

Family Devotional

From January 1, 2017

Happy New Year! This time of year we often think about New Year's resolutions or things we want to do better in the coming months. That is a fine thing to do, but it's important to think about who we are relying on to accomplish those goals.

Read: 2 Thessalonians 1:10-12

Reflect: According to this verse in whose power are the goals accomplished?

Reread verse 11 and see if you can answer whose desires are being accomplished, our desires or God's desires?

It's kind of a trick question isn't it! God is the one calling and prompting us to do the things he has laid on our heart to do.

Read: Psalm 37:3-4

This verse helps us see that when we delight ourselves in the Lord, when we spend time with Him, praying and reading His word, His desires become our desires.

Now that could sound like God wants us to be His little robots, but it's so much more personal than that. God is calling each of us to look more like Him in who we are, to value the things He values. However, this doesn't mean He is calling each of us to do everything in the same way as everyone else. God has given each of us special gifts, talents and interests that can all be used for His glory. He has created us to be unique individuals. When we come together as a community of believers, we see all of these individual gifts expressed together, and we get the clearest reflection of God's nature.

Share: Go around the circle and tell each other a talent you see in them and how God uses that for His glory.

Now take a moment to pray about how God is prompting you to live and act in faith in the coming months. Maybe someone at school doesn't have many friends and you could invite them to sit with you at lunch, or your little brother needs help with his math homework, etc. Listen and let God show you what He is asking you to do.

Share what you feel God prompting you to do with the group. Commit to praying for the person on your left that God would give them the courage, wisdom and opportunity to act on that prompting in His timing and power.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on Ephesians 3:20-21 this week.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond:

"Dear God, thank you for calling each of us to know and delight in you. Thank you for the gifts and talents you given each one of us. Help us to hear your promptings and to be obedient to whatever you call us to do.....Amen!"