

S.A.F.E. Homes



Strengthening Apostolic Families Everywhere



"Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;"

Philemon 1:5

A Ministry of Love

There were many things that the Apostle Paul addressed to the church in the house of Philemon and Apphia. However, we are focusing on what Paul acknowledged about this family at the outset of his letter. For it was these qualities, found in verse 5, that allowed him to address all the other important issues. They had a love and faith toward Jesus Christ and toward all the saints.

Jesus said that all men would know you are my disciples if you have love one for another. Our love for others is not because they are perfect or that they deserve our love. Our love for others should be the same kind of love Jesus showed us as described in Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." When we didn't deserve His love, He still loved us. True love is determined by the will and not emotions.

However, it is not enough that we just love people. We must also have faith in them. It is true that people will let us down. They will disappoint us. That is a fact of life. However, when we lose faith in humanity, it will hinder our ability to help them. We must not be so distrustful of people that we are always questioning their motives and distancing ourselves from them. To love people is to make ourselves vulnerable to hurts and disappointments. Paul speaks of the house of Stephanas in 1 Corinthians 16:15. They had addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints. When we have faith in the saints then we will see our efforts to help them as a ministry. This is a good addiction that the church in your house can have.

Family Prayer: *Lord, the Apostle Paul could see the faith demonstrated in the house of Philemon and Apphia. Please let my home be one that clearly shows the love and faith we have for you and our church family. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Includes
Family
Activities

Want more?
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Bonus Pages



Let's reenact the scene of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10:25-37. Be dramatic. You can reenact more than 1 time letting family members be different Bible characters. When done, discuss how we can help others around us when they are hurting physically, emotionally, financially or even spiritually.

Let's talk

Has anyone ever let you down before? What would you have said differently to that person to let them know how your feelings were hurt? What are good ways to mend relationships?

Let's practice the ministry of love by helping others. There are people that do not have the basic necessities. Have each family member, young and old, to fill a box(es) with nonperishable food items, personal supplies (such as toothpaste, soap, wash clothes, etc...), blankets and gently-used clothing. Be a blessing to others and donate to a local charity or shelter.



Additional Challenges

According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, 'to minister', means to give aid or service. When we minister to others, we do so selflessly without expecting anything in return. Let's review the story of the Shunammite serving the the prophet Elisha in 2 Kings 4.

And it fell on a day, that _____ passed to _____, where was a great _____; and she constrained him to eat _____. And so it was, that as _____ as he passed by, he _____ in thither to eat bread.

What did the Shunammite woman think about the man of God?

Let us make a little _____, I pray thee, on the _____; and let us set for him there a _____, and a _____, and a _____, and a _____: and it shall be, when he _____ to us, that he shall turn in _____.

And he said unto him, _____ now unto her, _____, thou hast been _____ for us with all this care; what is to be _____ for thee? wouldest thou be _____ for to the _____, or to the _____ of the host? And she answered, I _____ among mine own people.

What did Gehazi suggest to Elisha?

And he said, About this _____, according to the _____ of life, thou shalt _____ a son. And she said, _____, my lord, thou _____ of God, do not _____ unto thine _____.

And the woman _____, and _____ a son at that _____ that _____ had said unto her, according to the _____ of life.

What did the Shunammite woman expect in return when she built the additional room?

True ministry will give whole-heartedly, love unconditionally, and serve with all our might. We will do so without the expectation of recognition or payment simply because we love God, the furtherance of His kingdom and love His people.

Puzzle Page

R H H I H H C F Z D L H X S K
T I F H T T X R V O W Q S E X
D E N I M R E T E D Y G L L H
N O A U T W E D S P T Z G P D
A F M I U F V A N Y A S I I E
G I R I F X N T A E O U W C S
J X H O N A A P E S M Y L S E
Q P R P H I L E M O N M C I R
H T S P P O S H O U S E O D V
S Z E M O A V T Y S S L E C E
Q T C E F R E P R C T O V B J
S Z C Y W A P U O Y N V S L Q
C X T I G D I X V Q I E F P G
D P Y X H E G A C N A D W R V
J X I T G N T S U U S P K J O

APPHIA
DETERMINED
FAITH
MINISTRY
PHILEMON

COMMENDETH
DISCIPLES
HOUSE
PAUL
SAINTS

DESERVE
EFFORTS
LOVE
PERFECT
STEPHANAS

