

God's School's In Session!

What is God wanting us to learn in this strange season?

1. God uses circumstances to train us

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? Hebrews 12:7 (NIV)

2. We need to cooperate in His training

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8 (ESV)

3. So...What have you been learning in the past ten weeks?

- Patience? (Boredom or snippiness?)
- What is your security grid? (Fear and anxiety?)
- Have you discovered your creativity?
- “Who your friends?” and “How good a friend are you?”
- What else have you learned about yourself?

4. This has been a course in hard choices and “wisdom.”

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you. Proverbs 2:1-2, 9-11 (ESV)

5. This has been a crash course on trusting God for many

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Isaiah 26:3 (ESV)

6. This has been an advanced course in selflessness

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to others. For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? So this brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their conscience, you sin against Christ. **Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.** 1 Corinth 8:4, 7-13 (NIV)

“Everything is permissible”--but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible”--but not everything is constructive. **Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.** Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, for, “The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.” If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. But if anyone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake--the other man's conscience, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience? If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for? Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God--even as I try to please everybody in every way. **For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.**

1 Corinthians 10:23-33 (NIV)