

# Weekly Family Email - Noticing

Dear Parents,

*I am really excited to share the ideas below with your family to help you connect with the Sunday worship service at 10:00am. I know that guiding your children as they grow in their faith can be intimidating. Our goal as a staff is to help provide resources that make it natural and simple for you.*

*For the next couple of weeks we will be looking at the beatitudes found in Matthew 5. This week we are focusing on our blessings and truly noticing other people. Attached you will find a children's bulletin, coloring sheet, and the words to Matthew 5:3-11. If you would like you can print out the bulletin and/or coloring sheet for your children to work on at any point before, during, or after the service.*

*Praying for a meaningful time for you and your family,  
Kara*

## **Scripture Passage to Read as a Family**

*Matthew 5:3-11 (The Beatitudes)*

*As a church we are going to work on memorizing this passage together. The first couple of times you read these verses as a family I highly recommend reading it straight from the Bible. This will help your children make the connection of where the words come from.*

*It would also be a great visual to print out the words (attached you will find a sheet with Matthew 5:3-11) and hang in a spot (or spots) in your home where you can see it and read it on a regular basis – the fridge, on the wall above your kitchen table, your bathroom mirror, etc. Take some time to look at the words as a family. Some are really big and your kids are going to need an explanation (feel free to pull up a dictionary on your computer, it is ok that you do not know all of the correct answers).*

*If you have kids that like to color and draw, they might enjoy “festooning” the verses. Give them the paper and some markers or crayons – they can underline important words, highlight words they see repeatedly, draw pictures of the words in the margins – basically decorate the passage in a meaningful way to them.*

*Note: if you do not have a Bible please help yourself and take one from the Children's Lending Library under the west overhang at church.*

## **Family Sermon Questions From Pastor Gregg and Jeff**

*Discuss during your Sunday lunch or any time that works best for your family.*

- 1. What would need to happen for you to describe yourself as “pure of heart”?*
- 2. Who is my neighbor? What is one way that you could let them know that you REALLY SEE them over the next week? (See the attached document)*
- 3. How did God speak to you during the church service this morning?*

4. How will you respond to this? Any ideas of things you/we can do this week?

### **Family Prayer Time**

We are talking about noticing people. Discuss as a family those around you who you could help. Perhaps keep a list in your Bible of people who God places on your heart as those you could bless – an elderly neighbor who needs help weeding her garden, a classmate who could use a friend, a family member who could use prayer. Take some time to pray leaving a minute or two of quiet for God to talk with you.

Dear Father,

Please give us eyes to see the other human beings around us. Help us to take notice of where we can step up and help. You have blessed us so lovingly and we want to be a blessing to others.

**Note:** If you have a simple notebook you can turn it into a family prayer journal. You can write down your prayer requests and look back at them later as a family. You can keep a list of what you are thankful for. This could also be where you keep your list of people your family is praying for.

### **Imagination and Creativity Activity From Melissa V.**

#### **Blessed are the Pure in Heart**

Using a craft foam heart (or cut a heart out of a foam or plastic disposable plate), WASHABLE markers, a little tub of soapy water and a washcloth, we can illustrate the power of Jesus washing our hearts clean. Have your child(ren) color on his or her foam heart using washable markers to represent the sin in their own hearts. Then have them wash their heart in the soapy water using a washcloth. "Create in me a pure heart, O God" Psalm 51:10. Watch as the marker comes off. Because Jesus died on the cross for us, our hearts don't have to be filled with sin.

### **Family Service & Outreach Idea**

How many times have your children noticed the people standing on the street asking for money and help? Are you like me and are never prepared with money or food in the car? Let's be ready next time!

As a family, brainstorm items people might need and enjoy – socks, candy, granola bars, a couple of dollars, a new toothbrush, etc. Sometimes the signs they are holding mention children so coloring books, crayons, and other toys or treats might be a fun addition. Pack a couple of gallon sized Ziploc bags with these items. Keep the bags within reach in your car and be ready to pass on these blessing bags the next time you are at a stoplight.

### **Attached:**

Pre/K Coloring Sheet & 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Children's Bulletin (One Attachment)

The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:3-11 Sheet

Notice/Neighbor Document (From Question #2)

### **ECRC Family Resource Page**

<https://elmhurstcrc.org/resources/family/>