



Words of Blessing

EMAIL ADDRESS: wob@wordsofblessing.com
OUR WEB SITE: www.wordsofblessing.com

Junior High School Weekly Words Pentecost Week 3: June 10, 2007

Living the Word

1 Corinthians 16: 8-9, 13-14 I will stay here in Ephesus until the day of Pentecost. There is a real opportunity here for great and worthwhile work, even though there are many opponents. ... Be alert, stand firm in your faith, be brave, be strong. Do all your work in love.

Evangelism

People are walking alone. I offer them new life and peace. I offer them healing, blessings, and love. You can offer friendship, community, a welcome, an invitation for them to help and to use their gifts, smiles, joy, and an opportunity to discover me in new ways. You offer your love and a belief in who they are and who they can be. You offer my love, words, and reality and the scripture made real.

Are you standing outside a church looking in the window or peeking around the door? Are you afraid to believe I will love you, hold you, and bring you peace? Is it too much to believe that you can have a wonderful, spirit-filled life filled with friends, love, and a community? Do you dare believe that you are not just welcomed but that you are needed in my church and by my people? You are! My people and church wait for you to let go and walk in faith knowing that I am leading you to a life of joy, a new beginning. The church is there! The community awaits you and needs you. If you don't go to church at all, if you don't go very often, or if you go but are not involved in helping, sharing my love, words, and reality, or using your gifts, then know that the time is now. I call you!

My child, I offer you an invitation to a banquet, a wedding feast like the one described in scripture. You are a guest and all wait for you with joy. Sit down. Partake of the service, blessings, work, plans, and hopes of the people in my church. Open your heart. Look into your life and journey and realize that I call you. You have the gifts that the people and the banquet are waiting for.

Don't stand on the sidelines of the Christian journey or sit outside the church. Be the church and open doors. Step in! I need you. Are you the one who has a church but you are not giving your time and gifts, not helping me build it up? Are you too busy with things that take you away? I need you. Hope, joy, new life, blessings, and healings are there. Walk in the door and let go. Tell people who I am and offer our love. Offer and accept friendships without judging. Offer my love, words, and reality. Begin to be a humble giver, and let your wonderful gifts fill others with joy.

Are you already in the right church? Great! Now what? Do you go but always sit in the last seat? Do you let your job, school, or tasks get in the way? Do you wonder when you can get out of those activities or events? Do you feel you can let others do everything? Do you pretend not to see the needs or read about the programs that need help? Do you have a list of reasons ready for why you can't sing in the choir, go to youth group or Sunday school, help with projects, or support the programs offered? Do you smile politely, but not warmly?

My child, you are missing so much. You walk right past me. You have a unique, one-of-a-kind, opportunity to begin a very powerful, joyful time in your life now! I can use your gifts, and you can share them with others. You can experience community, friendships, blessings, miracles, music, healing, and joy. Your life can be filled to overflowing with happiness. You will end your day knowing others were helped, prayed for, loved, and blessed by you. You are my answer to the needs in the world.

Word for the week: Offer

Prayer question: How can you be more of an evangelist?

Action for the week: Invite people (new and old friends) to meet for a coke or a breakfast outing. Talk to them about the words (how to share them in a group), share ideas for fellowship times or gatherings, encourage each to talk about his or her story of coming to know Jesus and coming to the place where he or she is today. Always lead by example first. Be ready to tell a story of your relationship with me.

Witness my love and reality: End your gathering by telling others what you believe. Affirm each one's gifts and share how each of you can meet Jesus' needs in the world right now.

Daily prayer for this week: Lord, evangelism is a hard job, but I know I can do more evangelizing and sharing our story and your love, words, and reality. Help me to step out and be more courageous in bringing people to you. I know that I may be the only one who invites someone to come to you in a new way. I am ready to bring people to know you and love you as I do.

The following words are for you. You will know which ones speak to you and answer your questions or prayers. These personal words are guidance for you in your journey today.

- You have the gift of prayer, which is so needed in the lives of many people. All ministries, family situations, school problems, decisions, and life changes need prayer. I ask you to use this gift in more ways. It is a way to talk to people about me, about their faith, and about how they are loved. Just say, "Can I pray for you?" and watch what happens. This is your evangelism work this year.

- I have a placecard holder that holds a small card with your name on it. It is trimmed in blue to represent soothing and refreshing streams of water or an ocean of calm. I put your card next to my place at a banquet. I invite you to spend time with me, to rest, to be fed by my love, and to be filled with my grace and the Holy Spirit. You need calm and peace in your life right now. What do you think?

- Yes, Sundays are days of rest. Do you stay home to rest or come to church to rest with me and other companions on the way? Rest and peace are given to you in many ways. One way is in gathering together to worship with others. Come. Sit with me and your friends and be renewed. Let my peace fill you and heal you. I will bless you and surprise you with answers to a direction.

- Your humility is a gift and a welcome to others who want to know they matter. Like flowers in the garden, you are there to renew people. The gentle beauty of your spirit and your faith bring people to me who are looking for the same faith. Tomorrow give flowers to a friend in need.

- I see you peeking in and wondering if you and your gifts are needed in new ways. Come in and be a part of my church in a full and giving way. Use your gifts to help. Find others who need help and peace. Look for those who are struggling or alone and give them hope.
- Friends are an important part of life. Good friends, like you, are a special gift. They make each day a blessing. You have close friends, church friends, and school friends. You have friends you can count on for anything and those you call on for prayers. You have friends who inspire your faith with a never-give-up belief. You have “praying friends,” forever friends, occasional friends, friends who are in your family, and friends who inspire you. Write a note to three of your friends today.
- You are coming to a powerful and amazing time in your life. You are moving from old to new in gifts, call, ministry, and the joy of reaching out to others in my name. Your life will overflow with new friends and opportunities to witness. You can start groups to share my weekly words, get a new outreach going, and be involved in a special ministry to the needy or to youth. It will be about evangelism. You are sooo ready.
- Your humility is an inspiration to many people. I know what you do quietly on the side. I see the joyous ways you reach out, listen, and invite people to know me, but you never seek praise. So on this day, I praise you for your gift of quiet evangelism. You have brought many to my side.
- I need you. My people, churches, schools, and neighborhoods all need you. Your smile and welcome, your help, prayers, hugs, and invitations, all make a huge difference in many lives. How about starting a fun committee for the summer? Purpose: Evangelize to people in your daily life. Gather to share, share the weekly words, talk, offer ideas, laugh, hug, and pray. Open the door!
- Like my parents, Mary and Joseph, you are called to share my love, words, and reality with others. They supported my disciples and my call. That is what you can do for the people in your life. Be there for them. I know I can count on you. This is a daily commitment, so make a list of five people (to start with) who need support, encouragement, and prayer. Plan (and do) things to actively support their gifts and ministry. Sounds like evangelism to me! People love your wonderful smile!
- There is an angel named Max who is an evangelist angel. Max likes going out to help other evangelists. He is going to help you! Training begins this week with your friends. Watch for Max at his favorite places to go: ice cream shops, coffee shops, baseball games, gas stations, and malls.
- Okay. Here’s a big project for summer. A one-time event! Plan a Friday or Saturday night “Share the Joy” event. Have music, refreshments, and time for people to talk and share. You can give people a chance to share the weekly words in small groups. You could get help to do this. It will be an evening of sharing my love, words, and reality. It will be a time for friendships, joy, and being amazing you!
- I want you to believe. Just believe. Are you wondering what, how, or when to believe? Believe now. Believe simply and humbly but courageously. What to believe? Believe in me and that all will be well. How about using your evangelism surprise gift? The answers are coming.
- Start a sharing group for people your age. Who to invite? When and where? I will show you those answers. Talk to people. Be open. Smile and listen. Step out and believe I am really there.
- Ice cream shops, swimming pools, and baseball fields are great spots to meet people, share the words, witness, support friends, be a listener and a friend, and evangelize. This summer look for two angels, Daisy and Joe. You can’t miss them. They will bless you and give you a sign that you are on the right path and that this will be a wonderful summer for friends and blessings. Go for it.

- Eggs. Remember those eggs? Do you have one? Are you using it? How is that going? Share these answers with others. There is an egg for you! Offering eggs is a great way to evangelize. You can share about yours and tell people about me and about all the wonderful ways they can help others in the world. Hmm. You must have the gift of evangelism. Yes, you do! I see it!

- Summer is a time when teens find themselves too busy doing fun things to go to church. Well, the clergy are there. I am there. People and friends are there. So make it a joy to go to church. Focus your summer time in church on these questions: Jesus what do you want me to do this fall? What do I do about my struggle? And then say, "Help me to deepen my faith in you and to give more of myself."

- Never give up. People who inspire others share a common strength. They never give up. No matter how unsure they are about the future, trouble, jobs, finances, family, school, sports and teams, disappointments, broken friendships, or hurts, they keep going forward, believing in me and in miracles. Those people never give up because they gave all to me.

- You have the gift of evangelism. Oh, have I said that to you before? Invite people to church. Go to some gatherings, like a word-sharing meeting, a youth event, or a sharing time of fun. Get involved with your friends and the group at church to meet the needs around you. You can make some closer friends by inviting them to help you and others with an outreach.

- I was standing near you. Did you see me? I was dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, and I smiled at you. I blessed you with new peace in your decisions, your present problems, and your future next year. I blessed you with joy in your gifts. I blessed you with the love you give to others.

- You have many gifts, but I want to celebrate your gifts of joy, compassion, and humility. In your journey you will teach others how to learn, to share, and to believe in themselves. You will teach them the joy of a humble heart. Know that you bless people every single day by being you.

- Wow! School is over! Summer is here! Now what? I know you will be busy with jobs, sports, vacations, spending time with friends, and just being very busy. Take some time each day for quiet and for us to be together. In that time each day, bring me one question you are struggling with. Wait and then listen. I will answer. If not right then, I will answer through one person that week.

- Friends are so important in life. Make time this week for three friends you have not seen much. Meet for dessert and sharing. Catch up on your lives. Talk about the summer, the happy things going on, future plans, and any concerns or questions. Listen to where your friends are. All of those friends need you. You need them. Meet again and plan one time with a group of friends.

- Summer is a time of fun and being renewed after a busy school year. You can let go of some responsibilities and focus on the nice weather, vacations, and time to be outside, to be energized, and to do something new in your life. You can take time to be with friends and relax. I think you are ready for a summer change. Then you will be rested and renewed when fall comes. Oh, let's not think of fall yet!

- You have the gift of healing, and it is growing in wonderful new ways. You will find new ways to understand and see the power in healing and in faith. Make time this summer to deepen your gift of healing. Learn more about this gift and begin to see my vision of how and where to use it.

- You have a wonderful witness to share with others about who you are. It is time to realize that people are drawn to you because you have a story to share about your journey and about where you were and where you are now. Don't forget to share how you got through this past year and what your goals are for next year. People will be very touched by your sharing.

- What a year you had. Some things were tough, but you rose to the challenges and grew stronger in your faith and courage. New friends came into your life. Some friendships changed, and some old friendships were renewed and made strong again. I am so proud of how you handled this past year—the ups and downs, the disappointments and successes. You are great!

- Believe in healing. Believe you can be healed. Healing begins with a heart of faith, humility, and courage. You have that and you offer these things to others. This summer you are going to learn about and experience healing in special ways. You will be healed and will offer healing to a friend.

Read and pray my words to you

Please note that the Bible verses are drawn from the Good News Translation (or Today's English version), so references to a particular stopping place may not match your translation exactly.

Zechariah 4:6-7

Micah 3:8 and 4:2

Joel 2:28-29

Isaiah 40:8-9

Amos 3:8

Daniel 2:23

Isaiah 41:13-14

Judges 6:36-38

Psalms 59:16-17

Psalms 3:4 and 8

Psalms 145:2-4

Psalms 89:1-2

Psalms 128:1-2

Psalms 40:9-10

Acts 4:32-35

Matthew 3:1-6

Luke 21:1-4

John 1:43-45

Mark 2:13-14

Luke 5:9-11

Matthew 3:1-6

Acts 22:12-15

John 21:15-16

Romans 1:5-8

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Hebrews 10:23-25

1 Peter 4:10-11

Philemon 4-7

2 Timothy 2:1-2 and 4:22

Note: For suggestions on how to conduct a weekly words sharing group, go to the Words of Blessing website at:

http://www.wordsofblessing.com/pdf_docs_other/word_sharing_instruct_v5.pdf

And for more details about the Words of Blessing EGGS Project, see the website at <http://www.wordsofblessing.com/eggs.html>.