



Pastor Hanke's Blog

October 14, 2018

Includers: Read 1

Bible Reference: Acts 11:1-18

Last week I shared how Audrey has a passion for the Word of God. Audrey knows our nightly routine and how we attempt to read the Bible before bed. I say attempt because sometimes it is based upon how tired I am and whether we need to move the kids to bed quicker. This year we started something new with our Bible time—now the boys read the Bible to the rest of us. This has a dual purpose—it shares our devotion and gives them reading practice. Audrey tries to take her turn at reading the Bible to us too. You could say we are developing “holy habits,” a term I coined as a youth pastor in my attempt to help youth put good habits in place. At Mt. Calvary, we refer to developing holy habits as the Discipleship Model, which is the sermon series we are doing this October. How do we implement these habits into our lives? How does it even help us?

Honestly, as hard as it is to implement daily Bible reading into the lifecycle of my family, I know its benefit. God’s Word in its truth combats the so-called “truths” my family is bombarded with each day. This is not just true for my kids, but for every one of us. While at work, when we watch TV, or just being in life, we are presented with all sorts of so-called “truths”. When we hit the age of reading, we read words all day long. Often those messages are ones of self-interest from the author, even if the author is passionate about what he or she is sharing. It is impossible for us to imagine someone without any selfish behavior, because as a human being completely selfless is not possible. Thus, when we learn that God is exactly that—completely selfless—we can’t relate. It can make it difficult to believe God truly wants the best for us as we hear in God’s Word.

In this week’s Scripture text, we can see how reading God’s Word impacts us in real time. Lots of people can encourage us to memorize God’s Word or to read it daily, but how often do we look at its value from a purely working standpoint. When we read God’s Word, it can immediately combat the false messages of the world. His Word is a measuring tool against those so-called “truths” that infiltrate us every day. When we know the concepts of the Word of God, we are armed and ready when the enemy attacks us with lies. This week we take time to talk about how preparation like this helps us include others in Read 1.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will