

## Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 1:4-20

*Although the world is full of suffering,  
it is also full of the overcoming of it. —Helen Keller*

One night last spring, the residents of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo were frightened by noise ... big noise. They knew what it meant. Mount Nyiragongo was erupting again after being silent for 19 years. In 2002, the volcano blew up, killing 250 people and making 120,000 homeless. Now it was happening again!

A mass evacuation began, but fortunately, this time no one died during the eruption, but there was considerable damage to thousands of homes.

It is terrifying when one is forced to leave one's home. This happens in California almost every year when wildfires run rampant through the hills and countryside.

Sometimes a fire strikes a nursing home, and residents have to be evacuated quickly.

Here's a question for you: *If you had three minutes to get out of your home, whether it is a room in a care facility or a big house, what would you grab on your way out?*

Perhaps you wouldn't grab anything. Above all else, you value your *life*, so you would make certain that you got to a place of safety as quickly as possible!

But many people are tempted to take something with them. It is an understandable impulse. Perhaps there's a cherished photo album, a box of jewelry, an original oil painting, a book of poetry or a Bible that needs to be saved. Or maybe, the first thought in an emergency evacuation is about your mobile phone, or a laptop if you have one. Perhaps there's a shoebox of love letters from years gone by that must be saved. Don't forget the wad of cash you've been saving in a mayonnaise jar!

What we take with us in such an emergency reveals something about our values.

The authorities who direct evacuations in emergencies warn us not to take anything. If there is a crisis on an airplane, for example, passengers are sternly admonished not to leave the airplane with a suitcase or bag. Leave it where it is!

This is a reminder, that someday we will leave everything behind. For what is death, but an evacuation of this mortal body, when we leave it to be with the Lord?

When it is time for this evacuation, the question is not what we will take with us, but what are we leaving behind for others? One would hope that we will leave an example, a template, a model of how to live on this earth with gentleness and grace, kindness and a forgiving spirit. For these are the things that make the life of anyone who possesses them rich indeed!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Gracious and loving God, I pray for those who are in crisis right now around the world, for those in danger of losing everything. Bring help to them and comfort them in their time of loss. And I thank you for providing for my daily needs. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

*Blessings on Stewardship Sunday!  
Leja & Pastor Ben Note*

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** Hebrews 1-4

**Monday:** Hebrews 5-7

**Tuesday:** Hebrews 8-10

**Wednesday:** Hebrews 11-13

**Thursday:** Philemon; 1 Peter 1-2

**Friday:** 1 Peter 3-5

**Saturday:** Psalms 133-135

*Verse to Remember*

*Now faith is the assurance of  
things hoped for, the  
conviction of things not seen.*

—Hebrews 11:1



November

## Blue and blew; Mail and male

**Directions:** A homophone is a word that sounds the same as another English word (like blue and mail in the title above), but both its meaning and its spelling are different. Each sentence below contains a pair of homophones. See if you can do this exercise without peeking at the word list below.

1. A house helper is a \_\_\_\_\_, but it sounds like \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A couple might be called a \_\_\_\_\_, but it sounds like this fruit \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If you are correct, you are \_\_\_\_\_, but it definitely sounds like \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Although it sounds like \_\_\_\_\_, a person who is not strong is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The flesh you eat is called \_\_\_\_\_, but please, don't eat the people you \_\_\_\_\_!
6. The square root of 64 is \_\_\_\_\_, but don't try to spell it as \_\_\_\_\_.
7. There's a large animal called a \_\_\_\_\_; without its fur it would be \_\_\_\_\_.
8. My daughter's brother is my \_\_\_\_\_, although a lot of people spell it \_\_\_\_\_.
9. A witness guaranteed he had \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. You can only \_\_\_\_\_ if you listen; you can only stay if you're already \_\_\_\_\_.

**Word List:** ate, son, made, bear, pair, right, meat, seen, write, week, here, meet, eight, maid, bare, sun, scene, pear, hear, weak.

## ALPHABET TEST!

Use all of the letters in the alphabet to complete these words:

b a \_\_\_ a i n; l \_\_\_ g e r; d y \_\_\_ s t y; \_\_\_ g o t e; s a \_\_\_ a t i o n; d i \_\_\_ p a n; p u m \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ i n; d e \_\_\_ a y; b o \_\_\_ a r; d i \_\_\_ i t; s u n \_\_\_ r n; o b l \_\_\_ u e; l i \_\_\_ o f f.

**Answers: Blue and blew; Mail and male:** 1. maid, made; 2. pair, pear; 3. right, write; 4. week, weak; 5. meat, meet; 6. eight, ate; 7. bear, bare; 8. son, sun; 9. seen, scene; 10. hear, here. **Alphabet Test:** baRGain, lODger, dyNasty, ZYgote, saLVation, diSHpan, pumPKin, deEJay, boXCar, diMWit, sunBUrn, oblIQue, liFToff.