

Built By the Lord

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Chapter 10

Buy-In Goal: Enjoy the Journey

I. Story of a Magic Fish

A. A story about a farmer that caught a magic fish.

"This was really my gift to you. The ability to skip the miseries of life is really no gift at all. The ability to enjoy the journey is the greatest I can give you. You have set me free; I thank you." The fish disappeared.

B. Life's Journey

1. We cannot actually wish our days away. We do often wish for some point in the future, i.e., after school, graduation, reaching a goal, when we have children, when we DON'T have children, when we retire, etc.
2. We may be so busy wishing for a future time that we do not enjoy the present time.
3. His father would often take trips. He knew the time it would take and would always want to beat his time. This was his personal goal. It was all about getting to the end of his journey as quickly as possible.
 - a. How different and special it would have been to slow down and enjoy the scenery, stop at some attraction by the road, or go the long way "just because."
 - b. "We were always going to do that someday, but on that trip we were in too much of a hurry."

C. Carpe Diem = Seize the Day

1. We have to **learn** to enjoy the journey.
2. Remember Baron Von Trapp in the Sound of Music?
3. If we end up like him with an extreme educational and spiritual regimen, most of our family members will want to jump ship as soon as possible.
 - a. We may be teaching our young children the Bible.
 - b. They may learn reading, writing, and arithmetic.
 - c. On and on this regimen or routine goes. This may work for some families. But for most of us, there is no way we can do this and actually enjoy being part of that family.
4. No matter what our regular routine is, no matter our goals, we must make sure our home is a place everyone in the family would like to be.
5. We must learn joy. This is not to say that our homes should be places of fun and games with few rules and no discipline.
6. This is saying that we should learn to have joy and pursue our goals enjoyably.
7. We must not get SO caught up in the pursuit of our lofty goals that every day is spent in misery trying to reach the unreachable.

II. This is a Bible lesson.

- A. Wait a minute... You might be saying that this is a Bible lesson... not story hour.
- B. Enjoying the journey is a Bible principle.
 - 1. Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8
 - 2. The Lord said to learn to enjoy the journey. There will come a day when you will not be able to enjoy what is going on.
 - 3. This was written for the individual. It is also true for the family.
- C. Childhood is fleeting.
 - 1. In just a few years we will not get to cuddle with them on a Saturday morning. What if our Saturday chores were postponed for 30 minutes for some close family time?
 - 2. Sometimes, this idea is called "being present."
 - a. Nobody on their death bed ever regretted that they had spent more time in the office.
 - b. Children can only take their first step, say their first word, and lose their first tooth once. We must not miss these things, but enjoy them to the fullest.
- D. The prime of life is also fleeting.
 - 1. The goals of success and even the goal of heaven does not mean we are to cloister ourselves in our home as a monastery and never do anything.
 - 2. God actually expects us to enjoy this life, while always remembering and serving Him.
 - 3. Ecclesiastes 8:15; 9:7-9
- E. Are there going to be dark days too? Of course there are.
- F. We have to learn, **as a family**, to look for the silver lining.
- G. Ephesians 5:15-16 → Make the most of your time!
- H. Seize this day. Redeem your time this day.
 - 1. Enjoy your wife, your husband, your children, your parents, etc., today.
 - 2. They may not be with you tomorrow.
 - 3. I am NOT saying: Be irresponsible; Stop working on goals; etc.
 - 4. I'm saying to make sure you enjoy your journey to the goals.
- I. How can we do this?
 - 1. Remember your Creator, Ecclesiastes 12:1.
 - 2. If we will do this, I can almost guarantee that your family will enjoy the journey and will be happy to work toward the goal of the journey with you.
- J. One more story about two different sons.

III. Today's Response

- A. Plan something fun to do as a family this week.
 - 1. Have a game night, play in the park, go to a baseball game.
 - 2. Schedule something just to have fun together and make sure to do it.
- B. Ponder this: How much are you enjoying the journey with your family? How much are they enjoying the journey with you? How can you improve this?