

Garden to Garden Part 7

Family Devotional: Discovering God at the Cross

Day 1: God's Justice at the Cross

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:45

Devotional Thought: At the cross, God's justice is displayed when the sky turns dark. This darkness symbolizes God's judgment against sin. It reminds us that God is a just judge who takes sin seriously.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think it would be scary if the sky suddenly turned dark in the middle of the day?
2. Why do you think God wants us to understand the seriousness of sin?

Parenting Tip: Use this opportunity to discuss the concept of justice (the maintaining of what is right and good) with your children. Explain that rules and consequences are for our good and how they help us live righteously before God.

Prayer Focus: Pray for an understanding of God's justice and a heart that seeks to live rightly before Him.



Day 2: Hope in the Sadness

Scripture Reading: Psalm 22:26-27

Devotional Thought: On the Cross Jesus sings Psalm 22 that starts really sad, but continues in hope and ends with victory. There are times in this world that we will have sad days, but Jesus told his disciples to “take heart” or have courage because he has overcome the world (John 16:33).

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever had a sad day? What kind of things make you sad?
2. How does it make you feel to know the Jesus has overcome all that makes us sad?

Parenting Tip: Encourage your children to talk about the things that make them sad and not to feel like they have to hide their emotions. Be there to encourage them with the good news of the gospel.

Prayer Focus: Pray for God to remind us of his power to overcome all that makes us sad. Be thankful for Jesus who has won our victory.



Day 3: God's Sovereignty at the Cross

Scripture Reading: John 19:30

Devotional Thought: Jesus declared, "It is finished," showing that He was in control even at the cross. God's sovereignty means He has power over everything, and His plan is always perfect.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think Jesus finished when he declared, "It is finished?"
2. How does it make you feel to know that God is in control of everything?

Parenting Tip: Reassure your children that even when things seem out of control, God is always in charge and has a good plan for their lives.

Prayer Focus: Pray for trust in God's sovereignty and peace in knowing He is in control.



Day 4: God's Grace at the Cross

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:51

Devotional Thought: The temple curtain separating the people from God was torn in two, symbolizing that we can now come directly to God because of His grace (Hebrews 10:19–20). Jesus' sacrifice removed the barrier between us and God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to you that you can talk to God anytime, anywhere?
2. How can we show grace to others like God shows grace to us?

Parenting Tip: Encourage your children to practice grace by forgiving others and being kind, even when it's hard.

Prayer Focus: Pray for a heart that is open to God's grace and a willingness to extend grace to others.



Day 5: God's Omnipotence at the Cross

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:52-53

Devotional Thought: God's power was displayed when the tombs were opened, and saints were raised. This shows that God has power over life and death.

Discussion Questions:

1. What might the people of Jerusalem have thought when they saw the dead raised to life?
2. How does knowing God is all-powerful help you from day to day?

Parenting Tip: Inspire your children by sharing stories of God's power on display in your own life or in the lives of others.

Prayer Focus: Pray for faith in God's omnipotence and confidence in His ability to do great things in and through your family.

Closing Prayer for the Week:

Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing Your justice, holiness, sovereignty, grace, and omnipotence at the cross. Help us to understand these attributes and live in a way that honors You. May we grow in faith and love as we follow Jesus. Amen.

