

*Saturday September 12, 2020*

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 112*

*Leader:* Praise the LORD.

***Family:* How blessed is a man who fears the LORD.**

In darkness, light dawns for the upright.

**He is gracious and compassionate and righteous.**

He will not fear bad news.

**His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. Amen.**

## Bible Reading - 1 Timothy 5:1-16

**5** Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup> older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

<sup>3</sup> Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

<sup>9</sup> No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, <sup>10</sup> and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

<sup>11</sup> As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. <sup>12</sup> Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. <sup>13</sup> Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to. <sup>14</sup> So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. <sup>15</sup> Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

<sup>16</sup> If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

## 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 does it mean to be a “widow?”*

**For the grownups:** *In verse 8 why does Paul condemn neglecting one’s own family with such strong language?*

## 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.*

**Lord of the home, the Son you love  
Received a mother's tender care,  
A father's strength like yours above,  
A home with warmth and kindness there.**

**Help us, O Lord, our homes to make  
Your Holy Spirit's dwelling-place;  
Our hands and hearts' devotion take  
To be the servants of your grace.  
(502:1,2)**

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

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## Large Catechism Study

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

### **THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT (Continued)**

There are comprehended therefore in this commandment quite a multitude of good works which please God most highly, and bring abundant good and blessing, if only the blind world and the false saints would recognize them. For there is nothing on or in entire man which can do both greater and more extensive good or harm in spiritual and in temporal matters than the tongue, though it is the least and feeblest member.