

4TH QUARTER 2023

# Junior High

Q U A R T E R L Y | Oct • Nov • Dec



God's  
Character

**ALSO...**

*The God of Second Chances  
Wisdom for Life*



# SUN

READ MATTHEW 1:18-2:12

Joseph was given a pretty crazy task. He was to marry a young woman who was already pregnant and raise the child as his own. Society would surely look down on his decision and family dynamics. Yet, Joseph trusted the angel from God and followed the instructions. He became Jesus' earthly father.

God still calls people to do seemingly crazy things. We are to be kind to those who are cruel. All Christians are to talk to strangers about God's love and salvation. Some are called to move across the world to share the gospel. No matter how extreme, we must be willing to hear and follow the Lord's leading.



## Food For Thought:

Am I willing to follow God's call on my life no matter the cost? What do I feel God calling me to do right now?



## What Now?

Make a list of "crazy" requirements for believers from Matthew 5-6 and pray for help and guidance to fulfill them.

# MON

READ ACTS 5:27-29

Salmon are the radicals of the fish species. They go against the flow and swim upstream. This seems to go against nature; however, in actuality the path is for reproduction purposes. When it comes to our world and its point of view, we should be like salmon.

Peter and the apostles started the Church and changed the world. The council commanded them to be quiet and stop teaching about Christ's sacrifice and salvation, but they boldly committed to obey God rather than humans (verse 29). Like these disciples, we must not get sucked into the world's immoral standards or anything against God's will. Rather, we should stand up for God's truth and His commands.



## Food For Thought:

How can I stand up for my Christian beliefs?



## What Now?

Standing together is easier than standing alone. Ask Christian friends at school to be accountability partners and help each other do what is right, even when it is against the crowd.

# TUE

READ LUKE 9:23-25

The commitment of athletes is incredible. The 2016 U.S. women's gymnastics team had just won gold in the Olympics team final. During their interview, they did not profess dreams of Walt Disney World or a restful vacation. They just wanted French fries and pizza. They had denied themselves junk food for training and the competition. That is true sacrifice!

Commitment is also required to follow Christ. In verse 23, Jesus called us to give up our desires, comforts, and goals. Some people even sacrifice their lives for the sake of Christ. Our peace comes from the promise that even if we give up our earthly lives for the Lord, we have eternal life with God.



## Food For Thought:

What has Christ asked me to sacrifice in order to serve Him?



## What Now?

Check out what Jesus said about fasting in Matthew 6:16-18. Sacrifice something this week to show your commitment to the Lord.

# WED

READ MATTHEW 4:1

On the reality competition *The Amazing Race*, contestants are often required to look at a completed object that serves as an example, and then they must put together their own copy of the object from scratch. The competitors must be observant, precise, and detail-oriented. As a viewer, it might appear simple to follow the example. While the contestants often have trouble seeing their mistakes, to the viewer the blunders are obvious.

As Christians, our example to follow is Christ. Today's verse reveals how Jesus was willing to follow the Spirit's leading, even though He knew it would be difficult to fast and oppose Satan. Ultimately, Jesus knew the importance of setting an example. Jesus showed us how to resist temptation. Our job now is to observe and follow His example.



## Food For Thought:

How can I, like Christ, resist temptation in my life?



## What Now?

Avoid any situation that could possibly be tempting. When you cannot avoid it, look for the way of escape that God promised in 1 Corinthians 10:13 and take it.

# THU

READ JOHN 4:23-24

"Team members needed. Apply within." When businesses post this sign, the managers are hoping for employees with specific characteristics. They want workers who are punctual, hard working, and cooperative. Other admirable qualities include initiative and the ability to follow directions. More than just a smiling face is needed.

Who is our Heavenly Father seeking? Jesus told us in this verse. God wants followers who worship Him in spirit and in truth. The Lord wants to be our first priority and receive our adoration. God desires sons and daughters devoted to His plan.



## Food For Thought:

Does my life match up with what God is seeking? What evidence supports my answer?



## What Now?

Write out a prayer of praise to the Lord. Use words from a Psalm or lyrics from a worship song, or write your own declaration of praise.

# FRI

READ ACTS 17:22-28

How would you rate your skill at *Where's Waldo?* How about other seek-and-find activity books? I can almost always find missing items in real life, but I am terrible at those books. Searching for the guy in the red and white stripes hurts my eyes and gives me a headache. I usually give up very soon due to impatience as well as aggravation.

None of these are a problem with the Lord. If we will seek Him, we will always find Him (verse 27). Our Father desires a close relationship with us. Our efforts determine the depth of that relationship. God is never far from us, but we can always grow closer to Him.



## Food For Thought:

How am I seeking the Lord and striving to grow closer to Him?



## What Now?

Time is necessary to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus. Each day, set aside time for praise, prayer, and Bible study. Plus, make space to have quiet time to listen to God's leading.

Week 12  
December 23-29, 2023

FAMILY THEME:  
WISE MEN SEEK HIM



GOD

IS

Light

IN HIM THERE IS  
NO DARKNESS

AT ALL

1 JOHN 1:5