

## PREPARING AT HOME

August 13-19, 2018

*Focus reading:* Ephesians 5:15–20 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=392287294>)

*Other lectionary readings:* 1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14; Psalm 111; John 6:51–58

*Theme:* Living Wisely

As we have seen in previous weeks, the letter to the Ephesians contains basic instructions on how to live as Christians in the world. Based on those instructions, we can make some educated guesses as to what life was like for those who received this letter and what particular challenges they may have faced. This week's reading is brief and to the point, offering very practical advice that admonishes people to be careful, wise, and attentive. Specifically, the readers are warned not to get drunk. Thus, we have a clue as to a social problem of the day. The author of the letter encourages his audience to act wisely, not like those whose drinking leads them to do foolish things, things that are contrary to God's will. The author goes on to say that we should give thanks "at all times and for everything" (vs. 20). Living wisely involves keeping our eyes on God's Kingdom and living into the promised healing of the earth. We live in a world that is broken, but we are called to be part of its transformation. We are called to live wisely and thankfully.

## GIVING THANKS

This part of the letter tells us to give thanks "at all times and for everything" (vs. 20). Name some things for which you are thankful. Create a collage of things that cause you to give thanks to God. You can either draw your pictures, cut them out of old magazines and newspapers, or take photographs. At the end of each day, say a prayer of thanks by completing the sentence, "Dear God, I give you thanks for . . ."

## TIME SPENT

How do you spend your time? There are twenty-four hours in a day. How much time do you spend asleep? How much time do you spend eating? Draw a very large circle to represent an average day. Help your child with the math and determine how much of each day is spent with particular activities. Divide the circle into appropriate portions, like pieces of a pie, and invite your child to draw an appropriate activity in each corresponding "piece of the pie." Are there any surprises? How much time is spent watching television? Are there any changes that could be made as you attempt to use your time wisely? Say a prayer, thanking God for the gift of time.

## PRAYER

Loving and generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of time.  
Help us to use our time wisely  
and to make the world a better place.  
Thank you for . . .  
(Name the things you have identified.)  
Amen.

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