

Family TableTalk

Conversation 42

Do You See Him?!?

read

Psalm 66:1-12

think

One of the outcomes of the pandemic for me has been a shift in the pace of life. I'm hearing that from lots of people. We are spending more time at home, and less time running around to and from the normal things that keep our lives so busy. Parents aren't going to work. Students aren't going to school. Perhaps that's the case for you as well. So, *how* are you filling your time, and *where* are you filling it?

A few weeks ago I mentioned to my wife that as long as this stay-at-home situation continues, our backyard might be our summer sanctuary and a kind of passport to sanity. We were actually sitting out back and enjoying our surroundings as we chatted about this. We were noticing familiar plants, the variety and behavior of birds at the feeders, and the activity of the squirrels. It was a kind of "stop and smell the roses" moment where our eyes were opening with wonder at the familiar everyday things we consistently overlook and take for granted in the midst of our hurry.

When the Psalmist wrote today's passage, it was written to spark God's people to remember, reflect upon, and thank God for the amazing deeds He did in their midst. The Psalm applies to us as well, spurring us on to "shout for joy to God" for His awesome deeds. Perhaps we can use this slower pace of life right now to "come and see what God has done" that's right there under our noses. . . but so familiar that we overlook it all and take it for granted. We *can* notice, stare at, and ponder his "awesome deeds." Take some time today to think back about God's work in history and your life. Take some time to ponder his plan of redemption. Take some time to use your senses to drink in the beauty and variety of his creation.

apply

- Think about what you have learned about God from your time spent reading and being taught the Bible. Tell each other about one biblical story that's become so familiar to you that you may have lost a sense of wonder regarding what God has done.
- Can you remember a time when God's work was undeniably present in your life? What happened, and how did you react?
- Take some time both alone and as a family to go outside and sit in a familiar place. Quietly allow your senses to see, hear, smell, and touch God's creation. Make a mental note of what you've encountered that is awe-inspiring. Then, take some time to share what God has done.

pray

Lord, I confess that I've allowed distractions and busyness to crowd out my view of your presence in my life and in my world. Please send your promised peace to settle on my life, to calm me down, and to create space for me to see you and your awesome deeds. Thank you for revealing yourself to me in creation, in your written word, and in your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

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