

YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S KINGDOM

God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms.

—Ephesians 2:6

INTRODUCTION

Everybody needs a place to belong, and being a member of God's kingdom gives you that place. It gives you a sense of identity, a sense of who you are. It also gives you confidence and strength. Knowing you are a member of God's kingdom gives you courage to face the challenges of life, because you know you're not alone. And it gives you a deep sense of purpose, because you know you are part of something big, wonderful, and very important. So it's important to remind yourself, every day, of your true identity as a Christian. You need to remember that you are a valuable, loved member of God's kingdom. That way, no matter where you go, you'll walk upright and carry your head high. And you'll always do what's honorable and right!

Today's devotion will help you remember who you are and where you belong. It's based on Ephesians 2:6, which says, "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms." The devotion is called "Your Place in God's Kingdom."

DEVOTION

In the garage, Troy watched his father use a belt sander on their kitchen table. Troy's three-year-old sister, Pauline, had scribbled on the table with a marker. His dad shut off the sander. "Want to give it a try?" he asked.

Troy said, "Sure!"

His father showed him how to hold the power tool. "Keep moving it around, sanding evenly," he said. "We have to remove all the black marks and old varnish before applying new varnish."

As Troy put on a dust mask, his dad patted the wood. "This old table means a lot to me. I always sat on one end, across from my dad. Like you do now. That was my spot, and no matter where I went, I knew it was always there waiting for me."

You have a special place with God and Jesus in the kingdom of heaven. It's reserved for you. You're like one of King Arthur's knights. However far a quest took them, they knew there was a seat for them at the Round Table. Your seat proves you're a child of God. If you remember that, you'll always know who you are and where you belong. You're part of God's royal family!

WORDS TO TREASURE

*You are no longer foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.*

—Ephesians 2:19

QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the privileges you get from being a member of God's kingdom?

Some answers are: identity, courage, strength, confidence, purpose, the ability to communicate with God, guidance and help from God when you need it, eternal life in heaven, etc.

2. What are some of the responsibilities that come with being a member of God's kingdom?

Some answers are: being loyal and obedient to God, reading the Bible to learn the rules of his kingdom, loving and helping other members of God's kingdom, etc.

3. When it comes to making good choices in life, why is it so important to remember that you belong to God's kingdom?

One answer is: because if you forget this, you'll forget that you need to live according to the rules of God's kingdom, and you'll begin making bad, dangerous choices.

4. How does remembering that you belong to God's kingdom give you confidence, strength, and courage to face life's challenges?

Some answers are: it helps you know the right thing to do in situations; you know God will help you, because he always looks out for his people; you have the love and support of other members of God's kingdom.

5. What are some practical things you can do every day to remind yourself that you are a member of God's kingdom?

Some answers are: write sticky notes to yourself and put them where you'll see them every morning; memorize Scripture verses, like Ephesians 2:6 and Ephesians 2:19, that remind you of who you are and where you belong; read your Bible regularly and highlight verses that talk about God's kingdom (this will help you learn more about it too!); make it a habit every day to thank God that he has made you part of his family.

Consider spending some time playing a game or doing an exercise to help children memorize the "Words to Treasure" Scripture verse.