

Illustrated Bible Life

Preparation

As I write this editorial this quarter, I am preparing for my annual trip out West to see my family. After making a number of trips, I have learned what to bring—and what to leave behind, though I don't always heed that instinct. For instance, I've learned not to bring extra clothes, because I can wash what I bring while I'm there, but somehow, I always manage to have too many anyways!

I'm the sort who likes to bring the fixings for sandwiches and lots of fruit and vegetables so that I don't have to look for food on the road. Not that I don't enjoy trying new foods; it just isn't always easy to find it in some of the more remote areas along the way. A good sandwich with salad and fruit makes the perfect lunch on the go. Over the years, I've learned which foods travel well—and which I will actually eat!—and which don't.

I have a harder time trying to keep from bringing too many extras with me—books I won't get around to reading, for instance. I have carried hobby items with me in the past—yarn for knitting, and materials for painting—but have learned I almost never do anything like that on a road trip. Those kinds of activities—reading, knitting, painting, and drawing—require leisure and energy, something I never have when I am traveling by car.

What I do like to do is stop and take short hikes or visit museums or historical sites. Those kinds of activities use up all my extra energy and leisure time, so there is no sitting around a hotel room after dinner trying to think up what to do. I'm usually quite ready for bed at the end of a long day of travel!

The most important part of preparation for my travels, however, is prayer. I always like to get together with the two friends who watch my cats and house for me while I am gone before the trip. We usually have dinner and then I show them all the stuff they already know, having helped me out for many years.

However, the best part of the evening is when they are getting ready to leave, and we pause to pray. Praying to our Father in the company of good friends in Christ is one of the many blessings God has given us.

This quarter, we'll be looking at some of the great prayers of the Bible, and then engaging with the book of Revelation. I'm sure I don't have to tell you how important prayer is to the process of preparing to teach each quarter!