

Friends

Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage. WRITE your thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.

Monday, 8/18/08 – Read Proverbs 22:6

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: This very familiar verse has been used in a variety of ways over the centuries. What do you think it means “to train up a child”? What components do you see training involving and consisting of? The New English Bible translation for this verse reads, “Start a boy on the right road and even in old age he will never leave it.” The New Revised Standard translation reads, “Train children in the right way and when old, they will not stray.” Do you think this verse is applicable only to parents or does it apply to the community as a whole?

Tuesday, 8/19/08 – Read Psalm 119:97-105

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Psalm 119 is not only the longest psalm in the Bible but the longest chapter. No one knows who wrote it but it is often attributed to Ezra, the scribe, who led the second large group of Jewish exiles back to Jerusalem following the Babylonian Captivity. Ezra returned to Jerusalem around 460 BCE. The words from verse 105 were also the title of a religious-themed television show that ran from 1948 to 1979. Why would God’s Word be a lamp and light for us? What do you think it means for God’s Word to be a lamp to my feet and light to my path? How can we incorporate this verse into our daily lives?

Wednesday, 8/20/08 – Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: On the right-hand doorposts of many Jewish homes, there is a small rectangular box. Inside you will find a small scroll, handwritten in Hebrew on parchment, and rolled up. This scroll is known as a *mezuzah*. Two chapters from Torah are contained on the mezuzah, including Deuteronomy 6:4 --- “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one.” These words are the opening words to the Hebrew prayer known as *Shema Yisrael*. The Shema is the most important prayer in Judaism and is recited twice a day by observant Jews. Why might it be helpful to have a visible reminder of your faith in such a prominent place?

Thursday, 8/21/08 – Read Psalm 78:1-8

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Why is it so important that we ensure that our beliefs and traditions are passed on to future generations? Why is community so important in the church? As the 17th century Anglican priest John Donne said, “No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.” When a child is baptized, we as the congregation promise to support and care for that child. What role do you play in this process?

Friday, 8/22/08 – Read Mark 10:13-16, Luke 18:15-17, and Matthew 19:13-15

My Observations: _____

Christian Education

What do I want to remember out of today's message?

A Question to Answer: This incident took place during Jesus' ministry. Each of the three synoptic Gospel writers tells it. Why do the disciples rebuke the mothers who are bringing their children to see Jesus? Why would the disciples think a busy man like Jesus wouldn't have time to be bothered with children? Is this attitude still prevalent in our society today? How does Jesus counter His disciples' attitude and turn the tables on them? What does Jesus say is special about children?

Saturday, 8/23/08 – Read **Mark 12:28-34 and **Matthew 22:34-40****

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus gave this answer. Why is this the perfect answer? How do these two commandments sum up all that is written in the Bible?

What action do I intend to take as a result of today's message?

Sunday, 8/24/08 – Read **Philippians 4:4-9**

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Why are these five verses so important to authentic Christian living? What gems of wisdom are contained in them? If we truly incorporate these verses into our lives, how would our lives be richer and fuller?
