



Faith & Life Discovery Journal
Journey

monday

04/20

One of the grand themes of life is journey. Life is a continuous journey of learning, exploration, growth, loss, and healing. You can't learn everything at once. We learn and grow one experience at a time. That's what makes life a journey. You can't rush it you can only live it each moment. You can't plan for every curve, bend, or twist in the road. Life is unpredictable. We don't always see where the journey is taking us or where the road we're on will lead. All we can do is trust the ONE who promises to be with us that He knows where he's taking us and what he hopes to accomplish in our lives. Journeys are exciting, but they can be a little scary at times. Knowing God goes with us helps remove the fear and learn to embrace each moment and each experience as a gift.

Read: Genesis 12: 1-9

Today you've read Abram's call story. What amazes you about his response to God's call?

When God calls us he never seems to give us more than we need to know at the time. Why do you suppose God does that?

How is God calling you? Will you risk trusting him and stepping out on the journey to which he has called you?

Ask God to meet you and provide for you on this leg of your faith journey.



Faith & Life Discovery Journal

Home

tuesday

04/21

The Wizard of Oz captured the significance of this grand theme of life through this quote from its central character, Dorothy, "There's no place like home, there's no place like home." Truth is we spend most of our lives trying to figure out where home is. If the place we called "home" growing up was a happy & encouraging place then home isn't so tough to find. But if the place we called "home" growing up wasn't a place of safety and love then finding home isn't as easy. "Home" is defined more by the quality of our relationships than by genetic and familial connections to others. Home is where our best and most significant relationships exist. Home is the place we're loved despite our flaws and failures. Home is a place of safety and acceptance. Home is a loving place of belonging. Our pursuit for home, I believe, is ultimately a pursuit for God. We were made for a relationship with God and only he can provide what we long for in our search for "home."

Read: Luke 15:11-32

How was the prodigals' rebellious pursuit a misguided search for home?

What did the prodigal son's journey teach him? What did it teach his family?

Do you see any of yourself in the prodigal? In the father? In the older son? How?

Ask God to give you the courage to stop running from his love and instead the courage to embrace and accept the reality that you're His & He loves you!



Faith & Life Discovery Journal

Obey

wednesday

04/22

Most people must fight through a bit of a rebellious spirit before they will submit to the Lord and discover the joy of obedience. We don't like the word obedience. It seems to be asking us to lay down our right to "do our own thing" and live our lives the way we want to. Hmm, guess we were right, because that's exactly what obedience requires. I guess when we're more focused on our will than on living squarely in the will of God we'll probably always fight against obeying the Lord. But obedience becomes joyful and willing when we surrender our right to be in control. When we stop needing to call all the shots we discover the beauty and joy of surrendering to God's perfect will for our lives. What we give up is our selfish pursuit for what we think we need and what we gain is the joy of knowing we are right where God wants us. Nobody can make you obey God or even want to obey God but to fight it is to embark on a painful journey of learning truths about life the hard way.

Read: Jeremiah 38:20-22

This passage provides us with the perfect picture of what happens when we stubbornly refuse to obey God. What sticks out for you about this passage?

What is the result of an obedient life according to the prophet Jeremiah?

Has your life ever resulted in being stuck in the mud & mire of sin & rebellion?

Ask God to give you an obedient heart!



Faith & Life Discovery Journal

Follow

thursday

04/23

Tammy and I have always prayed that our kids will be leaders, and if you've been around my kids for long you know my oldest two aren't afraid to lead. Our oldest son especially seems to have an idea of what everyone should be doing and how. Brandon will frequently have a story line playing in his head, unknown to the rest of us, that he tries to fit each person into by telling them how they should act and what they should say. Lately he marches right into a store and starts talking to the clerk and asks them questions about things like NASCAR and his other interests that he just expects them to be experts on. He gets the leading thing, and he's pretty persuasive. But following is another story. Like Brandon, most of us like being in the lead. We like giving the orders instead of following them. But when it comes to our relationship with God we must be willing to submit to his leadership. We are called followers of Christ for a reason. God has called some of us to lead, but good Christian leaders understand their role as followers of Christ to be essential to their call to be healthy & godly leaders.

Read: Leviticus 18:4

What is God asking for here?

Is this a suggestion or a command? What's the difference?

Why should we be "careful" in following all God's decrees? What does he know that we don't?

Pray for a heart surrendered to God's will so you become a willing follower of Christ.



Faith & Life Discovery Journal

Honor

friday

04/24

In the OT when God's people would encounter God's hand at work or have experiences with God they wished to remember they would erect altars of worship. Those altars were places they came to honor and glorify God for his mighty acts on their behalf. Encounters with God should lead us to times of worship where we honor God for all that he has done. It is far too easy to forget where and how God has been at work in our lives and to begin to expect these things rather than to be amazed by them. Don't allow your faith to get to the place where God's work on your behalf becomes routine and expected. Erect altars of remembrance so you can always rejoice in God's mighty acts in your life.

Read: Deuteronomy 32:6-7

Throughout the book of Deuteronomy God calls his people to remember. Why is remembering what God did in the past significant to our faith now?

How has God's work in your life been unforgettable? How can you protect against allowing God's work to become routine & expected?

Do you have older saints in your life who can remind you of the stories of God's faithfulness in your family & in your church?

***Ask God to refresh your memory of His mighty acts
in your life!***