1

SO THERE I WAS,

full of cheeseburger, sitting on the toilet. The porcelain throne. The john. In my office, so to speak, minding my business. I was trying to avoid my mom's friends from church who had taken over the living room. A full belly provided the excuse for privacy. I like going to the bathroom. It's like a little vacay from the family unit. I can think in here. I can read, like you're doing now. Sometimes I stay a little longer than I need too just to have some alone time or rock out in front of the mirror. Sometimes I talk to God. It's a great time to . . .

"Oh, I'M SO SORRY! I didn't realize you were in here, sweetie."

Oooooooohhh, bummer; I left the door open. Hope my mom's friend wasn't totally traumatized. Quick, look: did you shut the door?

The door is important. In a moment of hurried weakness, I had failed to engage the primary protective agent of the restroom experience. The imaginary barrier between self and family unfortunately requires shutting an actual, physical door. I'm sorry, me, I have let you down.

Reminds me of a note my mom stuck in my backpack last week. It had Matthew 6:5-15 on it. You can read the whole thing when you get out of here, but this is the part that I just remembered:

"But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matt. 6:6)

Going somewhere to be alone to pray helps me focus better on God. The bathroom is a great place for that. I don't always pray in here, but I should always shut the door. It's rule #1 for #2.

YOUR TURN

- **What do you think about prayer?**
- **What do you pray when you pray alone?**
- **Do you have special places you like to pray sometimes?**

Alright, you better get outta here. Ask your parent where they pray and what they like to pray about. And don't forget to flush!

It's possible that as many as one billion people in the world do not have a bathroom door.

Q: Why should you always remember to flush?
A: It's your doody.