

Allelon Sunday School for June 3, 2007

Opening Prayer

Responsive Reading: Psalm 8

- ¹O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
- ²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark to silence your foes
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
- ³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established
- ⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
- ⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.
- ⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands
you have put all things under their feet
- ⁷all sheep and oxen
and also the beasts of the field.
- ⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- ⁹O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Stand as Leader Reads John 16:12-15

Move to Building Groups

After Building Groups time, Leader Reads Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Closing Prayer

The Week's Preparation

Start each day's readings with the Psalms; then the gospel, then the Old Testament.

Monday

Psalms 41, 52; Matthew 13:44-52; Ecclesiastes 2:1-15

Tuesday

Psalm 45; Matthew 13:53-58; Ecclesiastes 2:16-26

Wednesday

Psalm 119:49-72; Matthew 14:1-12; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Thursday

Psalm 50; Matthew 14:13-21; Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3

Friday

Psalms 40, 54; Matthew 14:22-36; Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Saturday

Psalm 55; Matthew 15:1-20; Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

As you say each day's prayers, try to use phrases from the Scriptures in your prayers and to pray for the people who were in your Building Group this week.

Extra Innings

If you answer all of the questions on the other side of this sheet before 10:45, take a few minutes to talk about some of these questions.

1. Get today's bulletin and seem what the first numbered song is. Look it up in the hymnal. Is the song singing to God or about God? What kinds of things does the first verse focus on? How does the way it says things differ from the way people usually talk?
2. In the bulletin, look at the block of text that we recite before we take communion. What words in that block of text are different from the ones we use in everyday speech? What do they mean? How does it feel to say those strange words out loud?

Building Group Discussion

Get together with those from your Building Group who are your own age. In the space below, make a list of as many names for God as you can come up with in seven minutes. Start with those you know from the Bible itself, but others that Christians have used are fine as well. Get together as a group to compare lists. Make a note of those names that seem to point to the Father, which the Son, and which the Spirit.

Story time!

Go through as many of these as you can before 10:30:

1. Someone older than twenty, tell a story about a time when a boss or a spouse or anyone you can think of put you in charge of relaying information to other people. Be sure to tell the group about what was at stake if you did not relay the message properly. Everyone else, be sure to ask questions about the content of the message, what could have gone wrong, and other things.
2. Someone younger than twenty, tell a story about a substitute teacher in any of your classes. You can talk about people (perhaps yourself) who tried to get away with things because the sub wasn't there before, or you can talk about what the sub would do if someone did step out of line. Everyone else, be sure to ask questions about the scene at hand—why did people behave badly when a sub came around? What kinds of rules did people still not break?
3. Someone other than those two, tell a story about having someone else tell a group (perhaps even at church) about some accomplishment or good deed. Did the storyteller make you look better or worse than you felt about yourself? What did the person get wrong? Everyone else, ask questions.
4. Someone else still, tell a story about getting shocking news. How did the messenger set things up? Why was the news shocking? Everyone else, ask those questions that need asking.

The Crawl: John 16:12-15

Answer these as a group. If you don't understand, talk with your group until everyone has a grasp on it. When someone says something that makes you think of a question, ASK THE QUESTION OUT LOUD! Come back to the sanctuary at 10:45.

1. This teaching comes at the end of Jesus's Last Supper speech in John. Why would this be one of the last things that Jesus teaches his disciples before he is crucified?
2. The text does not say what sorts of things Jesus could not tell his disciples in verse 12, but it does say that the disciples could not bear them then. What sorts of things do you think Jesus could not tell them in that moment? (There's not a definite set of right answers here; use your imagination.)
3. In verses 13-15, Jesus talks about himself as well as the Father and the Spirit. What is our Christian word for that relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Spirit?
4. In verse 13, Jesus says the Spirit will say what he hears. What are some of our English words for someone who takes what one person says and brings those words to other people? From what you've heard, how does this particular messenger deliver the messages? (There are many answers to this as well.)
5. In verse 15, Jesus says that the Father will take what is his and declare it "to you." What has the Father declared about the Son, and how did the Father do so? (Think symbolically as well as in terms of words here.)
6. Jesus says that all that is the Father's is his as well. What kinds of things does Jesus have if he has everything the Father has?
7. In our lives in 2007, what do the Father and the Son have that people sometimes claim as their own without God in the picture? What might be our Christian witness in light of those false claims to possession? (Help out here, grownups.)