

Family Worship

*It Is More Blessed
To Give Than To Receive*

13·12·2020

Opening Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for our family.

And thank you for the privilege of coming together for worship.

Help us to understand Your Word and obey it with a joyful heart.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Angels We Have Heard On High

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHWqj6gKS9g>



Catechism Time!

Bible truths for teaching children

Question 29

Q: How can we be saved?

A: Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross.

This means

Jesus died for us (“substitutionary atoning death”) to save us from God’s punishment. We are saved by faith in Jesus, not by our good works.

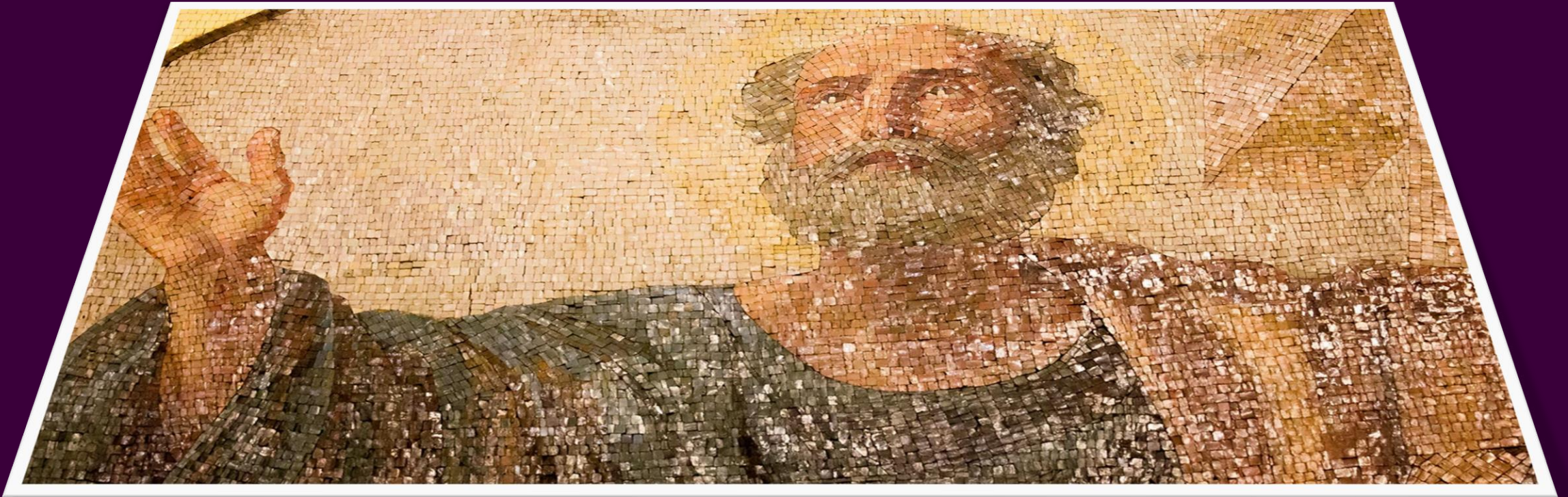
Bible verse (Ephesians 2:8-9)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Acts tells us that Paul went on 3 missionary trips.

Today we'll learn about his 3rd trip:

- What happened in Ephesus
- How he gave himself to serving Jesus



Can you trace Paul's third missionary journey with your finger?



Hint: Antioch → Ephesus → Thessalonica → Corinth → Thessalonica → Philippi → Troas → Assos → Miletus → Rhodes → Caesarea → Jerusalem

What happened in Ephesus?

Paul spent nearly 3 years in Ephesus - an important city in the Roman World.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woaO78pWrXI>

Acts 20:17-38

Now from Miletus Paul sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

When they came to him, he said, "You know about my life from the first day I came to Asia. You know the way I lived all the time I was with you. The Jews plotted against me. This troubled me very much. But you know that **I served the Lord with great humility and with tears.**

You know I preached to you, and I did not hold back anything that would help you. You know that I taught you in public and in your homes. I warned both Jews and Greeks to change their lives and turn to God. And I told them all to believe in our Lord Jesus.

You know the way I lived all the time I was with you.



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I must obey the Holy Spirit and go to Jerusalem



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But now **I must obey the Holy Spirit** and go to Jerusalem. I don't know what will happen to me there. I know only that in every city the Holy Spirit tells me that troubles and even jail wait for me.

I don't care about my own life. The most important thing is that I complete my mission.

I want to finish the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell people the Good News about God's grace.



"And now, I know that none of you will ever see me again. All the time I was with you, I was preaching the kingdom of God. So today I can tell you one thing that I am sure of: If any of you should be lost, I am not responsible. This is because I have told you everything God wants you to know.

Watch Out

Be careful for yourselves and for all the people God has given you. The Holy Spirit gave you the work of caring for this flock. **You must be like shepherds to the church of God.** This is the church that God bought with his own death.

I know that after I leave, some men will come like wild wolves and try to destroy the flock.

Also, men from your own group will rise up and twist the truth. They will lead away followers after them.

So be careful! Always remember this: **For three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.**



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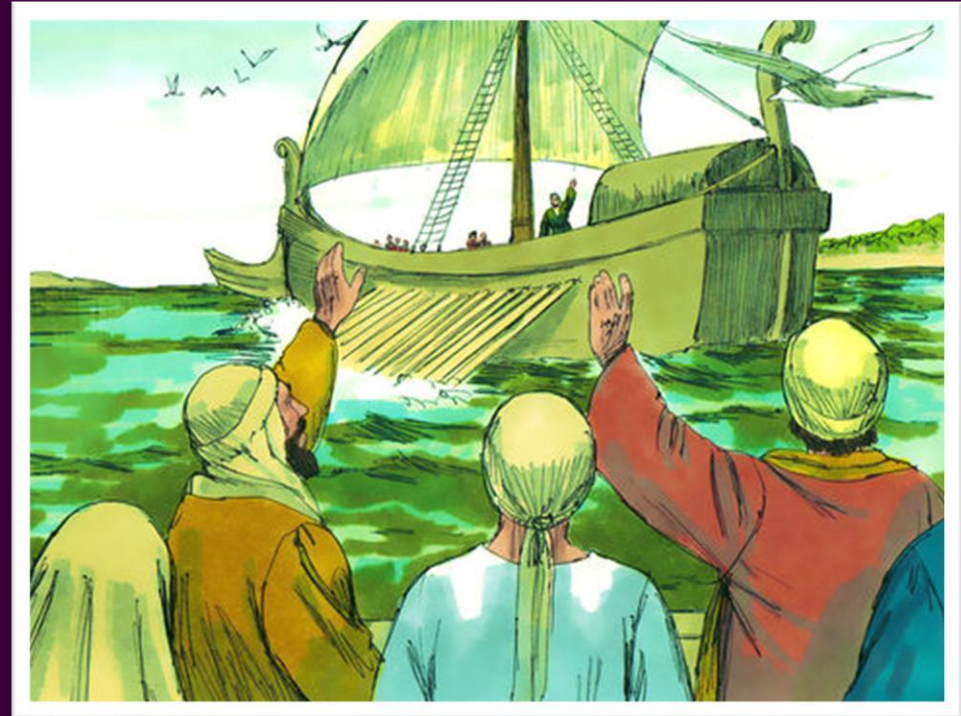


"Now I am putting you in the care of God and the message about his grace. That message is able to give you strength, and it will give you the blessings that God has for all his holy people.

When I was with you, I never wanted anyone's money or fine clothes. You know that I always worked to take care of my own needs and the needs of those who were with me. I showed you in all things that you should work as I did and help the weak.

I taught you to remember the words of Jesus. He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

When Paul had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. And they all cried because Paul had said that they would never see him again. They put their arms around him and kissed him. Then they went with him to the ship.



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Family Discussion

1. Everyone says one thing about what you have learnt from today's lesson.
2. (P9, 12) Paul said, "I served the Lord with great humility and with tears...For 3 years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears." Why did Paul cry?
 - He missed home.
 - He used tears to draw attention to himself.
 - He loved the Church and took on the problems of the believers as his own.
 - He was concerned that the believers would be misled by "wild wolves" and false teachers.
3. (P10) - "I don't care about my own life. The most important thing is that I complete my mission."
 - What was Paul's mission (the work God called him to do)?
 - Which was more important to Paul - his mission or his life? Whose example was he following? (Hint: J_ _ _ _)
4. (P13) "You know that I always worked to take care of my own needs and the needs of those who were with me." Paul made tents to support himself and others in Ephesus.
 - Why didn't he rely on financial support from the Ephesian church? (Hint: the answer is in the title of this Family Worship.)

Family Discussion

5. (P10) "I know only that in every city the Holy Spirit tells me that troubles and even jail wait for me."
- Was telling people about the good news easy? Who was opposing Paul?
 - In the face of such hardships, was Paul afraid to carry out his mission?
6. (P13) Paul quoted Jesus' words: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
- What does this mean?
 - To give requires one to be generous, selfless, caring, kind and loving. Discuss these examples where you can give:
 - a) Who can you pray for?
 - b) Who can you help without expecting anything in return?
 - c) How can you serve each other at home?
 - d) How can you serve in the Church?

Summary

- ❖ Paul gave himself to God and His Church - his heart, his mind, his time, his resources, his life.
- ❖ Jesus said, "It is more blessed to **GIVE** than to receive."
- ❖ The world tells us the opposite - it is more blessed to receive than to give.
- ❖ Christmas reminds us that God has given us Himself.
- ❖ To give = to be generous, selfless, caring, kind, loving... Let's learn from Jesus and Paul

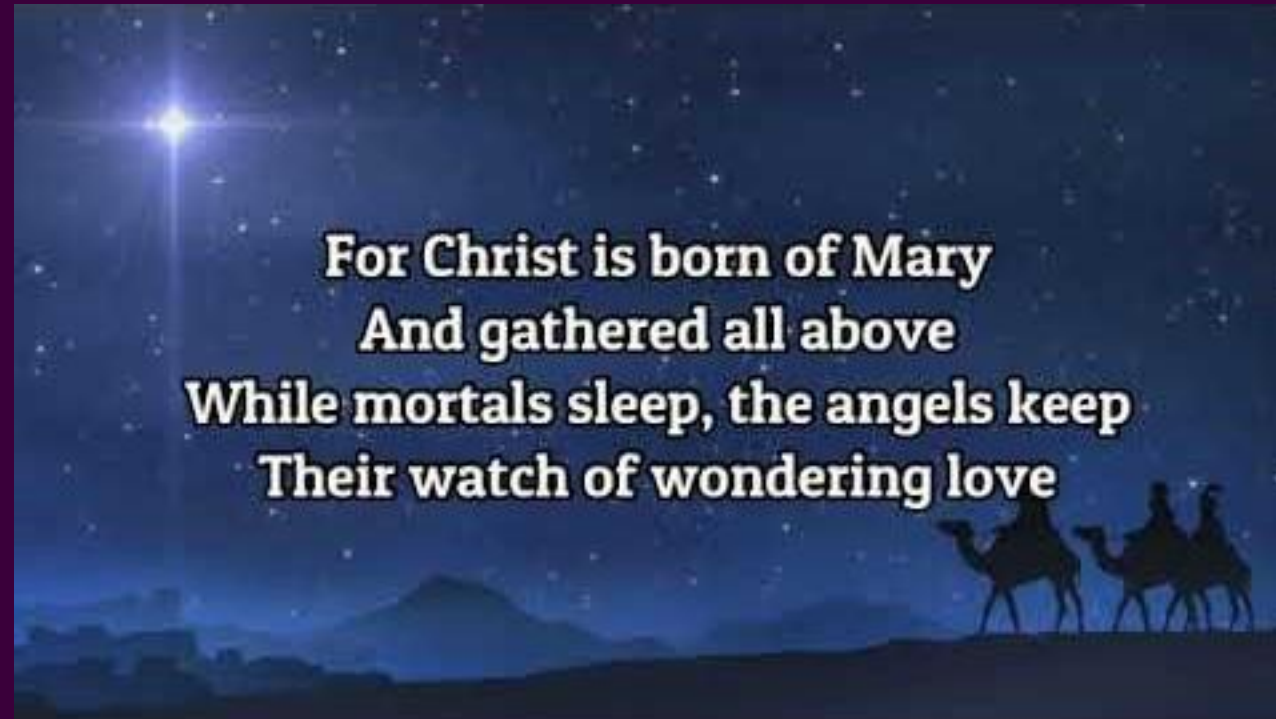


Family Prayer Time

1. Thank God for His Word and help so we may learn from Him.
2. Ask your children to pray for what they have learned just now.
3. Ask your family how you can pray for them specifically.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uLELfqlntI>



**For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love**