

June 10, 2015

I LEARNED THAT IT IS NOT  
ABOUT HOW WE START OUT.  
IT IS ABOUT THE PROCESS  
AND HOW WE FINISH!  
SO... PRESS ON!

## FAMILY DEVOTIONS

➡ PRESS ON! ➡

"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone-especially to those in the family of faith." Galatians 6:9&10 NLT

*I'm in a bad mood...."familiar words which still echo in my mind after just a few days of summer! The "bad mood look" clearly etched on the faces of my precious ones as they prowled through the house looking for an unsuspecting victim. A victim who would maybe...just maybe...interpret their "bad mood" cues...and who would resolve the "bad mood" issue. Where do they learn the term "bad mood?"*

*It seems as though the first weeks of summer can be challenging as the schedules transition, as activities transition, and as the family dynamics transition because of the changing ages and stages. I think that the phrases, "I'm bored" and "I'm in a bad mood!" are common, or at least occasional, in almost every home... All parents experience times when their precious ones attempt to inflict their "bad mood blues" on other members of the family... then, are "invited" to enjoy their room for a brief period of time in order for them to resolve their "mood" in private...Oh yes, I clearly remember watching them stomp up the stairs after being sent to their room...Hmmm and I remember times when I should have sent myself marching upstairs to my room to have a little "attitude" adjustment!*

# PRESS ON!

The Truth is that our faithful God knows all of these characteristics in our children and in moms and dads...and He is faithful to give us specific instruction as to how to rid ourselves...to shake off these "bad moods" which invariably make their way into every home, at some point...especially in transition times...It is not in the "being sent" to the room which resolves the issue, rather it is the "what happens" during this time...during the alone time...

## DARE TO BE DANIEL

I love the examples and testimonies of faith found in the Bible. And, I love even more, the faithfulness of the One True God...the God of Heaven and of Earth...Daniel is one of the most profound examples for parents...for their children. Dare to Be Daniel!

There certainly was a justified cause for a "bad mood" as Daniel found himself living in a foreign and hostile land, away from family and home. And, he was placed in the presence and in relationship with some very difficult kings...I'm sure that he must have been frustrated, with them...perhaps angry...maybe even experiencing some "bad moods"; He was tempted and tested to turn from His faith.

And, even though we are in our homes, with our family members as precious and wonderful as they are, to be sure there are times when we are tempted and tested to turn from what we know to be true about our loving Heavenly Father...and His specific instruction to "do good", to be kind, to be patient...to be loving...to be faithful to Him and to His instruction. Yes, moods can and do present themselves to all!

## DARE TO BE DANIEL

Truly, Daniel was in a transition time...away from home, away from family, a new schedule, serving a series of difficult kings...but, in times of transition, He remained full of faith in His Mighty God. In times of distress...

"...He, Daniel, went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God." Daniel 6:10

I love that the Bible tells us that Daniel went upstairs to his room, and prayed as he had always done...In times of stress, distress, disappointment, annoyance, danger, frustration, he prayed...always...giving thanks to God. It was not in the going to his room...it was in the "what happened" there that made the difference...He met with God! And His faithful God, listened to Daniel...He heard his prayers...and gave him wisdom and direction and strength.

"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone-especially to those in the family of faith." Galatians 6:9&10 NLT

When schedules change...when activities change...when children come and go...when Summer Time arrives and knocks on the family door, even the most mature child or adult, can be a little out-of-sorts or disheveled or have a "bad mood" issue...and this is true for moms too! Change is challenging...even changing schedules!

It is imperative to protect the family culture by addressing the "bad mood", and if necessary, sending the precious one to their room, encouraging them to meet with God...to see what He has to say about the moments...Dare to be Daniel! It is often necessary for moms and dads to do the same...Dare to be Daniel!

I love how the Holy spirit is faithful to gently nudge moms when to pursue...when to run to the child...when to press...to press...gently and lovingly... even when the child pushes away...We parents can press into, listen to, and love our children, following the example of Daniel and His Father...our Father, who presses into us.

As your family settles into wonderful, glorious summer, may I encourage you to Press On! Do not grow weary as you love, guide, instruct, pursue, correct, and do life with your wonderful family! When the summer moods, or boredom, or attitudes creep into your home, do not let these temporary interruptions control or determine the quality of your Family Time! They are the normal obstacles which provide wonderful teaching opportunities as you pursue your children and as you teach them the importance of turning to their Heavenly Father who empowers and equips each one to do good, to be kind and loving to their own family members...and to their family of faith...

# → PRESS ON! →

And please remember...It is not about how you start out that determines the quality of Family Time... It is about the process of doing life together and how you finish that determines the quality of Family Time! And today, I pray that as you literally jump into Summer time with your wonderful family, that the Lord would bless you with patience and wisdom as you enjoy each family member. I pray that you proceed with love, with kindness, with persistence, with courage...I pray that you and your children "Dare to Be Daniel" as you seek time with God... and as you "do good" to your family...and to your family of faith...Celebrate your week...and Celebrate on Sunday in a local church. And keep in mind, what the outcome will be...

"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up". Galatians 6:9

Grab your Bible, journal, a pen and some TIME.

Invite your children to do the same...and enjoy the print-outs included for the young ones. (You will need their crayons or markers!) Then gather around the kitchen table or throw out a blanket on the lawn.

## APPLICATION

As a family, discuss Daniel and the events in his life and how he turned to God, instead of stomping around angry, or becoming discouraged by the people in his life. Discuss ways that your family members can "Dare to Be Daniel" this summer!

Turn to Galatians 6:9-10 and read it together. Then, discuss ways to be kind and good to each family member. Discuss "small acts of kindness" and how to initiate these for each person...words and deeds! Record your plan.

Then, brainstorm and make a plan to be good and kind to someone in your family of faith, a neighbor, a friend, a church member, maybe the pastor.

There is no limit to the opportunities. Have fun and enjoy your family! Press On!