

## Snow Lessons

Having missed being together in the Lord yesterday (December 19), I got to thinking about lessons from the blizzard of 2009, and previous storms our family has survived.

Lesson 1: Be well stocked on food items, all the time. If the item is small, keep two on hand, one unopened, with one in reserve. When you empty the opened one, immediately put that item on your grocery list.

Lesson 2: If bad weather is predicted, purchase the staples you will sorely miss if you run out, like milk, bread, eggs, soup, hot cocoa, gas for the car, and if you have kids, the ingredients for making cookies.

Lesson 3: Be well stocked for things to do if stuck inside. Visit the library for books, magazines, movies. Set up a table with a jigsaw puzzle.

Lesson 4: Have a “powers off” plan. If you have a fireplace, bring some wood inside, stored in garbage bags. If you have a propane heater, make sure you have a full bottle of gas, or several if using small ones. During the storm, keep your heat higher than normal. If the power is out only a few hours, the extra warmth will help.

Make sure you have extra layers of clothes to wear if the power is out overnight, like long underwear, sweaters, sweatpants to pull over jeans, knit hats, etc. Partner with friends or relatives to come over, if one or the other loses power for more than a few hours. Make sure you have gas for the camp stove or fuel for the grill so you can heat water or soup.

Lesson 5: Purchase clothes and boots to remain dry outside in ice and rain. Make sure you have these with you if you have to leave home.

(Perhaps you have some advice from storm lessons you have learned. Email them to the church and I'll include them when this is put on our website.)

While we often hear of possible storms, by Thursday of last week it was fairly certain that we would receive at least a foot of snow. That meant changing our agendas for Thursday and Friday and preparing for Saturday. Sometimes the weather guys are wrong, but my experience says that I will be happier if I am prepared and nothing happens, than if I am not prepared and something does happen.

I urge you to be prepared for another life-changing event. Jesus told us He will return one day. While we do not know the day or date, we would be wise to heed His words and be prepared. That is what Jesus warns us of in Matthew 24:42 and following. So whatever else is on your agenda this week, make sure that you are making preparations for the return of our Lord.