

“Life Lessons from the Games We Play”
“Building a Home, What Minecraft doesn’t include”

Easter continues! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! We are an Easter people! While Lent is forty days, the Celebration of Easter is fifty days ending with Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Easter is a celebration of resurrection of new life and of the power of Christ to change and transform the world through his followers. We have encountered the Risen Christ in so many ways. We are in the middle of the sermon series: Easter Encounters: Life Lessons from the Game we Play.” This week our game is Minecraft. This is a relatively new game released in 2011. It is a computer game that can be played on all levels and it is about “building” parks and buildings and lakes and houses and other things. As many know, building a home is different than building a house and creating a family can be both joyous and difficult. This weekend we celebrate Mother’s Day, and will honor all the women as they have mothered and mentored so many. Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Building a Home, What Minecraft doesn’t include”**

Prayer for the Week

Holy God, Thank you for the spiritual teachers, mothers and mentors in our lives. Bless them as they work to nurture and mentor Your children. Help them to know by the example they set, others learn of you and your love. Grant each one of us the grace to be a teacher, a mother or a father or a mentor to others. May your spirit of love guide and direct us all. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Study Guide

Monday, 5/15/17 2 Timothy 1: 3-5

In this letter, the author remember this young man in his prayers and reminds him of the faith of his mother and grandmother. The author gives thanks for their relationship as mentor and mentee and the faith they share. Faith is not always passed down in families, but when it is, it can be a powerful experience. Sometimes faith is not part of one's biological family but is part of one's family of choice. This faith often helps strengthen and guide in times of trouble. *In your family, however you define it, whose faith has guided and directed you? As a family person, who do you mentor and guide in faith?*

Tuesday, 5/16/17 2 Timothy 1: 6-7

Paul reminds Timothy to rekindle, rebuild or reboot the gift of God that is within him. Part of the ministry of the church is to nurture and "kindle" and "build" faith in the young. From birth, through preschool, elementary, middle and high school, college and beyond, the community of faith is called to kindle and rekindle, build and rebuild the fires of faith. Often the young feel stifled and misunderstood rather than encouraged and nurtured. *Think of some ways this community of faith rekindles and rebuilds the faith of our young people? In what ways could we do better?*

Wednesday, 5/17/17 John 14: 23-24

This whole chapter of John is focused on Jesus preparing his disciples to be faithful when he is no longer with them. It is filled with promise and hope. The disciples have been cautious and uncertain in early verses, "how will we know? Who will show us?" For Jesus it is always about love. If we love God, we show love to one another. Jesus states if we love, God will makes his home in us and with us. Whatever journey, whatever route, whatever "ticket" we take to ride, it always leads to home with God. God will be with us. *How do you experience Christ's presence with you? Does you feel God is at home in you and in your space?*

Thursday, 5/18/17 John 14: 25-27

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the fulfillment of that promise on Pentecost, which this year is June 4. This Spirit will guide and direct, comfort and challenge, will teach and remind each believer of who they are and to whom they belong. It is important to know if God is making a home with us, that we will be reminded of that presence and promise regularly. *How are you reminded that God's home is with you? How do you share that love and grace that God offers with others?*

Friday, 5/19/17 John 14: 23

Jesus promises those who love him and follow him will experience God's presence with them; that God will dwell in them. Jesus says, "We will come to them and make our home with them." What a lovely thought, that God, the fullness of God, dwells among those who love and serve and follow. When God's home is with human beings, then love and grace can be made real in the world. On Sunday, May 21, we will celebrate our graduates and scholarship recipients. As we have remembered our mothers and all the women who have mothered and mentored us, let us pray for these new graduates. *Pray that our graduates will experience God at home with them and that they might continue to encounter the risen Christ in their journeys.*