

SUMMER • SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families

Jesus, the First Responder

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For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. JOHN 3:16

Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends. JOHN 15:13

We all remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice on the September 11th, 2001, terrorist attacks. Thousands of lives were lost that day, including many first responders. Brave men and women ran into raging fires, ash, and smoke to rescue those lost in the rubble. The cries of the injured, and the need for help, drowned out their thoughts for their safety and well-being. Where does this compassion come from that is inside the first responder's heart? It comes from God!

"God so loved the world," is such a powerful statement! God loved humanity so much that He responded. God responded to the pain and hurt, reaching those torn apart from Him by sin and sin's consequences. He responded to their need for a Savior. God loves us too much to leave us in our sins.

Through one man's disobedience, sin entered the world. The law came to increase and expand the awareness of the trespass by defining and unmasking sin. Through one man's obedience, grace came and surpassed the law and grew even more. Grace reigns through righteousness, which brings eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Jesus is truly the ultimate First Responder! How will we respond to Him?

Application

God so loved humanity that He responded by manifesting Himself in the flesh, becoming the ultimate sacrifice for all time. Every believer's calling is to become first responders. Will you be the hands and feet of Jesus? Will you respond to the call to search for and rescue the lost?

Discussion

What drove God to reach the world?

How did Jesus exemplify the calling of a first responder?

In which ways can we individually become first responders to a fallen world?

How can we, as a family, be first responders?

Prayer Focus

Pray that God's people will have a divine revelation of Jesus being our First Responder.

Pray that God's people become first responders to family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and strangers.

Pray that our first responders be strengthened, replenished, and used as spiritual first responders.