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Reflections

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Shema: Timely Words for Unique Circumstances

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses offers his final words to the people of Israel just before his death. In his teaching, he delivers these well-known words, known as the "Shema" in Hebrew tradition: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart" (Deut 6:4-6). But Moses doesn't stop there. He goes further, saying, "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise" (v. 7).

I'm drawing this passage to our attention right now for a couple of reasons. First of all, in this season of uncertainty, confusion, and (potential) anxiety, we must not turn away from our fervent love of the Lord our God. Our entire being (heart, soul, might) must be entirely sold out for God. No universal crisis should be allowed to tear that down. We can't allow news cycles, "stay at home" orders, hand sanitizer, or toilet paper to be our idols! Our hope, peace, and security should remain in God and in His Word, which shall always be on our hearts. We worship Him in peace and war, in good health and in pandemic.

This passage is also especially appropriate right now because Moses calls on parents to be continually teaching the commands of God to their children (while sitting, walking, lying down, and rising). I would imagine that most families in our church with school-aged children are currently experiencing a very new normal as they are together from the moment they wake up to the moment they fall asleep, and every single moment in between. Parents, don't miss this opportunity to disciple your children to an even greater degree than you might when things are normal. Find new ways to tie in spiritual conversations into day-to-day tasks. Utilize your family's additional time together to sit down and read and discuss a passage of scripture. Pray with your children when they are frustrated or scared about our current circumstances.

This week is Holy Week, where we remember the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry, leading to His death on the cross and His glorious resurrection from the dead. Take advantage of the upcoming occasions of Good Friday and Easter Sunday to open up your Bibles as a family and read through the narrative texts about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection (Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 23-24; John 18-20). Explain how, through Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we have perfect peace in knowing that our lives are secure in Christ when we place our faith in Him. This Sunday morning, when you gather your family around a screen for our Easter online worship service, model for your children what it looks like when a faithful follower of Jesus worships Him by singing loudly, praying deeply, and listening closely to the Word as it's preached—even when we're not in the church building.

Allow God to shape you in this season like never before as you seek to love Him with every part of you, no matter the circumstance. And parents, let this season of togetherness redefine and raise the bar to new heights for your family's discipleship and worship to the glory of our great God!

Blessings!

Trevor Coleman
Minister of Worship

He is Risen

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Watch online at 10:15 am

bereafirst.online.church

or Facebook Live

During our service we will observe the Lord's Supper, so be sure to prepare the elements (juice and crackers) for your family.

THE LIVING CROSS

Due to the Governor's "Stay at Home" order we, unfortunately, will not be able to do the floral cross for family pictures.



Let's face it. Easter's gonna be awkward this year. Let's embrace it and have a little fun with this **EASTER FAMILY CHALLENGE**.

Gather everyone in your house together for an **AWKWARD EASTER FAMILY PHOTO**. That's right, bust out some awkward Easter garb, strike some awkward Easter poses, and say, "CHEESE!" Then post your family photo on Instagram and/or Facebook by Saturday, tagging us at @bereastudentmin and using the hashtag #BereaAwkwardEaster. We'll pick our favorites, which we'll announce on Sunday. Go all out. There will be prizes, people. This contest is open to everyone!

An Opportunity to Serve

St. Francis Hospital needs 100 gowns a day! As you can imagine they can't get them. Kathie Burgess has been given the pattern and the approved material from which they can be made. If you can sew and are willing to help, please contact the church office and we'll give Kathie your contact information. This is a critical need for our local health care workers. The church office number is 864-246-1921.

It's all about the **gospel**

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

100% of your gifts support North American missionaries.

Our Goal: \$12,000

Sunday Morning Worship Service

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 2020

Berea First Baptist Church

www.bereafbc.org

WORSHIP SERVICE GUIDE



"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being."
Psalm 104:33



KIDS TIME

Mrs. Julie will be sharing our kids time during the service today.

LESSON: JESUS, THE SAVIOR - ALIVE!

FOCUS PASSAGE: MATTHEW 26:36 - 28:10

KEY BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 28:6

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

Come and see the place where he lay.

LIFE APPLICATION:

I can know Jesus died and was resurrected to provide salvation for all people.

As we respond in worship and sing to the Lord, take time to meditate on these Scripture passages below that relate to this morning's songs.

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Luke 24:5-7

"And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

"Glorious Day"

Romans 6:8-11

"Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

"Christ Arose"

Romans 8:34

"Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."

"King of Kings"

Philippians 2:5-11



What Jesus' Resurrection Means for You

1 Corinthians 15:16-34

1. Your faith is not futile. Vs 16-17
2. Your sins are forgiven. Vs 17b
3. You will have a bodily resurrection. Vs 20-23
4. Death has been defeated. Vs 22, 26
5. Jesus is King. Vs 24-28
6. Your life today has a purpose. Vs 30-34.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does believing in the resurrection of Jesus strengthen your faith?
2. Why is knowing your sins are forgiven a reason for rejoicing?
3. What does Jesus' resurrection mean for your hope of seeing your loved one's again?
4. How does knowing you will be bodily raised from the dead shape your view of eternity?
5. In what ways does knowing Jesus has defeated death change how you view the dangers of Covid-19 and life in general?
6. What does it mean to say that Jesus is king?
7. How does His resurrection and your future resurrection impact the purpose of your life?
8. How does His resurrection and your future resurrection impact your pursuit of righteousness?
9. How would you explain to someone the essential truths of the gospel?
10. Thank the Lord for the hope you have as a result of the resurrection.

QUICK TIPS for STAYING CONNECTED DURING THIS TIME

This GUIDE is designed to facilitate an ongoing conversation about our service. Consider gathering with family around the table OR give a friend a call and talk through the "Interactive Discussion Questions" above. Spend time in prayer responding to the worship, message, and online gathering. Ask God to reveal His will in our life.