

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of **SEPTEMBER 1/2**

The Narrow Door

#1 *Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!" There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."*
Luke 13:22-30

Take a look around you today. What kinds of things do you see? Are there tools, utensils, bags, maybe even brooms and mops? If you are in the car, look outside. What do you see? Take a minute as a family and describe what each item's use. Now, the question is can any of the things you described be used to get to heaven? No? The truth is that only believing the Word of God that tells us about Jesus can be used to get to heaven. Just as everything has a purpose, the Bible has a purpose too. It tells us that Jesus died on the cross so our sins could be forgiven. He provides the way for us to get to heaven. He is our Savior, our way to heaven. Be sure always to use the right tool for the job. Be sure to remember that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Pray: Help me, Lord, to read Your Word often so that I will know the way to heaven and love and follow Jesus in my life. Amen.

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#2 *Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. Genesis 11:4-5*

Have you ever seen a skyscraper? Downtown Minneapolis has many of them. Back in Bible times, there weren't very many tall buildings, yet one time there were some people who decided to build a tall building. They built it so high they thought they were as high as God was. But God told them that no matter how high they built their building, it would never be as high as God was. Today not many of us build skyscrapers, but we do sometimes think we can get higher than God can. Some people believe if they have enough money or power, they can get everything they want and have no need for God.

The truth is that no human being can ever be God. No matter how big we think we are or how high we think we can get, we will never be as high as God is. God still has to come down to us. He did that when He sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus came and showed us that it isn't about being high and mighty, but rather, about our going out and being servants. Jesus was the best servant of all. Remember that God is much higher than we could ever be but that He loves us, and so we have a friend in high places.

Pray: Thank You, God, that You are bigger and stronger than anything. Thank You for coming down to me and loving me through Jesus my Savior. Amen.