

Skipping Pebbles on the Lake

A small, clear, fresh-water lake on the farm where I lived in my childhood days was one of my favorite places.

It was where my father showed me about fishing, and how to swim. Those are special memories that resonate in my mind all these years later.

Early in the morning, the lake was usually very still – no animals, no people, no noise, except for the mockingbirds that practiced their wide range of songs to greet the sunrise.

This was the best time, I learned, to skip rocks. To my amazement, my father took a small, flat pebble and threw it at the right angle. It skipped across the water, leaving circles of ripples every time it made contact with the water.

The ripples formed small and much-defined circles at first, then they spread out and broke apart until they vanished. Imagine a little boy's joy when I discovered that I could do it, too.



If several people skip rocks at the same time, the ripples cross one another and blend together to make mini-waves across the lake. It can be a sight to behold!

I wish it were possible to go back to those days, to that lake, to spend time with my father skipping pebbles.

There is a spiritual lesson here: spending time alone with our heavenly Father early in the morning.

For most of us in Life Care and Century Park, mornings quickly fill with many needs that require our attention, and we find it difficult to spend time alone with God. Jesus set a marvelous example for us, however, by rising early to listen to God.

If we make no time for this quiet morning pause with God – whether alone or in standup meetings with the team – we usually find there is no opportunity for it during the day. “Maybe tomorrow,” we think, but often tomorrow never comes for that.

Spending time with God at the beginning of each day, we are joined afresh with Him and reflect His image in our lives. And throughout the day, the ripple effect of our time with Him in the early morning influences not only our lives but those with whom we have contact.

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When those ripples – like out on the lake – blend with others who spend time with God, we create mini-waves of love and joy.

It all starts with a quiet time and a gentle ripple.

O, God, Thou art my God, early will I seek Thee (Psalm 63:1 KJV).

– Beecher Hunter