

The Words of Grace

Volume 3, Issue 14

Come Grow With Us!

July 20, 2010

Family Worship Time

By Rev. Tim Smith (Mars Hill Church)

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I often speak of the importance of regular times of family worship. I have three daughters aged 5, 6, and 8, and I have failed as much as succeeded. Here are a few things I've learned:

1. Keep it short. I would recommend 15-30 minutes, as a general rule. If things are going well, you can always keep the conversation going, but the goal should be brevity. If you make a discussion too long, it will become tedious and can actually turn your kids away from God. This time should be an overflow of all the Scripture, prayer, and discussion going on in the rest of your lives—not the only place where it happens.

2. Read. Most importantly, family worship is a time

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Americans love to take to the open road during the summer. I'm not sure if it is a leftover from pioneer days of "manifest destiny" when our forefathers traveled west in search of new adventures or it is just the need of 21st century people to disconnect from the daily grind. Packing up the family car with all the camping gear is a familiar sight across this great land. America's diverse beauty makes any postcard publisher smile with delight.

But taking to the open road is always an adventure because of the uncertainty that lies ahead. Perhaps that's part of what makes summer vacations in the car so memorable. Who could forget a flat tire in the desert, engine trouble in the badlands or navigating a road washed out from a summer thunder storm? I vividly remember the time my dad almost ran out of gas in the middle of the New Mexico desert miles from anyplace.

The Bible speaks of life as a road or path that we are called to travel. Here are a few examples of the truths we can find in Scripture about the road of life:

- **Matthew 7:17**, "Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."
- **Acts 2:28**, "You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence."

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for Scripture. Make sure to read small chunks, maybe only a verse or two, at a time and then unpack it together. You can go through a book of the Bible, pick a verse that applies to the day's events, or choose something topical. The important thing here is connecting Scripture to life in a way that your kids can understand. For younger kids, the *The Jesus Storybook Bible* is pretty hard to beat.

3. Pray. Everyone should pray together. Thank God for what he has done and how he has provided. Take requests. Pray for each other. Pray for your city and specific lost people in your lives. Remember that you are building a rhythm, which is just as important as any specific prayer.

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CONNECTING SCRIPTURE TO LIFE
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UNDERSTAND.**

4. Sing. It doesn't matter if you can play an instrument or your voice curdles milk—we should all sing songs to God. Scripture is full of song, and our families should be as well. Truth be told, you are probably more of the problem with this than your kids. Young kids naturally sing all the time without any self-consciousness. Get over your hang-ups and desire for perfection and just sing together. My girls and I are making family songbooks as a creative project, and they're stoked.

5. Keep it regular. The sum is greater than the parts. You will have off days. You will miss days. You may even question your call to ministry. Whatever happens, just keep at it and God will make you equal to the task.

6. Older kids set the example. If your oldest kid is not engaged, your younger ones will follow. Challenge your oldest children to set the example for their siblings. Give them a bit of ownership and a role in how you structure these times, and it will be a huge help.

7. Limit TV. I'm not saying kill your television completely, but there is no doubt in my mind that excessive TV rots the attention span. If your kids, or you for that matter, can't pay attention to anything for more than two minutes, then think about what other entertainment might be captivating your senses.

Visitor's Packets

We have visitor's packets for those friends who come to visit our church. If you know someone who is visiting, be sure to let the elders know so we can give them a visitor's packet to make them feel welcome as they worship with us.

The visitor's packets are also a great tool to use to share our church with friends. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church is focused on evangelism and our visitor's packets are a great evangelism tool. If you would like to have on to share with a friend to invite them to church, please let the office know and we will gladly provide you with one. Let's invite others and make our visitors feel welcome in God's house!

Calendar of Events

Friday, July 23 – Monday, July 26

Office Closed (Tim on vacation)

Call Terry for any emergencies

Friday, July 30

8:00-1:00 Office Open

Sunday, August 1

10:00 Worship with Communion

Bring canned goods

Blessing for teachers & students

Monday, August 2

8:00-1:00 Office Open

Friday, August 6

8:00-1:00 Office Open

Sunday, August 8

10:00 Worship

Monday, August 9

8:00-1:00 Office Open

Friday, August 13

8:00-1:00 Office Open

Sunday, August 15

10:00 Worship

11:15 Ice Cream Social/Sunday School
Kick-off

Friday, August 20

8:00-12:00 Office Open

9:00 Friday Morning Bible Study

Friday, August 27 to Saturday, August 28

CPWM Retreat

From the Pastor *continued from page 1*

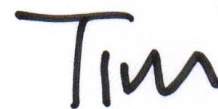
- **Romans 11:33**, "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"
- **2 Corinthians 6:3**, "We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited."
- **John 14:6**, "Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

According to Scripture, the road of life is narrow, is not easy to find, is sometimes mysterious, teaches us to care for others, and begins with knowing Jesus who is the way to heaven...our ultimate destination.

A friend sent the following message me to me (but I don't know the original source). It was so meaningful to me that I decided to put it in print so you can keep it and ponder its message no matter where the rest of Summer 2010 may take you:

"THE ROAD TO HOPE IS NOT STRAIGHT...THERE IS A CURVE CALLED FAILURE ...A LOOP CALLED CONFUSION...SPEED BUMPS CALLED TRIALS...RED LIGHTS CALLED ENEMIES...CAUTION LIGHTS CALLED FAMILY...AND FLATS CALLED SUFFERING. BUT...IF I HAVE A TANK FULL OF LOVE...A SPARE CALLED DETERMINATION.. AN ENGINE CALLED PERSEVERANCE...INSURANCE CALLED FAITH... MY GPS FIXED ON THE SECOND COMING...AND A DRIVER CALLED JESUS...I WILL MAKE IT TO A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN FILLED WITH HOPE!"

I look forward to seeing you at Grace!



August Celebrations

Happy Birthday wishes to: Jeff Davis (6); Terry Kinnaman (10); Wes Neiderland (30)

Happy Anniversary wishes to: Matt & Melissa Mayer (26)

Check out our "revised" Facebook page! We have made some changes to our page to make it more user friendly. If you are not a fan, join today!

Our Prayers & Concerns

Join our Seminary staff and students for a time of prayer on **Mondays from 10:30-10:30** and our Denominational staff and visitors on **Tuesdays from 8:30 to 8:40**. There is no need to travel to Memphis to join, simply pray during the allotted time wherever you are.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Mary Ann Bland | Aaron Zimmerman |
| Mike Eckhart & Family | Jeannine Kinzel |
| Mary Ann Bland | Isinell Newbill |
| Chuck Olson & Family | Patricia Keith |
| Bailey & Lavelle Leopard | Vicki Gross |
| Family of Robert Longaberger | Betty Stumbaugh |
| Our nation & leaders | Vernon Hanson |
| The people of the Gulf Coast | |

Those in Military Service

Christopher Morey (US Navy) Daniel Sweitzer (US Navy)
Shelby Simmons (US Marines)

***Prayer requests and updates can be emailed to
gracepcchurch@att.net***

Church Leadership & Staff:

Ministry Team: Terry Kinnaman & Timothy Baranoski

Elders (Session): Lee Bagby, Michael Jagers, Jim Saleem, Beverly Sweitzer, Jeff Davis

Treasurer: Brent Swick

Music/Choir Director: Jamey Green

CPW President: Carol Swick

Cleaning Crew: Woody & Austin Hastings

Grounds Crew: Bruce Waterman

Daily Bible Readings

Monday (7/26): Psalm 64; Joshua 24:16-33; Romans 16:1-16; Matthew 27:24-31

Tuesday (7/27): Psalm 68:1-20(21-23)24-36
Judges 2:1-5,11-23; Rom. 16:17-27; Matt. 27:32-44

Wednesday (7/28): Psalm 119:73-96; Judges 3:12-30; Acts 1:1-14; Matthew 27:45-54

Thursday (7/29): Psalm 74; Judges 4:4-23; Acts 1:15-26; Matthew 27:55-66

Friday (7/30): Psalm 73; Judges 5:1-18; Acts 2:1-21; Matthew 28:1-10

Saturday (7/31): Psalm 23; Judges 5:19-31; Acts 2:22-36; Matthew 28:11-20

Monday (8/2): Psalm 77; Judges 6:25-40; Acts 2:37-47; John 1:1-18

Tuesday (8/3): Psalm 78:40-72; Judges 7:1-18; Acts 3:1-11; John 1:19-28

Wednesday (8/4): Psalm 81; Judges 7:19-8:12; Acts 3:12-26; John 1:29-42

Thursday (8/5): Psalm 85; Judges 8:22-35; Acts 4:1-12; John 1:43-51

Friday (8/6): Psalm 91; Judges 9:1-16,19-21; Acts 4:13-31; John 2:2-12

Saturday (8/7): Psalm 136; Judges 9:22-25,50-57; Acts 4:32-5:11; John 2:13-25

Grace Cumberland Presbyterian Church

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED