



Wednesday is Family Night ...don't miss the fun!



8 September 2010: Homecoming...

Pajama Night was fun. But you know, after all those pancakes, sausage and applesauce I was all ready for bed...even though one is supposed to be "bright eyed and bushy-tailed" after breakfast! Thanks again to the excellent food ministry the kitchen staff is doing.

After dinner the children scurried off to watch a movie and the youth to their lair. We are looking forward to the Grandparent's Day Luncheon this Sunday after the 10:00AM worship service. It should be a real nice time and a chance to show the grandparents of the congregation how much we love and appreciate them!

In the adult study, this was the last of our four part parenting series on what God says to families given by Angela McClane, our pastoral intern. This series took us through the essentials of raising a Christian family: God's institution of the family and His model of unconditional love; a Biblical view of family discord, how to minimize it and how to repair it and true forgiveness. Our final session was a case study on these principles in the story of the prodigal son.

Based on the parable as told in Luke 15:11-32 and the book The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen, the group looked at two sons and their compassionate father. Both sons, we determined, were both "lost". One who outwardly asked to go out into the world and revel in his being outside the communion of his family. The other who stayed but inwardly was dissatisfied with the blessings being poured out toward him. Neither son had eyes to see the quality of the love their father exhibited toward them as they dishonored, disobeyed and were undeserving of such love.

In our lives as Christians and as parents, we are called to love as the father in the parable loved. It is not easy, but our faithfulness to loving unconditionally is the expectation. Our children will "leave" and "come home" many times as they mature...just as we have done with our parents. We need to show our children that they can **trust** we are looking out for their best interest and teach them to show **gratitude** for that which is freely given. Even though "things might not be fair" one can still trust that they will get better and be grateful even when our emotions and feelings are steeped in hurt and resentment.

Modeling trust and gratitude will help our children to learn to forgive and live with the certainty that God loves them and will search them out even when they don't seek Him. When they know this, they can have joy and be confident that all things will work for good in their lives and in our families. **Joy has been the mark of God's people for centuries, joy in life, joy in living. People who have come to know the joy of God do not deny the darkness; they just refuse to live in it.**



Next Week: Family Potluck/Missions Update



The Fourth River Project, Inc.

Presenter: Ben Torrey, Missionary

See you there!!



Chula Vista Presbyterian Church

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940 Hilltop Dr • Chula Vista, CA 91911 • 619-426-2211