



# Home Connection

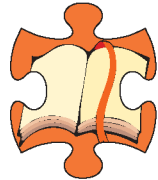
The Week of  
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## Columbia Life Church – Adults

**Home Connection** is a weekly publication that helps families practice their faith through the week.

### This Week's Connections:

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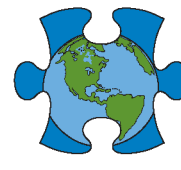
**BIBLE**



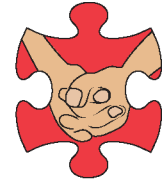
**DEVOTION**



**GIVING**



**NEIGHBOR**



**PRAYER**



## Bible Connection: Mark 6:53-56

### Read: Mark 6:53-56

This passage illustrates how news about Jesus had spread and His popularity was at its highest point. It's during this time when Jesus challenged His disciples about their motives for following Him. John's gospel it reports that during this time many of Jesus' disciples stopped following Him.

But He was still sought out by the sick and hurting people who were desperate for hope. They came from everywhere so that they might have a chance to be healed. In fact it tells us that People brought them to the

places where Jesus was about to go so that they could reach out and touch His clothes as He walked by.

There are a few things to notice here. The compassion of those who brought the sick to Jesus is amazing. In order for them to go to where Jesus was they had to literally carry the sick. There weren't any ambulances, or buses. They didn't get vacation days or paid time off. There wasn't anything convenient about it. But they brought them.

Then because there were so many there wasn't any possibility for Jesus to spend time with them every one of

them. But God in His mercy provided a way for them to be healed. If they could just touch His clothes they would be healed. They had most likely heard about the woman who had touched Him and been healed, so now, in faith they reached out themselves.

Compassion and faith can create powerful opportunities.

### Discuss:

1. Read Matthew 20:29-34. Discuss how compassion and faith work together in this passage to create a powerful moment.



## Devotion Connection (Family Communion)

### Read: Romans 3:23-24

One of the most difficult aspects of the English language is that a given word may take one several shades of meaning, depending entirely on the context. Take, for instance, the word "substitute:" One meaning is that of an alternative – two equal and interchangeable items. For example, swapping a blue car for an otherwise identical red car at a rental agency. Another possibility is an artificial substitute – as in a sugar substitute for your coffee. Not really interchangeable, but used for the same purpose, sweetening your coffee. Sometimes we use the word

to mean a counterfeit or imitation, as a thief might substitute a copy of a painting for the real thing.

None of these meanings touches on the Christian use of the word – which is a vicarious substitute, Christ at the cross, dying in our place. Satan certainly likes to baffle us with other meanings of "substitute." For example, we have: "All religions are equally true" – so anything would be a substitute for the true faith.

The real use of substitution is what Christ did for us on the Cross. Please note these two things: First, He did what we could not do – atone for our sins. Only the sinless man could do that.

He is our necessary substitute. Second, he didn't do it for Himself, but for us. He did it on our behalf, because of His great love for us.

At Communion we remember this. Christ commands those who love Him to remember His sacrifice at the Cross. Accept no substitutes

Adapted from  
<http://www.becomingcloser.org/>



## Neighbor Connection

Summer time means outdoor opportunities are abundant.

### Cart it!

Here's an idea that everyone can do.

Next time you go to the store watch for a busy mom, or someone who needs a hand and offer to help them with their cart or take their cart to the cart corral for them.

Times like this could be an opportunity to share the compassion of Jesus with someone who needs Him.

Remember, it doesn't have to be a hard thing for you to do to be a big deal to someone else. Small acts of compassion can add up to very big blessings to those you reach out to help.



## Prayer Connection

This month have your family pray for our military personnel who are serving to protect and preserve our freedom!

### Church Family Prayer:

Here are the families to pray for this week:

Monday: Shinault family

Tuesday: Barbara Olson

Wednesday: Cliff Parrish; John Robideau

Thursday: Reinhart family

Friday: Wright family

Saturday: Rowell family

Sunday: Pastor's family

On the day a family is listed take a few moments and lead your family in a prayer for that family, and on the

day your family is listed take some time and pray for the church leadership.

**Hint:** Dinner time is a good time to do this.



## Giving Connection (reckless compassion)

**This month our special reckless compassion emphasis is BridgeTown Ministries.**

BridgeTown Ministries serves the people of Portland is through two primary ministries: NightStrike and BTown Kids.

NightStrike is a weekly outreach to the homeless population in downtown Portland.

They provide food, clothing, and areas for personal care, but most importantly they provide relationships between Jesus followers and people who need Him. Volunteering to serve is very easy and life changing.

**Join us for NightStrike on Friday July 24!**

BTown Kids: Every Saturday, the BTown Kids

team loads up their truck and goes out into the community of North Portland to love on children. This fast paced, exciting, high energy sidewalk adventure program is designed to provide children with a Christ centered approach to living life.

For more information or to volunteer to help contact Shinji Mae

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