

GOD WORKS THROUGH PROBLEMS

Family Devotion — Lesson 29

MEMORY VERSE—EPHESIANS 4:32

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

- We are called to be Christ-like. Another word for being Christ-like is Christian.
- Three simple things we can do to be Christ-like:
 - 1) Be kind — nice; caring; patient; doing good for someone; charity (1 Cor. 13:4)
 - 2) Be tenderhearted — compassionate; sympathetic; affectionate; showing we care about someone
 - 3) Be forgiving — to pardon; treat someone as not being guilty; the opposite of revenge
- God offers forgiveness through Jesus and what He did for us. We too should offer forgiveness to others because of Jesus. It is a command, good testimony, and makes for peace.
- *“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye”* (Col. 3:13).
- When someone treats you bad or sins against you, the first response is usually to get mad and retaliate. We tend to think negative thoughts that transform into emotional strongholds (bitterness, anger, etc.). Instead of having a sinful reaction, we should consider that GOD WORKS THROUGH PROBLEMS and gives us wonderful opportunities to respond to people with kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness.
- It is through problems that Christ can shine through us the brightest!

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Can you think of a time when someone forgave you for something you did? How did that make you feel?
- Do you like others to be kind and tenderhearted to you? What does your answer teach you?
- Why do you think it is sometimes hard to forgive someone that has sinned against you?

PRAYER TIME

- Thank God for His forgiveness.
- Ask God to help you be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.

CHALLENGE

- The next time you face a problem, look at it as an opportunity to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.