



SEEKING
the CITY
TO COME

FAMILY DEVOTION

STEWARDSHIP 2015

A NOTE FROM ANDREW

As parents, there is so much to teach our kids. If you are like me, not a day goes by that there isn't another teaching opportunity and at times that can be overwhelming. I have also begun to take notice on what lessons I am passing down to my kids. My daughter is well-versed in music that I enjoy and my son is quick to see the back side blitz coming while watching football, and they are both well-aware of how much fun it is to eat out. As I reflect, though, I hope that they are also learning lessons that matter. My prayer is that a love for the Word and God's Church are also becoming a part of their consciousness.

To that end, what a great opportunity we have as parents to teach our kids about stewardship. We live in a world that is so self-consumed and materialistic that teaching and training on giving to others is such a foreign concept. We can lay a foundation of philanthropy that is based around the Lord's own call on us to give, and is rooted in the theme verses for this year, Hebrews 13:14-16:

¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

¹⁵ Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The author of Hebrews has been speaking to the mainly Jewish audience about Jesus as the author and perfecter of our faith, and then offering the people hope that goes beyond this world. He reminds us that we are not alone but are part of something much bigger than ourselves. He also says that we are called to run the race God has for us and to do so without growing weary because ultimately, God is the faithful One to us. He reminds us too that we are to look forward to our entrance into a Kingdom that will not be shaken by the things of this world and that in that next Kingdom we will have a city that will last. Some day all that we know and love will pass away. All of the treasure we have worked so hard to accumulate and all of the accomplishments we strive to achieve in order to define our worth will one day be no more. Therefore, let us instead work towards things that will last.

We as parents have that same message to give to our kids. We are called by God to teach them to fix their eyes on Jesus and work for His Kingdom to come. One of those ways is through talking about stewardship. We get the unique privilege and honor to help shape the way our kids see both money and God's faithful provision for us. We get the same privilege to offer up a sacrifice of praise to our God not only with our lips but through our deeds.

When we set an example for our kids to share what we have in a sacrificial way in obedience to the Lord, we give them a powerful picture not only of submission but trust. Therefore, I encourage you to sit down with your kids and be reminded that all we have belongs to the Lord and He has called us to be stewards of His bountiful blessings. Our response is to worship Him by giving back to His church generously all that He has given to us.

I pray that you and your family wrestle with these words in view of the cross of Christ for the glory of God the Father.



Andrew Keasling

STEWARDSHIP FAMILY DEVOTION

OPEN IN PRAYER (CHOOSE ONE PERSON)

OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

If someone gave you \$1,000, what would you do with it? Be specific.

READ HEBREWS 13:14-16.

QUESTIONS FOR PK-3RD

- What are your favorite parts about Memphis?
- What about Memphis do you not like? Why?
- What does verse 14 tell us to seek?
- Where is the "city to come"?
- What are we supposed to offer up according to verse 15?
- How do you offer a sacrifice of praise to God? Where can you do that?
- What does verse 16 tell us to do with what we have?
- What are some things that you can share?
- **ACTION POINT—Make a special jar or bank to collect money in that you would like to share with the Lord.**

QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (IN ADDITION TO OR REPLACING SOME OF THE ABOVE)

- What does it mean to you that this city and world will not last?
- How does that make you feel?
- How are we to seek the city that is to come?
- How often does verse 15 tell us that we should offer our sacrifices of praise? How can you do that?
- What does it look like to offer a sacrifice of praise to God at home? Church? School?
- What does it say about our sacrifices in verse 16?
- **ACTION POINT**—Talk with your parents about the money you get for chores or allowance and how you should commit to giving that money to the Lord.

QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (IN ADDITION TO OR REPLACING SOME OF THE ABOVE)

- What do you know about the city that is to come? Go to Revelation 21 if you need help.
- What keeps you from offering a sacrifice of praise to God? Why?
- What does verse 16 tell us to not neglect doing?
- What are specific ways in which you can do good and share what you have?
- **ACTION POINT**—Begin to pray asking God to show you the ways in which you can steward your time, talents, and treasure for His work.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

(EVERYONE PARTICIPATES)

- Thank God for all the gifts He has given us!!
- Is there a time you remember when you were not willing to do what God wanted you to? Ask for forgiveness.
- Pray that the money that is given to the church will be used to tell others about Jesus and to help those in need.