



fledgeSM
flĕj: to grow the plummage necessary for flight



Lost Words (part 1)

While I was sitting in a wooded park this evening, three boys around age 7 rolled up on their bikes to the market in the campground. They went in the store and back out again, talking in excited, disjointed phrases. Then the mother of one of the boys rode up on her bike with urgency and a firm face, “Where’s your brother!?”

“He’s at the campsite,” said the boy distractedly.

“No, he isn’t. I was just there.” Her eyes scanned the picnic tables where I was sitting.

“Mommy, come see this thing in the store!” said the boy.

“I need to find your brother!” She leaned her bike against the fence, sighed and looked up the road.

“But come see this thing I like in the store!” the boy insisted.

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“But come see this thing I like in the store!” the boy insisted.

The mother turned reluctantly toward the store, stepping in with her son. Soon she was out again and on her cell. I glanced at her with a knowing look, to say I understood the situation.

Thirty seconds later, she hung up her cell. Her shoulders dropped. “They found him!”

“Where was he?” said the boy, mounting his child’s bicycle again.

“I don’t know. Let’s go!” And they pedaled away.

Something fixated this child enough to remain unconcerned for his brother. Any number of tragic scenarios could have befallen the lost boy, but this kid running in and out with his helmet on seemed unmoved by the urgency and seriousness of a missing child. He wanted his mother’s attention for a trinket in the camp shop.

The parable was for me. We fixate on many lesser things in life, thinking they are the more important. We love the immediate moving of our senses at the



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expense of deliberately ignoring the more permanent things of love, family and our own souls.

You may despair that God isn't paying attention to your life, when all the while he wonders why you aren't paying attention to the most important things in our own life.

God wonders why you aren't paying attention to the important things in your own life.

If you are a teen you may be very preoccupied with who you should date or marry,

while God is teaching you to do life well regardless of being married or single.

You may worry about the future and run to the morning horoscope, meanwhile God may be teaching you about Providence and how he's working in ways too big and surprising for the stars to tell.

Many hold misconceptions about God and their place in his creation without really pressing into them and seeing if they even make sense. Yet God has made himself available if we but spend our time and our literacy in conversations with books and neighbors to pursue the best things about being human.



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Like the boy at the campground, we don't want to be left clueless and unconcerned, fixated with trinkets, when more meaningful things are available to us.

This series in *fledge* is about lost words. We go about using them all the time in our conversations and reading them in the Scriptures, yet we may not pay attention to them or know what they really mean. How do words like sin, faith, glory and love fit into a meaningful life? The first word we will examine is a small but unpopular word called "sin." In the next issue, let's breathe some new life into that word. We don't have to fear it but use it to more deeply understand the health and goodness of our souls.

**Got questions/comments?
Feel free to email us.**

or

**Join us for Ask! LIVE Wednesdays 6-9PM pacific
Bring any question or puzzling life situation**



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