

WEEKLY GAME PLAN

Misfit Toys

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-28 GNT, Matthew 2:11 NKJV, 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

Context: When we have an inflated sense of ourselves, there is no room for God. If we are self-sufficient, we don't need God to be sufficient for us. If we know what's best for us, God's wisdom and scripture mean nothing. It's only when we realize that we are a people in need, that God can truly work in, and through, us. The wise men were able to see Jesus for who He was, even as a young child. They knew that He was worthy to be praised. They didn't seek after what the world would have expected them to. They didn't go to Herod to worship Herod. They went to Herod to find Jesus.

Reflection Question: What does the world around you say is important? What does God say is important? How are you choosing to spend your time with what God says is important? What lengths are you willing to go to to find Jesus?

Read Isaiah 1:3 NKJV, Habakkuk 3:2 NKJV, Revelation 2:4 NIV

Context: When we accept Jesus as our Savior we are so thankful and have so much love for God and His people. But as time goes by we can begin to forget exactly what Jesus has done for us. We can let the trials of this world get to us and wear away at our love for Him. We can start to forget our first love. When we do this, we can turn back to Him and ask Him for His mercy. He wants relationship with us. There is nothing that can separate us from His love for us.

Reflection Question: Why is it so easy to start to take God for granted? What can keep you from doing this? How can you remind yourself of what He's done for you so that you are always in a state of thanksgiving for His love for you?

Read Zechariah 9:9 NLT

Context: At the time that Jesus was born the Jews were under Roman rule. They were worn down having to serve the Roman Empire while trying to stay true to Yahweh and serve Him. When they thought of the Messiah coming, a lot of them pictured a great warrior who would come and defeat Rome and save them from the evil empire. They were not expecting Him to come in a lowly state and riding on the

colt of a donkey. God chooses the misfits who are not what society expects to fulfill His word to His people

Reflection Question: How has God shown up for you in quiet ways that you did not expect? How do you handle it when you expect God to answer prayers one way and it appears He's not listening because He answered them another way? Who in your life needs to hear that Jesus is righteous and victorious and will care for the lowly?

Read Galatians 6:7-9 NLT, Ephesians 3:20 NLT

Context: We can't become weary in doing good. It can be hard at times. It can seem like we're not making a dent in the evil in the world. But God encourages us that He sees what we're doing and in His perfect timing we will reap a harvest of blessing. His blessings are far superior to anything that we could possibly imagine for ourselves. But we have to persevere. We can't give up. We have to run the long race. And He promises it will be worth it.

Reflection Question: What do you hope will be the legacy you leave for those who come after you? What harvest are you going to reap with what you have been planting so far? Are you happy with what that crop will look like? What can you do differently starting today if you would like that to look different?

Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7 NLT, Luke 19:1-10 NLT

Context: Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. We may seem like we're misfits, like we can't fit in anywhere, like we don't deserve a community. But God created us on purpose to fit into His family. He has created a space just for us in the body of Christ. There are lost people that only you can reach because of exactly who you are. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He sought you out when you were far away from Him. Your brokenness doesn't determine your value in the eyes of God. What matters is your willingness to let Him come into your life and change you!

Reflection Question: Who do you know who needs to hear that they are not so broken that God is not willing to welcome them into His family? How are you showing the world that you know God sought you out because He loves you and wants you to be in relationship with Him?

End in prayer. Ask God to give you eyes to see people the way He sees them this week.