

Allelon Sunday School for July 22, 2007

Opening Prayer

Responsive Reading: Psalm 52

1 Why do you boast, O mighty one,
of mischief done against the godly? All day long

2 you are plotting destruction. Your tongue is like a sharp razor,
you worker of treachery.

3 You love evil more than good,
and lying more than speaking the truth.

4 You love all words that devour,
O deceitful tongue.

5 But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent;
he will uproot you from the land of the living.

6 The righteous will see, and fear,
and will laugh at the evildoer, saying,

7 "See the one who would not take refuge in God,
but trusted in abundant riches, and sought refuge in wealth!"

8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.
I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.

9 I will thank you forever, because of what you have done.
In the presence of the faithful I will proclaim your name, for it is good.

Stand as Leader Reads Colossians 1:15-28

Move to Building Groups

After Building Groups time, Leader Reads Amos 8:1-12

Closing Prayer

The Week's Preparation

Each day's Scripture readings are now available automatically from <http://bogartchristian.org> for your devotions.

As you say your prayers each morning or evening (or, even better, both), 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. Today's Crawl text is not from a gospel but from Paul. What differences do you see between today's reading and some from previous weeks?
2. Look at the names of the elders serving communion today and make sure that everyone in the group knows who they are and how people got to know them.
3. What, if anything, did we talk about in today's Crawl that reminds members of the group of last week's retreat?
4. Look at today's Psalm that we read. Which parts are talking about God? Which parts are talking to God? What's happening in the rest of it?

Building Group Discussion

Get together with the folks from your age group in your Building Group. If you had to tell someone about Jesus and only had thirty seconds to do so, what would be the most important things to say? Take about five minutes to jot down at least a brief outline, and when you've finished, share with the other age group what you came up with.

Story time!

Go through as many of these as you can before 10:35:

1. Someone older than twenty, tell a story about a historical figure. It can be one that you've read, seen on TV, heard from someone, or whatever. Everyone else, ask questions about where and when the person heard it and why she or he remembers it.
2. Someone younger than twenty, tell a story about an experiment or some other cool happening in science class. Everyone else, ask some scientific questions.
3. Someone other than those two, tell the group what your favorite church song is and why. Everyone else, ask questions.
4. Someone else still, tell a story about a time when you noticed your own growth spiritually. What kind of life test made you aware of it? Everyone else, ask questions.

The Crawl: Colossians 1:15-28

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!**

1. Paul here is taking the beginning of his letter to do what your group just did at the top of the page. What is the very first thing he says about Jesus as a matter of introduction?
2. Verse 16 says that all things were created in Him, through Him, and for Him. What does each of these things mean, and how does each add importance to Jesus?
3. To whom is Paul talking in verse 21? Does he mean everybody? If so, why do you think he phrases it the way he does?
4. What physical, concrete event is Paul talking about in verse 24? How does he imagine his prison experience? What difference do you think that makes to his time in jail?
5. How does Paul talk about his goals in verse 28? What would that maturity look like?
6. As a whole, how would you describe this passage to someone who wasn't here today? Better yet, to whom are you going to talk about it this week, and what are you going to say?

Return to the sanctuary by 10:45, but only after you've really dug into those questions!