

**Inspire
Instruct
Instill**

these biblical truths in your family.
Talk and pray through these items during the week

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Week of 11/20/17

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Psalm 127:1

**Inspire
Building a Vision. Why is this important?**

No need to deny, rationalize, or otherwise excuse away evidence of your sin. God wouldn't have sent his Son if your sin were not real.

- "I think you misunderstood me."
- "I wasn't angry, just emphasizing an important point."
- "It wasn't lust; I'm just a man who enjoys beauty."
- "I wasn't feeling well." "I just have a strong personality."
- "I think you're being too judgmental."
- "No harm, no foul."
- "It wasn't a lie, just another way of looking at things."
- "Sometimes you have to choose the better of two evils."
- "I was planning on giving it back."
- "It wasn't gossip. I was just asking them to pray."
- "I'm not proud, just exercising God-given leadership gifts."
- "I had to defend myself."

Can you think of some excuses you make for your sin?

The list could go on and on. We're all so good at doing it. We're all so skilled at convincing ourselves that our sin is less than sin and that we are better than we actually are. In the end, it's all a big insult to the God who controlled every situation, location, and person in every moment of human history so that at the perfect time his Son Jesus could come for the to forgive us for and deliver us from the very thing that we are making seem small.

*(Parents: this section is for you: It is a scandal of self-righteous unbelief, a refusal to take God at his word when he says that we are in a bad condition apart from his grace. It is destructive pride rearing its ugly head. **

Why is it "destructive pride"?

It's destructive because it is only when you admit the depth of your unrighteousness and the impossibility of independently altering that condition that you begin to cry out for and get excited about redeeming grace. Now, all you really need to convince yourself of the depth and seriousness of your sin is the cross of Jesus Christ. That God would go to the extent that he did to sacrifice his one and only Son ought to be demonstration enough that the moral tragedy of sin is real. It is so real that God's real Son had to come in a real birth, live a real life of perfection, die a real death, and walk away from a real tomb so that you could have real forgiveness and real hope in the face of your real sin. When sin is real, real grace is the only hope!

Tripp, Paul David (2014-10-31). New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional (Kindle Locations 7647-7652). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

** Tripp, Paul David. New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional*

Instruct

Building a Biblical foundation. Teaching to know and to follow God.

Before we can ever understand what is right or wrong, we first have to believe and understand God's word as the source of truth. We have to decide, for our lives, that it is the bottom line.

Read Genesis 6:5-8

This is a shocking statement of the sorry state of things as the result of sin. We tend to want to think that sin is not so sinful; that our unrighteous attitudes and actions are not really that unrighteous.

But one little phrase in this passage says it all. It forcefully declares why our only hope is the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This phrase is powerful and sobering because it is the assessment of the human heart by the One who is the Creator and knower of our hearts.

Here it is: “every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

God wasn't grieved because the people he had made occasionally did wrong things or once in a while had bad thoughts.

He wasn't grieved because their responses were sometimes colored with bad intentions.

This would have been bad enough, but things were worse.

The effect of sin on people was total.

It distorted everything people desired and thought, and consequently everything they said and did. It is humbling to grasp, but sin leaves us in the one condition none of us want to believe that we're in.

- The result of sin is that there is nothing righteous about us.
- There is nothing that is naturally commendable.
- There is nothing that we can hold before God as a reason to quiet his grief and engender his acceptance.
- Nothing.

But this passage tells us more. It lays out the pattern by which God would deal with sin— judgment and redemption. He would wipe out people from the face of the earth in an act of righteous judgment, but he would redeem one man and his family, and renew his covenant promises to them.

The story of Noah was a finger that pointed to complete forgiveness, one following the same pattern.

God would send his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus would be righteous in every way, yet judgment would fall on him.

He would experience the full weight of God's anger over sin, even to death, so that we wouldn't have to.

His death would satisfy God's anger.

His righteousness would be attributed to us.

His resurrection would guarantee us life.

His righteousness is our only hope, because sin renders us all deeply unrighteous.

Instill

Building a Legacy. Passing faith to the next generation.

The playbook for life is: "What does the Bible say?" There are themes that come up over and over and over in scripture (like when pastor Clay preached about the word "repent" that Jesus used in the Bible.

The job we have as parents and pastors of our homes is to grab the shoulders of those we love and say, "WAKE UP!"

Parents:

Who in your home is spiritually sleeping? Is it you? Are you passive in your faith and your kids are mimicking your faith-walk? Don't feel badly. You are not alone. It is not too late to begin re-establishing your faith and get away from a casual awareness of God. Choose to model for them a belief in God's Word and a practice of keeping it close to your heart.

Kids:

Do you believe everything you hear? Do you believe when mom and dad tell you things? Do you believe what mom and dad say about Jesus? Do you believe what the Bible says about Jesus?