

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:29–12:2

Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others. —Saint Augustine

Once upon a time, there was a young orphan girl who was feeling abandoned and alone. She was out walking in a meadow one day when she looked up and saw a small butterfly trapped in a thorn bush. Freeing the butterfly from its captivity, she was astounded to see it transform into a magical fairy.

“For your kindness,” said the good fairy, “I will grant you any wish you would like.”

Without hesitation, the girl replied, “I want to be happy!”

“So be it,” said the fairy, and vanished.

As the little girl grew up, she realized there was no one else in the land as happy as she. Others marveled at her contagious sense of joy. When people asked her where that joy came from — what was her secret? — she would only smile and reply, “The secret of my happiness is that I listened to a good fairy when I was a little girl.”

As she grew older, the parade of visitors only increased. Everyone was afraid that, when she died, the secret to true happiness could die with her. “Tell us, please,” her neighbors begged. “Tell us what the good fairy said.”

“It’s very simple, really,” said the young-woman-now-grown-old. “The fairy told me that all people, without regard to education, no matter their age, rich or poor, had need of me.”

Think about this for a few moments. Do you think it is a universal truth, or one that might apply only to certain individuals? Does it apply to you? *Are you happiest when you are needed?*

Perhaps you do not feel needed, and it makes you sad. But think about what people need, and you might realize that you are needed more than you thought.

A frustrated woman in a counseling session explained to the therapist what she wanted from her husband: “All I want is not much more than my dog wants from him. When my husband comes home, our dog barks and runs to him, tail a-wagging, waiting for three things to happen: first, a kind look; second, a friendly word; and third, a loving touch. A look, a word, a touch; that’s all I really want in this relationship.”

That’s all most people need and want. And you can offer it, every day! Notice people. Speak to people. And in these days of Covid-19, instead of a touch or hug, give someone a fist bump! They will love you for it!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, you need me, and I need you. Now I realize that others need me as well. Help me to sense their need and respond to it. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: James 3-5
Monday: Jeremiah 27-29
Tuesday: Jeremiah 30-32
Wednesday: Jeremiah 33-36
Thursday: Jeremiah 37-39
Friday: Jeremiah 40-42
Saturday: Psalms 88-90

Verse to Remember

*Draw near to God and he will draw
near to you. —James 4:8*

NUMBER STRINGS

Directions: Fill in the blank spaces with the correct numbers based on the “pattern” clue. Notice the example in letter A.

- A. 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 (pattern is x2)
- B. 5, 13, 21, 29, ____, ____, ____ (pattern is +8)
- C. 5, 7, 6, 8, 7, 9, 8, ____, ____, ____, ____ (pattern is +2,-1)
- D. 98, 93, 97, 92, 96, ____, ____, ____, ____ (pattern is -5, +4)
- E. 41, 39, 40, 38, 39, 37, 38, ____, ____, ____ (pattern is -2, +1)
- F. 10, 6, 18, 14, 26, 22, 34, ____, ____, ____ (pattern is -4, +12)
- G. 4, 20, 100, 500, _____, _____, _____ (pattern is x5)

ANSWERS: Number Strings

B. 37, 45, 53; C. 10, 9, 11, 10; D. 91, 95, 90, 94;
E. 36, 37, 35; F. 30, 42, 38; G. 2,500, 12,500,
62,500

ADJECTIVE STRING:

Adjectives are words that modify nouns. “The big boy hit a small ball.” In this sentence, “big” and “small” are adjectives. We will give you a NOUN, and then you must write an adjective that begins with its last letter, and then continue to add adjectives with the last letter of the previous word, until you can do no more.

Example: Motorcycle: eye-catching, green, new, wondrous, speedy. Here is your word:

RIVER. Write your responses below. Have fun!