



Weekly Devotional



FFJ—February 19-25

My father-in-law was a master mechanic. He could fix anything and I mean ANYTHING. After I married his daughter it was standard practice when we came to town to take my car to his shop and change the oil, check the water levels, and lube the chassis. On occasion, we would work on something on the engine, perhaps just to give the car a tune-up. He had every tool imaginable—standard, metric, screwdrivers, wrenches, even the special tool that nobody else had, he had it.

On the other hand, I am mechanically challenged. My idea of fixing a tire is if the tire goes flat, it's probably time to get a new car. So you can imagine how I felt in my father-in-law's presence. He was always gracious and kind and always provided the tools. Then he would let me work on the car. That was a mistake. I would struggle and pant, and pant and struggle. Beads of sweat would come up on my brow. "How you doing?" he would say. "Fine, I think I've about got it." That was always a lie. I wasn't ever close to fixing the car. I finally had to admit my weakness, put down the tool, walk over to him and ask for his help. Generously and kindly he would repair my mess in thirty seconds or less.

How many times have we struggled with our own lives while God asks how we're doing? "Fine," is our response when in essence, we're far from fine. "I want to do it myself," comes our cry when there is no way in the world we can, indeed, do it ourselves. We need God. We need to just admit our weakness and allow Him to enter our lives through His Spirit. Paul said that it was in weakness that he became strong. Perhaps, this should become our mantra, too.

Reflection Questions

1. What are you dealing with right now in your life that you just need to let go and allow God to work?
2. Read I Corinthians 1:20-25. Write down what this passage means to you in regards to the problems you face every day.
3. Read II Corinthians 12:10. Why do you think Paul could rejoice in his weaknesses? What can you learn from this passage?

Devotional for Families with Older Kids

One of the major turning points in the parent/child relationship is what I call the "Bubble Burst Moment." It's the moment where your child figures out that their parents are not Supermom and Superdad. They see something that, for the first time, brings the thought, "My parents aren't perfect!"

This week, share your heart with your kid/grandkid. Are there things for which you still depend on God? Do you need His help, or are you trying to do it all yourself? Being transparent in this way will help you model that your child needs to be dependent on God as well.

Watch the video entitled, "The One You Need" at www.familyfaith.blogspot.com (Franklin's new blog for parents/families.)

Devotional for Families with Younger Kids

Parents, ENJOY this week's devotional with your kids, because it probably won't happen very often!

Ask your kids to make a list of "Things Mommy and Daddy Do for Me For Which I Am Thankful." Now, this might be kind of hard, but the purpose of this is NOT to gloat, or say, "See everything I do for you?!" The purpose is for kids to realize there are ALWAYS things in life for which we need help. AND, to learn to be thankful for the help we receive from others.

MOM and DAD: In your PERSONAL devotional time, make your own list: "Things God Does for Us for Which We Are Thankful." You might also discuss how you can guide your family to be more dependent on God this year.

Read through the New Testament in a Year:

This week read Mark 8-12

Read through the Bible in a Year:

Monday, February 20	Numbers 14-15
Tuesday, February 21	Numbers 16-18
Wednesday, February 22	Numbers 19-20
Thursday, February 23	Numbers 21-22
Friday, February 24	Numbers 23-25
Saturday, February 25	Numbers 26-27
Sunday, February 26	Numbers 28-29