

VALUABLE FACILITATOR GUIDE

CPC HAPPENINGS... [announce these upcoming events]

FAM FEST—Grab your kiddos and join us on Wednesday, September 8, at 6:30 pm for a FamFest, our fall family festival! Enjoy a petting zoo, food, and games for the whole family. This outdoor event will have something for the whole family. You will be sure to have a blast. Please feel free to bring your lawn chairs.

CPC MARRIAGE EVENT —Friday & Saturday, September 10-11, in the HUB. Register at: yourcpc.church/eventsh

LOST AT HOME

Is there something you are always misplacing? (Your glasses, your cell phone, your keys, your remote, etc.)

What is your strategy to try to find it?

Last week, Pastor Chris shared the word about a shepherd who went looking for a lost sheep. He was willing to leave the other 99 in order to find the one. This week, he shared Jesus' story about a woman who had lost a coin.

Luke 15: 8-10—Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found the silver coin I lost!' 10 I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents.

What are the three things the woman did to find her lost coin?

1. Turned on her **LIGHT**.
2. Swept her **HOUSE**.
3. **SEARCHED** carefully.

Matthew 5:14—You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.

Ephesians 5:8—For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light—

According to these verses, what does it mean to “turn on your light?” **[“Your light” is your testimony of Christ in your life. It means allowing others to know you are a Christian through your actions and words.]**

We can never **FIND** what is lost if we ourselves remain **DARK**.

What are some ways that people can know we are Christians? **[We can tell them. We can react to difficulties in a Christ-like manner (don’t get angry, don’t make a scene, don’t hold a grudge, be forgiving, be kind, etc.)]**

How is our faith like a lighthouse to others? **[When we shine our light, it will help others to see through the turmoils of their life. They can see a safe place where they can come.]**

The second thing she did was to **SWEEP** her house.

Sweeping was an **ACTION** that she took.

Many Christians remain idle, waiting for the lost and wayward to come to them. That would be like the woman losing a coin, then sitting down and waiting for it to come to her. This woman was proactive in her search.

In Scripture, the reference to “house” can also refer to what is going on in our **HEART**.

What are some of the proactive ways we can “sweep” our heart?

Actively look for **PEOPLE** to help. **[We tend to avoid people we think need some help. We tend to do what is easiest for us. But God has a special blessing for those who go out of their way to bless others. This is “turning on the light” on purpose to win the lost.]**

Maintain a healthy **SPIRITUAL** life.

This is done through:

Prayer

Bible study

Church attendance

Personal relationship with God

The Jews have a tradition of thoroughly cleaning their entire house—from top to bottom just before the feast of Passover. The purpose is to completely purge their kitchen from leaven (which represented sin to Israel in the time of Moses). They further clean their whole house, throwing out the junk and wiping out the dust. This represents cleaning out the junk in our hearts and minds that keep us from focusing on the important things of God.

Part of the idea of “sweeping” our house is to clean out the “junk” that interferes with our ability to be ready at all times to be used of God for the next level of our service to Him.

The third thing she did was to search the house carefully.

Notice the sheep were lost in the WILDERNESS, but the coin was LOST IN THE HOUSE.

Consider the people who are nearest and dearest to you. Is there someone “lost in your house?”

In what ways can we reach those who are living closest among us? [Be a good example. Show them Christ-like character in difficult times. Be a mentor/teacher. Take advantage of the church events to invite them to come with you.]

VALUE

Did the value of the coin change because it was lost? [No. The value of the coin stayed the same. But as long as it was lost it didn’t allow the owner to use it to its full potential.]

In Pastor Chris’ sermon, he told about the Jewish tradition of the groom giving the bride-to-be a necklace made of 10 coins. Individually each coin would have been worth about a day’s wage. Together, the necklace would have been priceless to the bride.

What is an item that someone gave to you that is priceless in your eyes?

What makes that item priceless to you? [How you feel about the person who gave it to makes a regular item priceless.]

Wearing the betrothal necklace told the world that the bride was loved and loved the one who adored her. To wear the broken necklace would make the groom look bad or cheap. So to this woman the coin was priceless because of who gave it to her and what it meant for their future.

Thinking of the people God has placed in your life, do you see them as priceless gifts? Are they worth “sweeping your house” for?

Would you be willing to go out of your way more for one of your own family or for a stranger?

Remember, it might be a stranger who is able to reach your loved ones for Christ! Will you reach the loved one of a stranger?

The Bible tells us that the Church (as a whole) is The Bride of Christ. The people in our life is the necklace He has given to us. What will we do if we appear before Him in eternity with even one missing? Search your house!

PRAYER TIME

- Thank God for people who did what they did to bring the message of the Gospel to you.
- Ask God to help you to turn on your light to this dark world. Practice your testimony so you will be ready to offer it to someone who is going through anything similar.
- Pray that you will be disciplined enough to sweep your life clean of anything that gets in the way of your testimony.
- Ask God to give you eyes that can see the depth of need in others. Also pray for spiritual health of those closest to you. Pray for the lost in your house. Pray for the lost in God’s house.