

SABBATH SUNDAYS (Family Devotion) - AT HOME or RESTAURANT

This time is set apart so that you have a chance to be together, eat together and grow in faith together as a “family” ...however your expression of family looks. (All things optional)

1. Opening Prayer

Prayer: God of rest and renewal, Thank you for this day, for this season of life and all of its fullness. Thank you for family and a chance to breathe deeply this day. Help us to breathe in Your grace and breathe out our anxieties. Help us connect to Your Holy Spirit through this time of devotion. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

2. Hearing the Word - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1-3 What I want to talk about now is the various ways God's Spirit gets worked into our lives. This is complex and often misunderstood, but I want you to be informed and knowledgeable. Remember how you were when you didn't know God, led from one phony god to another, never knowing what you were doing, just doing it because everybody else did it? It's different in this life. God wants us to use our intelligence, to seek to understand as well as we can. For instance, by using your heads, you know perfectly well that the Spirit of God would never prompt anyone to say "Jesus be damned!" Nor would anyone be inclined to say "Jesus is Master!" without the insight of the Holy Spirit.

4-11 God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful: wise counsel, clear understanding, simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.

3. Reflections and Questions

HMPC Youth have explored this part of Paul's letter to the Corinthians in many ways over the past three+ years. We have read it and had discussions on it. We have created art pieces about and now we have it in our Sabbath Sunday Plan with Rev. Jo Nygard Owens having preached on it this morning. Here are some things to think about regarding this awesome passage.

Q: How do you think the church in Corinth took hearing this message from Paul?

Q: What are some of your gifts for the betterment of humanity through Christ's message?

Q: This passage is one of UNITY. How might we continue to move in the direction of UNITY versus SEPARATION, POLARIZATION and EXCLUSION in our daily lives?

4. Listen and Reflect - Listen to “One Love/People Get Ready” by Bob Marley

One Love! One Heart!

Let's get together and feel all right.

Hear the children cryin' (One Love!);

Hear the children cryin' (One Heart!),

Sayin': give thanks and praise to the Lord and I will feel all right;

Sayin': let's get together and feel all right. Wo wo-wo wo-wo!

Let them all pass all their dirty remarks (One Love!);

There is one question I'd really love to ask (One Heart!):

Is there a place for the hopeless sinner,

Who has hurt all mankind just to save his own beliefs?

One Love! What about the one heart? One Heart!

What about - ? Let's get together and feel all right

As it was in the beginning (One Love!);

So shall it be in the end (One Heart!),

All right!

Give thanks and praise to the Lord and I will feel all right;

Let's get together and feel all right.

One more thing!

Let's get together to fight this Holy Armageddon (One Love!),

So when the Man comes there will be no, no doom (One Song!).

Have pity on those whose chances grows t'inner;

There ain't no hiding place from the Father of Creation.

Sayin': One Love! What about the One Heart? (One Heart!)

Let's get together and feel all right.

I'm pleadin' to mankind! (One Love!);

Oh, Lord! (One Heart) Wo-ooh!

Give thanks and praise to the Lord and I will feel all right;

Let's get together and feel all right.

Give thanks and praise to the Lord and I will feel all right;

Let's get together and feel all right.

5. Closing Prayer: Ask a member of the family to offer this prayer.

Loving God, Thank you for this time of devotion. Help us to continue to breathe in your grace and breathe out our anxieties and fears. May we know the ALL are always welcome at your table. Help us to continue to pull up seats for ourselves and others, particularly those who may not think they have a place at the table. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.