My sister, Jennifer came to Alaska with her four youngest children this week. There is so much work to do with the shows from Alaska that it is nice to have them to help. It is their first time in Alaska so we didn't waste any time. We worked and then used every minute to see and experience Alaska. We fished, went to the temple, went to Homer, we went to Seward and we went looking for animals in the evenings. We did as much as we could do. Jennifer is the event planner for Sew Yeah and since she loved Alaska so much, I'm sure some upcoming retreats will be scheduled here...lol



When we were on the boat this week, I have had a lot of thoughts about a custom in Argentina. They drink a herbal tea called Mate. It is a wonderful tradition where a single cup with a straw is passed to one person for a drink, then refilled and prepared for the next person. Each person likes their mate a little bit different, so each cup is prepared

slightly different. Now the custom to me was really amazing, not so much passing a straw around for everyone to drink off it...

In our family, we all have our own mate cups but sit together to enjoy it. There are many different kinds of Mate, I like one called Andresito. When Ray and I got to Alaska, he pulled a bag of Mate out that we had left in a bucket the last few months. It was terrible! I handed it to him and he said, "you must have accidentally spilled some dish soap in it." I had dropped the soap earlier that day in our motorhome, but I didn't see how I could have done that. I threw it all away and started again. Upon trying it I said "Ray it's terrible. It tastes like soap." A look came over his face and he said "I put this bag of mate in a bucket next to the laundry soap. Is it possible it has taken on the smell of it?" It had. The entire bag, a large bag I might add, lol it had to be thrown away. The taste of soap had overpowered the mate.

I've been thinking about this all week. This is so true in life. Sitting next to someone / something long enough, rubs off on you. Who we choose to be around impacts the way we think and act. My grandkids have done school via zoom this week. When one is paying close attention and focused on their work, the other tends to do the same. We can be an example to others and if we are like minded, they will be an example for us.



## **New Testament**

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

## 1 Timothy 4:12

12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity

## **Book of Mormon**

Alma 41:14

14 Therefore my son, see that you are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously; and do good continually; and if ye do all these things then shall ye receive your reward...

These are the kind of people I want to be around and associate with. Those that try to do good in all things. Those who are grateful and strive to do their best. I hope that we all choose friends that will truly lift us.

A few of my cute friends...



With love, Leslie

So I had a lot of fun with my sister this week. Jennifer has wanted to see a bear the entire trip. She has talked about it and watched for bears when we were driving etc. On the last day she was here, we spotted a black bear. Ray turned around as the bear headed up into the trees. The bear stopped and sat looking at us for a few minutes. He was pretty far away but Jennifer was thrilled. She wants to get close enough to snuggle him...lol She really wanted to see another and if only she could see a grizzly...



The next morning after she left I sent her this picture. Immediate text came back SERIOUSLY? Followed up with texting saying they had missed him, how much she wants to see one etc. She texted "did you just see him?" My response "yes, in the zoo...lol." I am still laughing! And she still thinks "it was messed up." Ray kept laughing and said "now that is just wrong!"



## Lots of fun this week...



Rayden, Mercy, Iron and Joy



