



Week 4 - September 28th

A Better Relationship with My Heavenly Father

The Week's Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:3

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

How are things going at home? How are your friends and coworkers doing this week? In short, how are the relationships going with the people who are a part of your daily life? Could they be improved upon? Relationships are like cars, in that our satisfaction with them is often commensurate with the amount of time we devote to maintaining them. On an even more important level, how is your relationship with your heavenly Father going? Are you spending much time with him? Would he say that his relationship with you is a satisfying one? During this week of our journey we are focusing upon God the Father. That word "Father" is a very full one, which causes many thoughts to enter our minds and hearts. Spend some time in meditation and prayer contemplating what it means to have a Father in heaven who loves and hears you.

Growing in Faith

Use Meditations (available at church) which place you into daily contact with God's Word.

Memorize the Bible verse for this week.

Set aside daily time to complete the 90 Day (New Testament) Bible Reading Plan. When you are finished with the day's segment, reflect upon the meaning of what you have covered. (The plan is available on the website.)

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

- In the opening words of these verses, how does Paul describe our heavenly Father? What does this mean to you? How might this help you speak to someone about God?
- Why does our Father allow both good and bad times to touch us?
- How does God use both kinds of events to our good?
- Above all else, what does God want us to know about our lives now and in the future?

Read John 15:1-17 (The Vine and the Branches)

- Jesus speaks about love and obedience to the Father, what does this mean to you?
- This wonderful parable says much about life. Where alone is the power for life found?
- What are we able to do when we are connected by faith to God?
- Go through these verses and write down all the comforting thoughts you can find.
- Do you deserve any of these blessings?
- Why does God bless you so greatly? Use the word "Father" as you shape your answer.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer, then meditate upon what the words "Our Father" mean to you. If you need prompting, dust off your Catechism and explore the section on the Lord's Prayer.