

9th Sunday
after Pentecost
August 1-
August 7, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:8-16

THEME: Focused Living Properly Values Heavenly Treasure

SONG: CW21 800 How Firm a Foundation

VISUAL: Real estate ads; home-for-sale listings

OBJECT LESSON

Ask the students if anyone has ever moved to a new home before. Show pictures of home listings and ads. Ask students about their homes. Do they live in an older house or a newer one? How big is it? Have them describe what kind of home they would like to own someday.

BIBLE TRUTH

In the Bible, God promised a special home to someone. In fact, he even asked this person to leave the place he was currently living and move to a brand new home that he had never seen before. Read Hebrews 11:8-16.

God brought Abraham to live in a brand new land. God also promised that this land would be given to Abraham's descendants many years later. God kept that promise when he brought Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, back to this land after many years of slavery in Egypt. But God promised them an even better home than the land of Canaan.

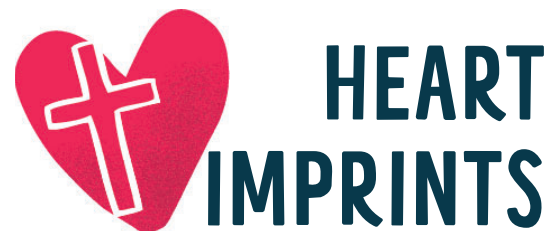
DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Our homes on earth are very nice, but they're not perfect. There are repairs that need to be done. Sometimes big problems come up that we need to fix. Other times there might be arguing at home with our families. We may even have to pack up and leave our homes because of things that go wrong. It might be hard to see any good that comes out of times like this.

In tough times like this, however, we can look to God's promise of an eternal home in heaven. Why can we be so sure that this promise of an eternal home will come true? God promised this home even to his Old Testament believers. Through faith in Jesus, we have heaven to look forward to. Heaven is our true eternal home. When we get to heaven, we will leave behind all the problems of this sinful world. There won't be any repairs that need to be done. There won't be any arguing in our heavenly home. And best of all, we'll never have to leave! We get to live in heaven with God forever!

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of homes. Thank you for the homes we live in here on earth. Help us to keep looking forward to the time when we will "move in" to our eternal home in heaven with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



10th Sunday
after Pentecost
August 8-
August 14, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:49-53

THEME: We Want Peace, but God's Word Divides

SONG: CW21 876/ CW93 457 Fight the Good Fight

VISUAL: Pictures of sports teams rivalries (Packers/Bears, Yankees/Red Sox, Michigan/Michigan State, etc.); maybe even pictures of members of the same family who root for different teams

OBJECT LESSON

A lot of people in America love sports. But a lot of people love different teams. Sometimes people have arguments over whose team is better. Even though they may like the same sport, their favorite teams may be different, and that causes some division. It may even happen in the same family.

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus came to earth as an Israelite. He was born in the land of Israel to Israelite parents. He had Israelite friends. On the outside, they were all the same. But the message that Jesus came to preach sometimes caused divisions among the people. Some people believed in Jesus, and other people did not. Sometimes this division happened in the same family. Read Luke 12:49-53.

Some people thought that the Messiah would come to bring peace to the nation of Israel. They thought the Messiah would overthrow all of Israel's enemies and bring lasting peace to God's people. Instead, Jesus tells us today that he came to bring division. He knew some people would reject his message. But it is a message that had to be preached. That message was this: There is only one way to get to heaven, and that is by believing that Jesus is the Savior, who came to take away the sin of the world.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

There are a lot of problems and conflicts in the world today. (Maybe list a few current events for the students.) A lot of people all over the world are trying to find peace on earth. They just want all conflicts to end and that no one fights with anyone else. Is that even possible?

As long as there is sin in this world, there will be conflicts. And sometimes those conflicts come because of God's Word. We are believers – we have faith in Jesus in our hearts. We know that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior. But there are many people who don't believe that in this world. Sometimes those unbelievers want to cause problems for God's people. Even among different groups of Christians there may be conflicts about God's Word. Some Christian churches might not teach God's Word correctly. If we know what the Bible really says, then we might get into a conflict with them. This is what Jesus was talking about.

God's Word doesn't bring about the kind of peace that this world wants. But it does bring us an even better peace – peace with God. Because our sins have been forgiven by Jesus' death on the cross, we are now at peace with our heavenly Father (John 14:27). He calls us his children, and there is now no conflict between us and him.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for your saving Word. Keep us strong in the true preaching of that Word. Even if that Word causes divisions here on earth, we know that your Word only brings us closer to you. Help us to appreciate and treasure that Word until that time when we are free of all divisions and conflicts in heaven. In your name we pray. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

11th Sunday
after Pentecost
August 15-
August 21, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Luke 13:22-30

THEME: The Right Road and Entrance to Take

SONG: CW21 718/ CW93 466 Though Thoughtless
Thousands Choose the Road

VISUAL: signs saying things like “Don’t be late!”; Google
Maps on your phone

OBJECT LESSON

It’s important to know where you’re going and when you need to be there. Sometimes, when you are invited to a party, you need to reply by a certain time so people know you are coming. When you go someplace, you need to plan out how you will get there. Ask the students if they have ever seen their parents using Google Maps on their phone for directions. (I’m sure the majority of them have!) Google Maps helps us find the shortest possible route to get someplace. We have lots of ways to make sure we get to where we are going in the right amount of time.

BIBLE TRUTH

As we live on this earth, we are also traveling someplace, too. There is a right way to travel and a wrong way to travel as we live our lives. Read Luke 13:22-30.

The “narrow door” is referring to the gate of heaven. To some people, it’s small and hard to find. They instead like to travel on the bright, flashy road of earthly things. They like the shiny stuff that this world has to offer. Our sinful nature is very attracted to things like that. But if we spend all of our time traveling that path, we won’t know the right way to go to get to heaven. That road is small and hard to find without good directions.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Google Maps helps us find our destinations. It doesn’t matter where we’re going – Google seems to know how to help us get anywhere. People trust that Google will get them there safely. How much more can we trust Jesus! He has given us the best directions to help us get to heaven. He put all the things we need to know

in the Bible. Everything in the Bible is meant to teach us about our Savior, because by believing in the Savior, we will have eternal life in heaven (John 20:31).

There is only one right way to get to heaven, and that is through Jesus. Some people find that way when the Holy Spirit gives them faith to believe. Many others do not find that way because they refuse to listen to the Word. Do you know anyone who might be heading down the wrong path away from Jesus? Maybe you could be the one to share the right directions with them and turn them around so they start traveling towards Jesus.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, thank you for giving us faith to know and believe in you. Thank you for helping us follow the directions that lead us to eternal life in heaven. Help us to share those same directions with those who need to turn their lives around to you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

12th Sunday
after Pentecost
August 22 -
August 28, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:7-14

THEME: The Humble Will be Exalted; the Exalted Will be Humbled

SONG: CW21 731 Oh, How Good it Is

VISUAL: table and chairs; student volunteers to sit

OBJECT LESSON

Talk up how you are only going to invite certain students to sit at the special table today at chapel. The best chair is right at the head of the table. You can see and hear everything from there. The person who sits here will really have the best seat in the house. Invite students to come up and sit. Someone will hopefully sit in that "best" seat. If they do, ask them to leave and sit somewhere else. Continue inviting students until all seats are filled except the "best" seat. Promote one of the other students at the table to the "best" seat.

BIBLE TRUTH

In Jesus' time, the seating arrangement at dinner parties was very important. People hoped to be asked to sit in the best spot at the table for the meal. Usually that spot was near the host. Jesus used this well-known arrangement to teach an important truth about our lives as Christians. Read Luke 14:7-14.

Jesus here is warning against being prideful. He is warning against thinking that we're better than other people. Our sinful nature loves to convince us that we're the most important person in the room. Our sinful nature tells us to take the best things for ourselves. But how does God want us to live? God says we should put others before ourselves. We love our neighbor before we love ourselves.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Sometimes, this is one of the hardest things for us to do. Ask the students if they have brothers or sisters. It doesn't matter if they're older than you or younger than you. Many times we try to do things before they get to, or sit where they want to, or use something that they want to

use first. That is not how God wants us to treat other people.

Thankfully, Jesus lived a perfect life of humility. He did not need or ask for the approval of the Pharisees and other important people. He served others, including the poorest and most lowly. And he served us poor sinners by humbling himself and becoming obedient to death on a cross. That's how we are forgiven for our lack of humility. And then Jesus was exalted at this resurrection.

Jesus now sends the Holy Spirit who work in our hearts through the Word to help us fight temptations to be prideful. The Holy Spirit helps us put other people before ourselves. We show our faith in God by the way we treat other people. Then, Jesus says, we will be exalted because of our faith by getting to live in heaven one day. There we will be seated at the heavenly feast with Jesus forever. There's no better seat than that!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, when you left your home in heaven, you put the needs of the world before your own needs. You died on the cross in our place. As your forgiven children, help us put the needs of others before our own. Help us always live by faith in you. In your name we pray. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**