

Fear Less/Hear More Before-or-After-Dinner Devotions ("B.U.R.P. Time")

April 12 - 17, 2020

There are 6 B.U.R.P. Times, one for each day of the week except for Saturday. This is intended to take 10 minutes or less each night, preferably before everyone gets up from the table (That's a really long burp...! Maybe a world record...!). Or it can be done just before the meal, but don't let your food get cold (unless it's cold pizza, of course!). The idea is for your family to enjoy it, not dread it. Keep it concise. Make it as interactive as possible. Let everyone lead in a part. However, we do think it is important for the family to see a parent, preferably Dad (when possible), leading the family to seek and worship God. So, here's the suggested flow. Here's how to B.U.R.P.:

- B Bible** -- Read the passage. We suggest reading from an understandable translation like the New International Version, the New King James Version, or the Holman Christian Standard Bible.
- U Understand** -- Have someone read the "Understand" section -- This is written either by Boyd, Bobby, or Jae.
- R Reason** -- Read the questions, and try to get everyone to respond in some way. It is important to learn how to articulate our faith. Help each other.
- P Pray** -- Have a short prayer of commitment. One is provided for a guide. Read it if you like. God hears your heart.

Nothing satisfies like the Lord... and hearing and doing God's Word!

Resurrection Sunday, April 12, 2020

Bible: John 20:19-20

Understand: The disciples, on the very first Easter Sunday night, where were they? They were behind locked doors, self-quarantining for fear of the Jewish leaders who had put Jesus to death. Believing that the Jewish leaders would connect them with Jesus and kill them as well, they were afraid. They did not know what the future held. Sound familiar? That's eerily similar to our current situation. But what happened? Jesus just walked right in, through the doors they had locked because of their fear, and brought them His personal peace and presence. He convinced them that it was Him, and suddenly, their fear turned into a frolic!

Reason (Ask and Discuss):

- Has Jesus "entered into" your quarantine and comforted you? In what ways? What has He provided for you during this bizarre time?
- We do not have Jesus' physical presence with us, so how do we draw strength from the fact that He is with us in our quarantine? What are some ways you personally connect with Jesus?

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank You for the resurrection of Jesus. Thank You for entering into our quarantine with us and for all Your provision for us. Help us to walk in confidence that You are alive and with us forever. Help us continue to draw near to You in these crazy days. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Monday, April 13, 2020**Bible: Philippians 3:8**

Understand: For the believer, this world is no longer our home! It might be where we are living but we have a brand new home address. During the Easter season, we remind ourselves and refocus ourselves on the most important event in all of history, the resurrection of Jesus. We can grow in our knowledge of Christ because He lives, He has risen and our greatest hope is to know Him more each day. The other side of the coin is to gain something other than Christ. The greatest hurt to us in this world is growing to love something, anything, more that we love the Lord Jesus. Suffer the loss of everything else, count it all as nothing because nothing can compare to knowing Christ Jesus as Lord.

Reason (Ask and Discuss):

- How do we know that Jesus really rose from the dead?
- Specifically name something, anything, that competes with Jesus for your love.

Pray: Lord Jesus please convict us of any areas in our lives where something, anything, is competing with our love for You. Show us that loving things this world has to offer more than loving You is a vain and empty pursuit. You are worthy of being known, being sought after and being the object of all of our love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

Tuesday, April 14, 2020**Bible: Romans 12:2, Galatians 5:24, James 4:7**

Understand: Yesterday we studied about the worth of fully knowing and pursuing the living Jesus. So today I (Bobby) wanted to go over some of the how. Many times we say, ***“YES! That’s me, I want that but how do I get there?”*** I would like to give you some truths from the Bible that will help as you seek to know Christ Jesus more. The best way to show others the path to God in Christ is to stay on it.

Romans 12:2 _____ your mind constantly

Galatians 5:24 _____ the flesh daily

James 4:7 _____ to God, _____ the devil

Reason (Ask & Discuss):

- What steps can you take to be constantly renewing your mind?
- What passions and desires need to be crucified in your life to walk in the Spirit?
- Share an example when you submitted to God and resisted the devil.

Pray: Father, help us to walk in the Spirit, to walk in this world differently than those who do not know Jesus. May our passions and desires be pleasing to you, may they be heavenly minded and at the same time make an impact on this earth. Give us the strength to submit to you in all areas of our life. We want others to know You and experience the joy of salvation! Help us stay on course. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Bible: Ephesians 1:18-21; 2:1-5

Understand: These first verses are part of a prayer the Apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers. He wanted them to realize more and more the “new creations” God has made them through the indwelling Christ, to realize how God enables and empowers them. In essence, Paul is saying that God’s power has raised us from the dead, just like He raised Christ from the dead. What does this mean? The Bible says that when we die physically, God will raise us from the dead (first spiritually, then one day bodily!). But Paul goes on in the opening verses of Ephesians chapter 2 to explain: God has raised us from the dead way of life, a life dominated by self-consumption and sin against God. He has raised us to walk in newness, to live a life of peace and joy and power in Christ. So this is not power to perform “signs and wonders” (Do not be deceived: Faith comes by hearing, not by “signs and wonders,” which Satan can counterfeit, by the way -- see Romans 10:17.) This is power to live above the domination and downward drag of sin in our lives. Praise be to God!

Reason (Ask & Discuss):

- What is one way in your personal life or relationships that sin has tried to dominate you and drag you down and that God has helped and continues to help you rise above?
- How is sin trying to dominate you right now? Do you believe God can help you rise above it? If it’s something that part of you doesn’t WANT to rise above, do you believe the Lord can help you rise above your want-to as well? Will you let Him? Will you pray and ask Him and allow someone else who loves you and the Lord pray for you?

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us Your power to live above the domination and downward drag of sin in our lives! Forgive us when we let it bully us and beat us up! Help us to realize more and more that resurrection power to live above a dead way of life is readily available to us. Help us to walk in that power and pray for one another to do the same. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Bible: Hebrews 12:1-3

Understand: As believers, we must fix our eyes on Jesus, keeping our hearts and minds on him at all times in all situations. It is important to be aware of the holy life Jesus lived while on Earth and to remember how He persevered through trials all the way to the cross, using these as examples for our own lives. By fixing our eyes on Jesus, we should first recognize the love of God. His promises are true - nothing separates us from God. His love is everlasting! We can depend on the faithfulness of God, knowing His plans are good! Turning away from the trials of this world and truly fixing our eyes on Jesus is a task itself. Fear encourages us to look and see the pain, agony, and stress, BUT FAITH reminds us that no matter what we face, God is present.

Reason (Ask & Discuss):

- What are our trials compared to eternity with Him?
- How can I be faithful instead of fearful this week?

Pray: Heavenly Father, we come to you thankful for Jesus today! Lord, help us to turn our eyes upon you. We know that our lives and society are in turmoil and sin is all around us, but God, we know that when our eyes are fixed on you, the ways of the world slowly fade away. Thank you for your promises of everlasting love and presence. Be with us this week as we turn toward you, Lord!

Friday, April 17, 2020

Bible: Titus 2:11-14

Understand: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people." The grace of God is often mentioned, worn on t-shirts, and even talked about, but do we really understand grace? Grace in this aspect is the unmerited favor of God. We are not deserving of His grace but of punishment for our sins. However, God shows mercy and grace for us - both forgiveness and favor. This grace brings about salvation, the abandonment of ungodliness and worldly passions, and the ability to live self-controlled, godly lives. God grants this to His children, but what does He desire in return? Verse 14 gives us a glimpse of God's wishes for pure people who are zealous for good works. Although good works won't get us into heaven, the children of God should be "eager to do what is good." Our hope and prayer is that our good works lead others to Christ and grow the kingdom of God!

Reason (Ask & Discuss): Have you chosen to follow Jesus? Have you received His mercy and grace? Are you living a life that is self-controlled? Are you eager to do good works for the glory of God?

Pray: God, today we come grateful for your mercy and grace! Thank you for providing grace that is greater than all our sins! We ask that you grant us an eagerness to do good works for your glory this week. Lord, grant us the desire to be merciful and graceful to our brothers and sisters. Let others see Christ in us!