



Under God's Care

Noticing that our gate that leads to the front driveway was open, I quickly ran to shut and secure it. It has been some time since I have had to pay attention to such things. But now, guarding the access to the street is essential. I have a new puppy at my house who is eager to explore the yard, and given the chance, the world. How quickly I had forgotten the many new demands that a puppy brings. Of course, I hadn't forgotten the joys, which far outweigh the responsibilities.

There are things to look out for again—gardens not to be disturbed, mushrooms not to eat, foods that spill on the floor. There are cabinets and tables and slippers that shouldn't be chewed, as well as dangerous things like wires that must be avoided. There are schedules to be kept—eating, sleeping, going outside. Training in obedience is good for our pets; it helps to keep them safe while they are under our care and makes them safer for others.

The readings this quarter spent a lot of time focusing on prophets' warnings for the consequences of a wayward people. We read about the faith of those who had gone before us, who though not perfect, strove to follow God's voice. 1 Kings tells of the quick decline of a whole nation who forgot their first love. Then, in Mark, we walk with Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, and learn who he is as he calls his disciples to follow him.

My prayer is that these readings have brought you back to your early days of faith. Let's renew our commitment to those things we have learned that keep us safe from harm and bring us the most joy, honoring and submitting to the One whose care we are under.

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