

Saturday August 22, 2020

Opening

Selected verses from Psalm 5

Leader: LORD, in the morning you hear my voice.

Family: **In the morning I lay out my requests in front of you, and I watch for your answer.**

For you are not a God who takes pleasure in evil.

With you the wicked cannot dwell.

The arrogant cannot stand before your eyes.

You hate all evildoers.

But as for me, by your great mercy I will enter your house.

I will bow down toward your holy temple with reverence for you.

Let all who take refuge in you be glad.

Let them sing for joy forever.

You cover them with protection,

So that those who love your name rejoice in you. Alleluia!

Bible Reading - Ephesians 6:1-9

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise—³ “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

⁵ Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

Questions for Discussion

Take whatever time is necessary or possible to discuss these questions. Discussion does not have to be lengthy.

For the kids: What is unique about the 4th Commandment: "Honor your father and mother?"

For the grownups: Some have used Ephesians 6 to justify slavery, but that is not the point Paul is making. What is principle is Paul really trying to explain by talking about slaves and masters, and how does it apply to you today?

Prayer

Luther's Morning Prayer:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

or

Luther's Evening Prayer:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The head of the household may lead other prayers and petitions. The members of the family may also take turns with their own prayers and petitions. The head of the household closes the prayer in Jesus' name.

Blessing

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

Amen.

Hymn

Read or sing the hymn verse as a family.

**"Give to your parents honor due,
Be dutiful and loving, too,
And help them when their pow'rs are few;
So shall it go well with you." Have mercy, Lord!
(285:5)**

A recording of this hymn tune can be found on [YouTube](#).

Large Catechism Study

Optional: Briefly discuss and apply this portion of Luther's Large Catechism.

Whoever now seeks and desires good works will find here more than enough such as are heartily acceptable and pleasing to God, and in addition are favored and crowned with excellent blessings, that we are to be richly compensated for all that we do for our neighbor's good and from friendship; as King Solomon also teaches Prov. 19:17: He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again. Here, then, you have a rich Lord, who is certainly sufficient for you, and who will not suffer you to come short in anything or to want; thus you can with a joyful conscience enjoy a hundred times more than you could scrape together with unfaithfulness and wrong. Now, whoever does not desire the blessing will find wrath and misfortune enough.