

SHARE

LESSON TWENTY-FOUR

Follow-up *(As a family discuss the assignment for the lesson Worship.)*

1. Have we attended a worship service together as a family? Should we plan to do that?
2. What have we learned about God since the lesson “Worship?”

Concept

Share is an action word which means to give a portion of what we have, or who we are, to others. As it relates to spirituality, it means to share things such as:

- love
- compassion
- friendship
- knowledge
- optimism
- time
- understanding
- courage

For example, when someone has a problem, we can give of ourselves by listening to him, and discussing possible solutions. If someone needs knowledge, a helping hand, or an understanding heart, we can share ours.

We can share our optimism (good attitude) by smiling and being friendly. We can look for opportunities to share our time and compassion. We can forgive. We can love all people. There are countless ways to share.

There is a saying, “Giving (sharing) is its own reward...all that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own.” It is a true principle that when we give, we also receive. Just as a successful farmer harvests plentifully after planting, we also will reap rewards--of joy--when we share our possessions with others, or when we share our talents and strengths with a happy heart.

Just as a person in darkness appreciates another’s light, so we can share our spiritual light.

Solutions FOR FAMILIES

Part of the **TOTAL LIFE EXCELLENCE** program

How can we do this? To share a light, we must first have one. Believing, praying, learning, and worshiping are ways to increase our understanding of God, and to create that “light.” Additionally, when we obey God’s laws, show love to everyone, and tirelessly serve others, we will earn a light to share. At that point our *life* will be a bright beacon which can guide our fellow men toward inner peace and true happiness.

Family Survey Review

Statement #24. **We share our feelings about God in our family.**

- How can sharing our feelings about God strengthen our family?
- What are some of the ways our family can share with others a portion of what we have or who we are?

Story

Michelle was very unhappy. Everything in her life seemed wrong. She felt unattractive, she thought her personality was dull, and Michelle knew she had very few friends. Even her house was old and dingy.

One day Michelle made the decision to do something about her life. She went to Angela Swain, an attractive, popular, and talented woman who lived in a lovely cottage. Michelle poured out the story of her unhappy life. She told Angela all of the details...of her poverty, ugliness, disappointments and frustrations. Angela listened attentively. After a gentle word of sympathy she said, "You can change all that if you really have the will to do it."

"How? How?" cried Michelle. "I'll do anything, no matter how hard it is!"

Angela replied, "Will you? It's not difficult at all, it only takes time. You see, you must sow the seed for another kind of life, and wait with patience for it to grow. Here is the test to see if you truly have the will. Live for twenty-four hours as if God were right beside you, seeing everything you do. Then return to me and we'll talk again. Will you do that?"

Michelle had never thought of God as though He were a friend to whom one might speak. She replied, "Yes, Mrs. Swain, I will try anything."

It was late afternoon when Michelle went home. She knew that she was expected to help get supper onto the table. She went to the drawer and took out a wrinkled tablecloth. When she spread it on the table, she noticed several soiled spots. Michelle then had her first thought of change.

"If God were going to eat with us, I wouldn't put on a soiled cloth," she said to herself.

She got a fresh cloth. With the same thought, she brought in a small bowl of flowers from the yard. Michelle put the butter on a fresh plate. She cut the bread with care. Instead of plain, boiled potatoes, she mashed and beat them lightly. She made her gravy smooth and rich.

"Company tonight?" asked her father, peering through his glasses as he came to the table.

"Just you, Daddy," smiled Michelle. If God were present, of course you'd smile at your family and show them your very best manner.

Her mother, worn and hot, exclaimed, "I don't know what's gotten into her to fix up so, just for us. I suppose she's expecting someone to drop in before we're done."

Michelle bit back a hasty retort. She kept still until she thought of the proper thing to say in the presence of the unseen Guest. "I don't know of anyone I would rather fix things up for than our own family," she said.

The family simply stared for a minute. That was not like Michelle. Then Father said,

“That’s right. It’s too bad we all don’t think like that more often.” But Tom, her younger brother, snickered.

Michelle’s anger flared. There was nothing more irritating than to be laughed at when trying to do your best. Michelle said to herself, “God is here,” and said nothing aloud.

Tom was ashamed, but didn’t say so. After dinner Michelle’s sister Karen said, “It’s your turn to wash the dishes.”

“All right,” said Michelle. Usually there was a sharp argument over whose turn it was.

Michelle got the water ready and began. After a while Karen blurted out, “It really was my turn, Michelle. I was selfish to let you wash. I’ll take my turn tomorrow and the next day.”

“It’s all right, Karen, I really don’t mind washing at all.” To her astonishment, Michelle knew that this was true. When you don’t mind washing, it stops being a hard job.

And the next day was the same. Michelle found that her thoughts of God helped her to be cheerful and to think of others. At work she met every customer with an eager interest to serve them well. Closing time came before she knew it.

Later that evening Michelle returned to Mrs. Angela Swain’s home.

“I tried it, Mrs. Swain, just as well as I could. Imagining that God was beside me made everything different. It didn’t change my circumstances. I still live in an old house, I am poor, and I...”

“Ah, my dear! But you only started the seed-sowing twenty-four hours ago. When you first put the seed in the ground, the garden doesn’t look different, does it? That’s the way with people. You say that your circumstances haven’t changed, but you’ve started to improve them. You have the magic now. It is God. Just remember to keep your daily walk very close to Him, and your life will change.”

“I will do it,” said Michelle. “I can do it, with Him beside me.”

Discussion

1. Do we sometimes feel discouraged with our lives, like Michelle did?
2. What were some of the changes Michelle made in her life?
3. What do you think about trying to do what Michelle did, in your life?

Activity

The activity for this lesson is to gather as a family and share how we feel about God. Also, let’s discuss our feelings about our family. Last, let’s talk about what we have learned from the *Solutions For Families* program.

Assignment

Share something you value with another family.

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Since this is the last assignment in *Solutions For Families*, you may wish to share the program with another family. If you've benefitted from the lessons and gained strength from the concepts, share your insights and experiences with others. Again, every time you share, every time you give of yourselves, you'll receive sweet rewards far better than money can buy.

May God's richest blessings be yours as you bless the lives of others.