

Through The Bible in One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, Laura Gardner.

Theme: Family Feuds, Fruit Excludes - Unless God is in the Game

Week 3 Small Group Bible Study & Sunday School Lesson

Open (Sharing our Own Stories & Getting To Know One Another

1. What family member did you envy? What about him/her made you feel that way?
2. What family member “turned out” in a good way that the family did not expect? What was the good result?
3. How have you been a “surprise” to family members?

Going Deeper Into God’s Word Together

Read aloud Genesis 37:3-11; Psalm 15:1-5; Matthew 13:54-58

Genesis: 1. Israel clearly favored Joseph over his other sons and gave him a robe to signify that. How has God favored you as someone special? 2. Joseph’s brothers are consumed with envy and treat him badly. Share a time you treated someone badly as a result of these same feelings. 3. Joseph’s dream was rejected by his brothers but was held in regard by his father. Who supports the “dreams” God gives to you? Whose God-given purposes (dreams) do you support?

Psalms: 1. According to the Psalmist, what kinds of thoughts/activities keep us from living in God’s presence? 2. What actions does God honor with his presence? 3. What does it mean that the blameless will “never be shaken”?

Matthew: 1. People in Jesus’ hometown were mistakenly offended by the things Jesus taught and did because they felt they knew the “real Jesus.” Relate an incident where you made an inaccurate judgment about someone. Were there any consequences for you or that person as a result of that judgment? 2. Jesus felt that in his own home he was without honor. What relationship(s) in your life cause you to feel misunderstood? How does this affect you? 3. Jesus can’t perform miracles in his town because of the peoples’ lack of faith. Where in your life can’t Jesus perform miracles because of your lack of faith?

Reflecting On What God Is Telling Us:

1. How much “fruit” is bearing in your life right now? ___an overflowing abundance ___an adequate amount ___very little
2. What kinds of actions or behaviors do we need to take in our relationships with others and God that will allow God to bear more fruit in our lives?

Applying/Putting Into Practice What God’s Told Us

What relationship can you seek to fruitfully improve this week, as a result of your faith in God’s ability to help you do that?