

## OCTOBER 2017 DEVOTIONAL IDEAS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

### *"The Eagle Life - Isaiah 40:31"*

*Materials needed: If possible, a large Bible for display, a picture of an eagle (you can Google "eagle pictures" and find colored pictures or black and white eagle pictures), a musician to accompany the hymn singing.*

*Ahead of time: Arrive early enough to happily bring seniors to devotional area. Greet each one with joy and special attention.*

#### DEVOTIONAL TIME

- Begin with the group's singing the "good old hymn", "Amazing Grace" and another hymn seniors know and enjoy singing. If there is no accompanist, sing the songs anyway!
- Our Bible verse for today is Isaiah 40:31. Read the verse slowly and loudly enough for all to hear - "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as the eagle, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." REPEAT
- **CHICKENS:** A preacher who grew up on a farm, helping take care of chickens, said, "We can be glad that God identified His people with eagles rather than chickens." He described chickens like this:
  - Chickens are rather stupid. Why did the chicken cross the road? No common sense, and got hit!
  - Chickens are crowd followers. If one chicken sees other chickens running across the yard, he takes off after them. He doesn't know why or where they are going, he just wants to be with the majority.
  - Chickens are easily frightened. Any unexpected noise makes them flutter their wings and squawk.
  - Chickens squabble and fight. If one finds a juice Junebug, they all want it. They chase each other around the chicken yard, trying to take it away from each other.
  - Chickens have fairly large wings, but can't fly high.
- LIVING THE CHICKEN LIFE IN NO WAY COMPARES WITH LIVING THE EAGLE LIFE!
- **EAGLES:** When we hear the word, "eagle," we think of that regal, majestic bird soaring through the sky, effortlessly riding the wind currents high above the earth.
  - The eagle is master of its universe, king and queen of the sky.
  - The eagle is an intelligent animal with keen eyesight.
  - With its wide wingspan and sharp talons, an eagle can spot "a meal" and swoop down, snatch up its prey, soar back to its nest on the mountain cliff and eat with no interference.

- Eagles mate for life. Male and female work together to build a soft, cozy nest. Both take care of the nest and the eggs and the eaglets when they hatch.
- Both eagle parents help the eaglets learn to fly and take care of them until they fly well enough and provide for themselves.
- Ask the seniors to name some kinds of birds (robins, sparrows, blue birds, canaries...)
- OF ALL THE BIRDS GOD CREATED, IT IS THE EAGLE TO WHICH GOD IDENTIFIED HIS PEOPLE! WE ARE CALLED TO BE GOD'S SPIRITUAL EAGLES!
- **Isaiah 40:13 (Read the verse again)**

### **WE ARE CALLED TO RENEW OUR PATIENCE**

- The verse says, "wait on the Lord." The eagle just patiently takes care of business without pomp and circumstance! It calmly waits when necessary.
- Most of us don't like to wait! We are usually impatient folks!
- What DOES that verse mean? "They that wait upon the Lord?" The Bible gives us the answer!
- Psalm 40:1-2: "I waited patiently for God to help me, then he listened and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair."
- Lamentations 3:5: "The Lord is wonderfully good to those who wait for Him, to those who seek Him."
- Psalm 8:25: "If we keep trusting God for something that hasn't happened yet, it teaches us to wait patiently and comfortably."
- What is the meaning of the "to wait" in Isaiah 40:13? It means **BE PATIENT!** Don't be in such a hurry! **WAIT**, trust God, be ready to accept His answer.

### **WE ARE CALLED TO RENEW OUR STRENGTH**

- The verse says, "wait on the Lord...renew our strength." God has compared us to the eagle - the strongest and most powerful bird. With their sharp talons (feet), eagles can carry huge loads and still fly high.
- Each one of us has carried heavy burdens and heartaches in our lives. We have two choices: let them completely devastate us or, like the eagle, handle the burden but keep on flying, keep on living, renew our strength by relying on God's strength!
- That doesn't mean there will be no tears, no anguish, no sorrow. It means God cares and will help!
- Matthew 11:28: "Jesus said, 'Come to ME, all of you who are heavily burdened, I will give you rest!'"
- What is the meaning of "renew our strength" in Isaiah 40:13? It means we can trust our God who can and will give us strength, comfort and peace we need.

### **WE ARE CALLED TO RENEW OUR ENDURANCE**

- The verse says, “wait on the Lord, renew our strength, to run and walk and not be weary or faint.” God created the eagle to be strong and powerful and do what eagles do. The eagle stops and rests and RENEWS its endurance, its ability to keep on keeping on being what an eagle is supposed to be and do, but it never quits! Another reason why God identifies us as His Christian eagles!
- You and I need to renew our resolve, our determination to “keep on keeping on” being what God has created us to be...to be strong Eagle Christians who live continually, even when it is difficult, being and doing what God want us to be and do.
- Whatever our ages, whatever our circumstances, like the eagle, WE DO NOT QUIT!
- We, with personal prayer and with learning and knowing God’s Word, we keep on renewing our endurance so that we don’t get weary of being God’s people.
- With personal love and thanksgiving to our Lord, be Christian Eagles who keep on serving Him.

### CONCLUSION

- In Isaiah 40:31, we are called to be God’s strong eagle Christian Eagles, not to be content to live the chicken-life in the barnyard!
- A barnyard Christian is you and me when our attitudes restrict us from being and doing anything God wants us to be and do.
- A barnyard-chicken-life-attitude is unkind, selfish, muleish, angry, inconsiderate, resentful. Lord, we don’t want to be like that!
- We want to live as the strong, majestic eagles who flies and minds its own business, flies even when it is hurt, and in a storm of life, spreads its powerful wings, flies up over the clouds, and then glides and soars above the storm.
- THE CHICKEN LIFE IS FLIGHTY AND FEARFUL. THE EAGLE LIFE IS CALM AND UNAFRAID.
- In Isaiah 41:10, God says: “FEAR NOT, BE NOT DISMAYED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD, I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU, I WILL HELP YOU, I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND!”
- Close with prayer, asking God to help us be Christian Eagles who live our lives believing the truths of The Bible, waiting on God’s timing and His answers, leaning on Him for strength and endurance.

**CRAFT IDEA: COLOR A PICTURE OF AN EAGLE** *(Materials: colored picture of eagles shapes to color. Print one that shows the colors of the eagle, Choose and print one of the eagle shapes, and if necessary, enlarge to fit 8.5 x 11 paper. Copy an “eagle sheet” for each senior to color. Provide crayons or colored pencils.*

Give each person an eagle sheet to color. If you have a colored eagle picture, show it. However, allow each person to use whatever color they choose. As they color their pictures, enjoy conversations about eagles and “eagle Christians.” Some may choose to write the scripture reference, “Isaiah 40:13,” on their page. Some may choose to copy the words and the scripture reference on their page.