Family Prayer:  

God, help me not to neglect the small things that are so important to living a victorious life with You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Includes Family Activities

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We often underestimate the value of small things. A nail is a very small piece of metal, but without it a house cannot be built. A stamp covers only a small place in the right hand corner of an envelope, but if it is not there a letter cannot be sent. On a stormy rainy night a car may have plenty of gas but if the windshield wipers are not functioning properly it is better not to try to drive. The thousands of words in the English language are simply various combinations of 26, easy to memorize, letters.

There seems to be a move on in our society to clear clutter from our homes and schedules. Kitchens are filled with utensils and dishes that are rarely used. Drawers and closets are stuffed to overflowing with clothing and other articles that are seldom worn. Toy boxes are crammed with games, puzzles, cars, dolls and any number of items and yet children whine of boredom.

Is this the same way we serve God? Are our spiritual lives and schedules overflowing with to-do lists that are never completed? Does our Bible reading get pushed aside in favor of other “important” tasks that are more demanding? Is prayer relegated to a few sleepily mumbled words at the end of an exhausting day? Where does God fit into our schedules?

The Prophet Micah simplifies the most important things for us: do what’s right, be merciful toward others, and live humbly. Someone has wisely said, “If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves.” Each moment spent with these simple core values as a guide will help us live a life pleasing to God.

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

Micah 6: 8
Looking Inward

Let’s talk

Our focus verse talks about doing what is right and being merciful, two things which are often missing in a me-first society. Do you feel that Christians also struggle with these attributes? How does walking humbly with God help us in our overall attitude toward others?

Looking Outward

Are there areas of your life which are cluttered with too much stuff? Now would be a good time to analyze your surroundings and your schedule to see if you might simplify things a bit. Perhaps you have several items that could be donated to a charitable organization to benefit others. Be sure and examine your schedule to make prayer and Bible reading a priority. You might be surprised at how this might bless others, as well, when your life reflects time spent with God!

Put several small items (at least 10, more is even better) in a bag. Some suggestions might be: fingernail clippers, a spoon, safety pin, penny, spool of thread, etc. Give each person an opportunity to reach into the bag without looking and try to identify the various objects. Guesses can be written down, or if the child is too young, can be told to an adult to be written down. Give a prize to the one who correctly identifies the most objects. If you’d like, at the end of the game, discuss the important functions of each item and how different life might be without them.
Let’s take a closer look at Micah 6:8.

- What does the word “just” mean in this context?
  - ____________________________________________________________________________________

- Give an example of how this can be applied in your own life.
  - ____________________________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________________________

- Define mercy:
  - ____________________________________________________________________________________

- Give an example of how a person can “love mercy.”
  - ____________________________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________________________

- What is the definition of humble?
  - ____________________________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________________________

- Give a specific example of when God might want us to show humility rather than let our pride get in the way of a decision.
  - ____________________________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________________________

- What are some simple goals you can establish in your life to help you to measure up to God’s standard of living?
  - ____________________________________________________________________________________
  - ____________________________________________________________________________________
  - ____________________________________________________________________________________
  - ____________________________________________________________________________________

**God First!**
do justly

love mercy

walk humbly