



Week of July 2 - a

Scripture: Mt 10:34-39

Main Idea: A common thought today is that Jesus simply taught love. But we see here, that Jesus also taught challenging and difficult truths. He shows us in this passage that we must love God first and above all, even our families.

Questions

Preschool: Does God want us to love our earthly family more than Him? Why not?

Grade school: How do you love God first? Do you go fishing on Sunday morning with your family? Or to Church? Do you spend time with your friends? Or do you go to Church?

Teen: What in these verses is said to make us unworthy of Jesus? What will we find when we live for Jesus, and not ourselves? Is it sometimes hard for you to put God first, over your earthly family?

Adult: Have you ever heard the saying "Go along to get along?" This means to conform to general expectations in order to not disrupt a sense of belonging or security. Sometimes people are so worried about making waves that they won't speak up even when something is wrong. Jesus is teaching that we cannot always "go along." He says that he didn't come for peace but that he brought a sword. Have you ever wanted to speak against something but didn't because of social pressure? If you could go back to that time, how might you react differently?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For God to help us love him above all things in our lives, even our own families.

July Memory Verse:

Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.



Week of July 2 - b

Scripture: Mt 11:1-6

Main Idea: The forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist is in prison (later to be killed) and he sends word to Jesus asking if he was the Messiah, or if they should look for someone else. While we don't know exactly why John asks this, we know John and his disciples were surely encouraged by the answer. Jesus was indeed the Messiah and his journey to saving the world through dying on the cross included much healing, raising the dead, and preaching to the poor.

Questions

Preschool: Do you think John the Baptist was excited by Jesus' answer that He is the Messiah?

Grade school: How many signs do you see in a day? You see signs on the road, STOP... YIELD... You see signs in stores, SALE... BATHROOM ... Jesus used signs too. His signs were called miracles.

Teen: After all John saw of Jesus he still needed affirmation that he was indeed the Messiah. What affirmation do we have that Jesus is our savior? In vs 6, to not take offense is to not fall away from Jesus. Jesus states all kinds of healing he is doing in vs 5, but in vs 6 who does he call blessed? Which is more important, physical or spiritual healing?

Adult: Do you suppose John asked this questions in order that his disciples might be uplifted by the response? Have you been in a situation where you were strengthened by something that wasn't said directly to you? For instance, maybe someone told your mom that they were impressed by something you did or said. Then she told you. Do you think that might be more deeply felt? It for sure encouraged your mother and you!

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: Praising God for sending Jesus to sacrifice his life for us. For God to help our faith in Jesus to be strong and our lives reflect that.

July Memory Verse:

Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.