

40 Days 4 Families Devotionals  
2020

Week 5

New Focus (2 Chron. 1:1-12).

Maybe, just maybe, we need to change the priorities in our family. Instead of focusing on what each person *wants*, what if we could have a focus that is good for God's Kingdom. Families easily get out of balance because one person's agenda overwhelms the schedule or budget. Even when we try to give space to each individual, that becomes a challenge to balance. As Solomon found out, when we focus on what God wants, we can trust Him to provide what we didn't focus on. He is wise and generous, and we can always count on that!

Monday (9/21) Day 29      The Main Focus for your family (Hebrews 12:2)

Last week we talked about priorities and developing a battle plan through them. With your heart set on winning the battle, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Whatever your priorities are, the effort to see them to fruition will be challenging at times. If you want to remain consistent, you have to focus on Jesus. His life, His death, his glory, His calling for you. When you focus on Jesus, you will have hope when you can't see your way.

- How does focusing on Jesus encourage you?
- What can happen when you take your eyes off of Him?

Tuesday (9/22) Day 30      What goes to the front? (Matthew 6:33)

How long is the list of priorities for your family? Whatever the contents, all of them should point to one true priority, advancing the Kingdom of God. Be careful, we have a tendency to try to align our things with God's Kingdom in a way that doesn't work. It is like when a person gambles and says, "if I win, the first thing I will do is give a tithe." God's Kingdom is not glorified in that. As a matter of fact, because it may encourage others to do the same, it is actually working against God's Kingdom. Make sure you don't try to push your agenda before God's or try to hide your agenda in God's.

- Why should we seek the Kingdom of God before everything else?
- What does that mean for your personal goals?

Wednesday (9/23) Day 31      How to stay focused (Hebrews 2:1)

A boat with no oars will drift in the water. It will seemingly float without a destination. There is always a destination though, it is dictated by the flow of the water. To prevent spiritual drift in our family, we must pay much closer attention to what we are doing; how we are engaging conversations, what we are watching on TV, what we are allowing the kids to do, etc. If we are not careful, our lack of rowing toward Jesus will produce spiritual drift. We will *not* be heading nowhere; we will be heading for a spiritual crash.

- What specific things do you need to pay closer attention to?
- How will you doing that help your whole family?

Thursday (9/24) Day 32      The value of keeping Jesus on your mind (Romans 8:6)

What is on your mind? Are you consumed most days with the events of the world around you? Are you challenged with the things right in front of you? It is hard to not get caught up in thinking about those things disproportionately. The quality of the things we focus on will affect the quality of our life. We are reminded by the Scriptures that what we set our minds on will produce certain outcomes. When our minds are set on the

things of God, we will have life and peace. In a world of death and chaos wouldn't you rather have life and peace?

- What things have you focused on that have not been helpful?
- How do you think focusing on spiritual things can change that?

Friday (9/25) Day 33                      Focus on Good Friday (2 Corinthians 5:21)

What makes Good Friday so good? It is the cross of Jesus. The event was not so good; Jesus was killed on the cross in a brutal, bloody way. What makes the cross so good is that it was there that your sin debt was paid by Jesus. Whenever you get down about sin or other problems in your life, just remember Good Friday; Jesus died for you. He didn't care about your faults, He died for you. He didn't hold your sins against you, He died for you. He didn't make you perform or prove your love, He died for you. Good Friday is good for you.

- How can thinking about Jesus' death for your sins help you when you are down?
- Does Jesus' death on the cross apply to you?

Saturday (9/26) Day 34                      Do hobbies damage focus? (1 Corinthians 10:6-7)

Some of us have hobbies that take time and energy. Are these hobbies godly things? I believe this passage helps us to determine when a hobby becomes a problem in your life. When it directs your heart away from God, it becomes an idol. When you desire that thing more than God, when it demands more of your attention and time than God, when it consumes more resources in your life than God, it has become an idol. The hobby itself isn't the problem, the position it assumes in your heart is.

- How does a hobby or activity become an idol to a person?
- How can you make sure you don't let those things take an unhealthy place in your life?

Sunday (9/27) Day 35                      Recap: Focus for the future. (Matthew 6:34)

It is normal to worry about tomorrow even though it isn't beneficial for you. People have a tendency to focus on the future so much that they lose sight of the present. Faith is the remedy for focusing too much on the future. I am not saying that preparing for the future is useless or ungodly; but worrying is. Yes, prepare and work hard for the future, but never forget that God holds it in His hands. Real focus for the future starts with focusing on God today. Since He is the one that holds tomorrow in His hands, shouldn't we focus on Him?

- Do you worry about the future?
- How does focusing on Jesus help to relieve that worry?