

Allelon Sunday School for July 29, 2007

Opening Prayer

Responsive Reading: Psalm 85

1 LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

2 You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.

3 You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us.

85:5 Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

85:6 Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?

85:7 Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, *and grant us your salvation.*

85:8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

85:9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

85:10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

85:11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

85:12 The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

85:13 Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Stand as Leader Reads Luke 11:1-13

Move to Building Groups

After Building Groups time, Leader Reads
Hosea 1:2-10

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. Write their names at the bottom of this sheet.

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. Take a minute to look at today's prayer requests. If there's any of them that your group members don't know, inform one another.
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 prayer 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 public figure and her or his religion. It can be a politician, a singer, an athlete, a writer, or whatever, and you can tell a story about what the person's said, what the person's been seen doing, 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: Luke 11:1-13

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. When somebody taught you to pray, what did they teach you? What kinds of things do you think are important in a prayer?
2. The prayer Jesus prays in this passage ought to be a familiar one. Where is it familiar? Do you remember it being shorter or longer? Does anyone have a footnote that says where it appears in Matthew?
3. What kinds of things does Jesus teach his disciples to pray for in verses 2-4? Take a few minutes to tell each other why you think Jesus picks those things to pray about.
4. In verse 8, Jesus says that persistent asking will make a friend give what his friend needs. To what does he compare that persistent asking?
5. At the end of Jesus' teaching today (that is to say in verse 13), what does he say that God will give? How does that gift connect with the prayed requests in verses 2-4?
6. If you have a few minutes left, talk to each other about your own habits of prayer—talk about when and where you pray (be honest), for what you most often pray, and whatever else comes up.

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