

# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of JULY 7/8

No Turning Back

#1 *As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village.*

*As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Luke 9:51-62*

Are you going on a trip? Maybe you just finished one. When we go somewhere, it is a good idea to have a map. Jesus invites us to follow Him and to come along. The Bible reading talks about people who said they had other things to do, or that they would come along later. Jesus gives us a map so that we can follow Him. It is called the Bible. We start following at the font when we are baptized. God makes us His child, forgives our sins, and promises that we will be in heaven with Him one day. Then we continue following Him, coming to worship, and growing in our faith. We learn about the Lord's Supper, receiving it often. As we keep reading the Bible, going to worship, and hearing about Jesus, we continue to follow Him.

Let the Bible be your map to following Jesus. Don't get lost or make excuses. Just keep reading, coming to worship, and sharing your faith with others.

***Pray: Jesus, help me to follow You every day of my life. Don't let me turn the wrong way, but always go where You want me to go. Amen.***

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**#2** *The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. Jonah 1:1-3*

God asked Jonah to go and do something for him but Jonah ran away. Jonah was supposed to go to the city of Ninevah and tell them to follow God, but Jonah took off in the other direction. Have you ever thought about running away? It is not a good idea, but sometimes we can feel that way. If you remember the rest of the story of Jonah, you know what swallowed him. That's right a big fish. Instead of running away, Jonah should have talked to God and told Him that he didn't want to go to Ninevah, or that he didn't think it was a good idea. Then he should have done what God told Him. That is just like obeying our parents or teachers when they tell us to do something. The worst thing to do is run away. Let's not be like Jonah. Instead, let's talk to God in prayer or with our parents when we are told to do something we don't want to do.

*Pray: You ask me to follow You and to obey my parents, and sometimes it is hard. Help me to never run away, but always go where You lead me. Amen.*