

## MONDAY 04.20.26 - Hebrews 12:7-11

<sup>7</sup>Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? <sup>8</sup>If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. <sup>9</sup>Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! <sup>10</sup>They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup>No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Today's scripture is packed full of beautiful analogies. We are God's "children", and He is our "perfect father". He knows that hardship is painful but allows hardship to come into our lives as a way of making us "more like Him", and ultimately to experience the true joy of being a Christian. As an imperfect earthly father, I wanted to protect my children from pain, but at the same time I knew the importance of allowing them to experience pain if they were going to become the kind of adults I wanted them to be. In the same way God allows darkness into our lives for a time and gives us the power to come through those dark times knowing that the future is a much brighter place. Are you in a dark place? God knows it. He wants to help you through it and make you better for it. Remember, the last chapter of your life story has not been written yet.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## TUESDAY 04.21.26 - Colossians 3:21

What a wonderful verse is today's meditation! It seems to aim toward our children, but it really aims directly at us, as parents. A previous generation likely apologized to you, reader, for mistakes made in raising you. They had no books or videos or experts to help guide them. We had those things, yet likely feel the need to apologize for our errors, too.

Realize that when Colossians was written, there were no chapters or verses. So read all of chapter 3. It almost caps at our verse and those around it. Learn to live seeking God, avoiding sexual sins, mastering

our mouth and anger, all are similar; live kindly and gentle lives, peaceably among people as God instructs, including at home with our family. Our children whose hearts are being molded should see what being a Christian really is while they are at home. God bless us every one.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## WEDNESDAY 04.22.26 - 1 Corinthians 9:9-14

*"I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some."*

Paul wasn't a chameleon. Paul did not change his message. He never altered the content of the gospel. Throughout his ministry, Paul's message was always: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Nor does Paul indicate that he was a compromiser. He did not change his morals. Paul did not claim, "I got intoxicated in order to reach alcoholics for the Lord." What Paul is saying is that he was flexible regarding his methods. He adapted his approach according to the people he attempted to evangelize. That's why Paul says in verse 19: "Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible." Like Paul, be flexible in how you present the good news to others.

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## THURSDAY 04.23.26 - Isaiah 52:7

It's always nice to get good news, isn't it? It's a welcome reprieve from a wearying world.

But the good news of Isaiah 52:7 is far better than that—it's good to the uttermost, the fullest good we could imagine.

It's the good news of peace and salvation. News of what God has done. How He has proven Himself faithful. How He truly reigns as the God of His people.

Ultimately, this is the good news fulfilled in Jesus Christ—the message that God saves.

It's so good that even the feet of the messenger are called beautiful. Imagine that—feet that have traveled miles, trampled through mud and muck, and walked dusty roads. They're not beautiful because of their condition, but because of the message they carry.

Does the message you carry and share about what God has done through Jesus give your feet a certain sense of beauty?

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## FRIDAY 04.24.26 - Psalm 22.27

We are living in an age where evil is considered good and good is considered evil (Isaiah 5:20). For Christians this may be frustrating, but Psalm 22 gives us hope in a broken world... that hope is in Jesus.

Psalm 22 shifts from despair and suffering to God's authority over all the nations, resulting in the **whole world** (Jews and Gentiles) bowing down to God in worship.

Things may look bleak right now, but if you trust Christ as your Savior, things will change... you will be on the winning team! Glory to God!

***He is Lord! He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is Lord. Every knee shall bow every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!!***

I have an eager anticipation to bow down before my Lord. I hope you do, too! What a day of rejoicing that will be!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## **E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES**

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - 6:30pm. Began April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **“God of the Ordinary”, A Study in the Book of Ruth Led by Barry Wills, Rm B8-10**

This is a 6 session study by Alistair Begg. God still protects His people and accomplishes His purposes. Through all of life’s circumstances, we discover His loving hand at work.

THURSDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY- 9:00am

### **“In View of God’s Mercies”, by: Courtney Doctor Led by Brenda Ross; Rm 2**

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level  
NURSERY (through Age 3) \*9:40AM ONLY  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **SPRING QUARTER** - Sunday Mornings
- LOCATION: B8-10 - Dave Heineman- began Mar. 1  
**EXPLORE THE BIBLE:  
Matthew 14-28**  
Gaining a better understanding of what it means to live out our faith each day.
- LOCATION: B11 - Lane Kemler - begins April 19<sup>th</sup>  
**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE: part 2**  
**Seize the Day: Embracing a Mission with Purpose**  
Through the book of Acts, we’ll see examples from the early church of what it looks like to joyously embrace the mission.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,  
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

## **Ephesians 6:4 Parental Guidance Required**

Three ways to anger a child:


- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Rather ...

- \_\_\_\_\_

Key Principles of Discipline:

- ✓ Define Boundaries Beforehand: Clearly communicate expectations and rules so children understand the limits before they are enforced.
- ✓ Win the Defiant Confrontation: When a child knowingly challenges authority, parents must handle it calmly but firmly and decisively to prevent future, more severe defiance.
- ✓ Distinguish Defiance from Irresponsibility: Do not react with harshness to childish mistakes (spilling milk, forgetting) but act firmly against deliberate disobedience or disrespect.
- ✓ Reassure and Teach Afterward: Discipline should be followed by warmth and affection, ensuring the child understands why they were disciplined and that they are still loved.
- ✓ Do Not Make Impossible Demands: Ensure expectations are age-appropriate and attainable, avoiding unfair demands that lead to frustration.
- ✓ Let Love Be the Guide: The core of discipline is a loving relationship, where firm correction is balanced with immense affection. Discipline is teaching and requires a consistent, calm, and loving approach rather than anger.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



April 20 - April 24

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday and Tuesday’s readings will be a follow up on Sunday’s message from, April 19<sup>th</sup>, “Parental Guidance Required”.  
April 26<sup>th</sup>, Quarterly Missions Speaker - Paul Davis, President of ABWE, “speaking on “Missions & Evangelism”.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children.  
Ephesians 5:1