly Father's home, living with the heavenly family that we have through our faith in Jesus Christ. So when we think about someone who has died who has "gone home to heaven" we mean it literally. Thank you Lord for the home that you have made for us in your eternal house. We look forward to the comforts of home that You have for us because we know it will be perfect for us. Amen.

Tuesday: Today we read more of the passage that we started yesterday, reading John 14:8-14. Part of what we are reminded of in these readings that we've read the past two days is that while we have a home in heaven waiting for us, while we are here we want to copy the type of works that our "older brother" Jesus has done. For you see, our heavenly home doesn't just start when we get there; no, as a child of the Heavenly Father and brothers and sisters of our older brother Jesus, we need to show that "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree." We want to demonstrate the family attributes that are so seen in the home to which we are going. Lord enable us to do the works that you have done and, as you have said, even greater works, so that others can see what our family is all about and can be adopted by our Heavenly Father as they put their faith in You. Amen.

Wednesday: Today we read from Acts 7:55-60. In this story we read about Stephen being killed for professing Jesus. As he is about to die he sees something that was very comforting for him and for us. He sees home and Jesus waiting at the door to welcome him. Lord, we probably have all known people that we have loved who have gone home to you and we have probably known some who saw something similar to what Stephen saw, loved ones (and perhaps even Jesus) waiting to receive them. Lord we pray that when our time comes to go home we too might have the comfort of your presence and the welcome of those who have gone on before and are holding the door open for us to receive us home. Amen.

Thursday: Today we read a little more about the home that is waiting for us with the Heavenly Father by reading from Psalm 31:1-5. In this Psalm we are probably reading the words of someone who is very stressed. What they need is a refuge, a place that is a strong fortress. That is what You can be to us Lord God. We might sometimes think of going home to our physical home here on earth in ways that can be comparable with going to our eternal home. There are times that the comforts of our home here on earth might feel like a place of refuge and maybe even a strong fortress. I'm sure that our heavenly home will even feel like it is a greater refuge and an even stronger fortress. Lord, thank you for providing what we need in our heavenly home, comfort, a refuge, a fortress, or whatever else we need. Thank you for being our loving heavenly parent and being there for us. Amen.

Friday: Today we read from I Peter 2:2. In this passage Peter thinks back to us being little babies, provided with milk from our mother and compares this to the home that we have with God. With God as our heavenly parent we receive spiritual sustenance that comes from the eternally comforting Heavenly Parent who has provided us with a home and everything else we need as well. Lord thank you for being all that we could ever want and all that we ever need. Amen.