

The CORE
A Discipleship Tool for FBC, Nowata

The CORE is designed to help you understand what a disciple of Jesus Christ looks like and then learn how to develop those characteristics in your life.

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Mothers Day Special

One of our Core Competencies is the belief in a Personal God. The statement of belief reads like this: *I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.*

Saying we believe that is one thing, living out the implications of that belief is quite another. Particularly in the area of raising children and sometimes making it through the day, this belief can be challenged. We find ourselves asking the tough questions: Why is this happening to me / my family? Does God really know what is going on? Why is God allowing this to happen? Is God really there? Does He really care about what I'm going through?

If we are honest, we all have had these or similar thoughts creep into our minds and hearts. As we come to the week of Mother's Day, I can't help but think that there were probably times my mom wondered if God was noticing what was happening to her family. Yes, she believed in God but sometimes it seemed He was so far away from what was happening. I heard a man on the radio the other day say he didn't see much evidence of the Judeo/Christian God involved in day-to-day happenings. I could not disagree more. I think many times we as Christians begin to think that way and we need a reminder that He is in fact ***not only aware but also working*** in the everyday events of our lives.

This week I want to encourage you to see beyond the circumstances. Some of you are having difficulty with your children. Some are struggling with job issues. Some of you are dealing with relationship problems, be it with spouse, friend or family member. In the midst of the struggles of life it is often easy to miss God's hand in it all. Mom's, I want to especially encourage you. You worry and weep over your children - that's how God made you - but you need to hear the fresh voice of Jesus saying, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me." What is impossible for man is possible with God - for there is nothing impossible for God! Let your faith be renewed and your spirit refreshed so that you can continue to fight the good fight of faith both for yourself and your children.

Look closely at what is going on around you. You just might see the hand of God working all things out for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

Have a great week! If there is something I can help you with please don't hesitate to call me or come by the office.

I love being your pastor!

Todd

SECTION 1

READ Exodus 1:1-2:10

1. The Israelites were growing into an extremely large population. The Pharaoh became very alarmed at this. Why? Vs. 1:9-10. What did he do in an attempt to slow down this ever-increasing population? What was the result?

Do you think the Israelites saw God's hand in all this? Why or why not?

2. In 1:17 it says the midwives "feared God". Where do you think that came from? What does this say about our need to pass on our faith to our children?

3. What did God do as a result of the Midwives actions? (1:17, 20-21)

When we are obedient, there is always reward. Take some time to look at your life and see where God has rewarded you for obedience.

Sometimes remembering what God has done in the past will give us strength to wait for Him in the present.

SECTION 2

1. Ex. 2:1 tell us that Moses mother was a Levite? Look at Numbers 1:52-53. This was the tribe of which Moses was born into. They were to be the ones who took care of the Tabernacle of God. They were the Priests. What actions found in Ex. 2:2-10 show us the faith of this woman?

2. Do you think she ever wondered what was going to happen to her son? Is there any evidence of questioning the plan of God? Do you think she even knew the plan of God?

What implications do you see for yourself in how Moses mother responded to her situation?

3. The Israelites found themselves in a very difficult situation. Look at how they responded – Ex. 2:23-25. What was God's response?

Wouldn't it be nice to see your situation written down and the words - God heard, saw and took notice. What is an issue in your life you want God to hear and take notice of? Don't be afraid to cry out to Him.

SECTION 3

Read 2 Timothy 1:3-7

1. Paul reminds Timothy of his grandmother and mother's sincere faith. It is obvious that Timothy learned about faith from these 2 women. What do you need to do improve on to pass on your faith to your children? What needs to change? What must you do differently?

2. Timothy is reminded also to keep His faith ablaze. Why do you think Paul told Timothy this?

3. Notice Paul says in vs. 7 what God did not give us: "a spirit of fearfulness." Could it be that Timothy was having some fear creep into His heart over some things that were happening in his life? After all he was just a man - and a Pastor at that! Is there something that has brought fear into your heart?

What kind of spirit did Paul remind Timothy he had?

Remember you have the same spirit!

Meditate on the following verses. Write down what each teaches you about seeing God working in your daily life. What are the implications - especially as it relates to difficulties you face.

Romans 8:28-29

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

2 Corinthians 12:1-10