

faith & family

Life Source

Family Devotions

Hopefully your preteen is beginning to develop a habit of personal devotions. But there are still plenty of times when your input is needed—and valued. Encourage your child to read the daily Scriptures. Read the verses yourself. Use the questions to help your preteen understand the verses and apply them to life. Discover and learn from God’s Word—together!

○ **SUNDAY**—Read James 5:13-15.

In what circumstances does James say that we should pray? What can result from praying in these circumstances?

○ **MONDAY**—Read James 5:16-18.

According to these verses, what kind of man was Elijah? What was Elijah able to accomplish by praying? What does this example show about the power prayer can have?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Philippians 4:4-7.

How does praying help us to develop attitudes of joy, gentleness, thankfulness, and peace? What circumstances does our family need to turn over to God in prayer?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Matthew 26:36-38.

Why do you think Jesus took only a few of His disciples with Him to pray? Have you ever felt the kind of sadness Jesus talked about in this passage? How can praying help us when we feel extremely sad?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Matthew 26:39-41.

What did the disciples do while Jesus was praying? How can praying keep us from falling into temptation?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Luke 6:12-16.

What decision did Jesus make in these verses? Where and how long did He pray before He made the decision? Why is it important for us to pray before making important decisions?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 2 Chronicles 7:12-15.

Under what conditions does God say that He will hear when people pray? What will be the result of their prayers?



POWER SURGE

Find these verses in the Bible.
Together, memorize the verses.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Matthew 6:5-8.
How does Jesus describe the way the hypocrites pray? Why do they pray that way? How does He tell us to pray?
- **MONDAY**—Read Matthew 6:9, 10.
In Jesus’ example of how to pray, what does He say about God? How does this help us know the way we should talk to God? What other things about God could we say in our prayers to tell Him how we feel about Him?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Matthew 6:11-15.
Do you think Jesus is talking only about bread in verse 11? What is the connection between our forgiving others and God forgiving us?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Matthew 9:35-38.
What does Jesus tell His disciples that they should ask the Lord? Why? How can our family be part of the answer to that prayer?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Luke 6:27-31.
Whom does Jesus say that we should pray for? Are there people in your life who fit into that category? We can pray that God will work in those people’s lives and in your relationship to them.
- **FRIDAY**—Read Ephesians 1:16-21.
Why do you think it was important to Paul that the Ephesians know God better? What friends or family members can we pray this prayer for?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Colossians 4:2-4.
What kind of prayer is Paul asking for? Who can we pray for regularly as they work to tell others about Jesus in this country or in another part of the world?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Luke 11:5-13.

What point do you think Jesus is making when He talks about the way friends and family members respond to requests? What promise about prayer is found in these verses?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Luke 18:1-8.

How many times did the widow have to take her request to the judge? What did Jesus want to teach His disciples through this story? When have you been tempted to give up on prayer?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Luke 18:9-14.

What differences do you see in the ways the Pharisee and the tax collector prayed? What kind of attitude should we have when we pray to God?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Mark 1:35-39.

Why do you think Jesus prayed at the time and in the place that He did? Are there times or places that can help us pray better?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Daniel 6:5-14.

What can you learn about Daniel’s prayer life from these verses? How did Daniel’s enemies try to use his praying against him? Have you ever felt as though someone was trying to challenge your prayer life?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Daniel 6:15-23.

How did God protect Daniel in the den of lions? When have you been faithful in prayer and felt that God protected you?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

What do these verses teach about God’s will for our lives? If you look at how much you pray, do you think you can call it “continually”?

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Romans 8:5-10.

What are the differences between people who are controlled by sin and those who are controlled by God’s Holy Spirit? When others look at our family, what kind of desires do they see in us?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Romans 15:13-17.

How do you think that the power of the Holy Spirit brings hope? Do you consider your life an “offering acceptable to God”? Why or why not?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

If you are a Christian, your body is “a temple of the Holy Spirit.” How should we treat our bodies differently because of this truth?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22.

What does it mean if someone puts a deposit on a house or a car? What is God guaranteeing when He puts His Holy Spirit in our hearts?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Galatians 5:16-25.

Look through the list of attitudes that are part of the Holy Spirit’s fruit. Do these attitudes describe our family? Are there attitudes or actions we need to get rid of so that the Holy Spirit can develop good fruit in our lives?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17.

Sanctify means to “set something apart for a special purpose.” What purpose has God set you apart for? Are you allowing Him to use you fully for that purpose?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18.

In what ways can the Holy Spirit bring freedom into your life? Do you see your life reflecting God’s glory through the presence of the Holy Spirit?

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Matthew 16:16-19.
What truth did Peter state that Jesus said His church would be built on? What does it mean to you to know that the church will not be overcome?
- **MONDAY**—Read John 4:21-26.
The Samaritan woman was worried about where to worship. What does Jesus say is more important? How does our worship show that we are worshipping “in spirit and in truth”?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Acts 2:42-47.
Does the description of the early church found in these verses sound like our congregation? What can our family do to be sure that our congregation is what God wants it to be?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Acts 10:25-36.
God wants to include everyone in His church. What are we doing to make sure everyone knows about Him? Do we have any prejudices that get in the way of our sharing His message?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Acts 11:19-26.
How was the church in Antioch a model that other churches can follow? Why do you think the disciples were first called Christians there?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Hebrews 10:19-25.
What does it mean to be able to “draw near to God”? Does our family take advantage as much as we should of opportunities provided to meet with others who love Jesus?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Ephesians 4:11-16.
What gifts has God given to members of our family that we can use to serve Him and others? How can we use our gifts more effectively in His church?

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Mark 14:12-16.
How closely did the disciples follow Jesus’ instructions for preparing the Passover meal? How should we follow Jesus’ instructions?
- **MONDAY**—Read Mark 14:17-21.
Have you ever felt hurt or sad because one of your friends did something behind your back? What happened? How do you think Jesus was feeling at this time, knowing that one of His friends would turn Him over to His enemies?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Mark 14:22-26.
What new meaning did Jesus give to the bread and the cup that He gave to His disciples? What does that tell us about the importance of the Lord’s Supper?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Luke 22:24-30.
What did Jesus teach His disciples about how to be the greatest? Do you ever struggle with wanting to be more important than others?
- **THURSDAY**—Read John 14:1-4.
How can trusting in God and Jesus keep our hearts from being troubled?
- **FRIDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 11:20-26.
What were the Corinthians doing wrong in their celebration of the Lord’s Supper? What is the right attitude to have when we participate in the Lord’s Supper?
- **SATURDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-34.
Why is it important to have a right relationship with God before we take the Lord’s Supper? What can we do to be sure we have those right relationships with God?

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Matthew 26:47-56.
Jesus called His betrayer “friend” and then allowed himself to be arrested, knowing that this had to happen for our salvation. What response should we have to this kind of love?
- **MONDAY**—Read Matthew 27:1, 2, 11-18.
The chief priests and elders were envious of the number of people who followed Jesus, so they determined to have Jesus killed. What have you done out of envy? Ask Jesus to forgive you.
- **TUESDAY**—Read Matthew 27:27-31.
Jesus knew how his trial would end; yet He took the torture without striking back. Have you ever been part of a crowd who “tortured” and made fun of someone? Pray for all those involved.
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Matthew 27:50-56.
What do you think the women were thinking as they witnessed the events of Jesus’ death? What is your reaction when you read about Jesus’ death?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Matthew 27:57-66.
Why did the chief priests ask Pilate to secure the tomb? Did their plan work?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Matthew 28:1-10; John 20:10-16.
We sometimes take Jesus’ power for granted. Thank God for what He has done for us.
- **SATURDAY**—Read Matthew 28:11-15.
Even after His resurrection, the chief priests and elders refused to admit that Jesus was God’s Son and had risen from the dead. What is your response to Jesus’ sacrifice? How can we honor Jesus with our lives?



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1 Corinthians 15:57

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read John 12:1-6.

What do we know about Jesus’ relationship with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus? (See also Luke 10:38-42 and John 11.) Why do you think Mary and Judas felt so differently about Mary’s gift to Jesus?

○ **MONDAY**—Read John 12:7-11.

What did Jesus say about what Mary had done for Him? What can we do to show Jesus how we feel about Him?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read John 12:12-15.

If you had been on the streets of Jerusalem, what would you have shouted? How would you have described Jesus to others who didn’t know Him?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read John 12:16-19.

What actions and attributes of Jesus drew people to Him? Why do you think the Pharisees were so worried about the people’s response to Jesus? What draws you to Jesus?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Matthew 21:28-31.

In Jesus’ parable, how did the two sons respond to what their father asked them to do? Which son are you more like?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Matthew 25:31-40.

What do these verses teach about showing Jesus how much we love Him? What is our family doing for others that demonstrates our love for Jesus? What more can we do?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Matthew 16:13-17.

In what ways did people describe who Jesus was? What was Peter’s answer? What is your answer?



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- **SUNDAY**—Read John 20:1-9.
What evidence of Jesus’ resurrection did Peter and the other disciple see when they got to the tomb? What would you have believed if you had been in the same situation?
- **MONDAY**—Read John 20:19-23.
Why do you think Jesus said, “Peace be with you!” when He came to the disciples? When have you felt at peace knowing Jesus is with you?
- **TUESDAY**—Read John 20:24-31.
What proof did Thomas want that Jesus was alive? How does the fact that Thomas was convinced of Jesus’ resurrection, in spite of his doubts, make his testimony stronger?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.
Why do you think Paul (the writer of these verses) considers the events mentioned here as being of “first importance”? How do these facts affect your belief that Jesus is alive?
- **THURSDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-26.
This passage says that when Christ returns, He will overcome death. How should this fact change the way we live? How can it change the way we view death?
- **FRIDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-57.
According to these verses, what is the difference between our earthly bodies and the ones we’ll have in Heaven? In what ways does Jesus give us victory?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Philippians 3:7-11.
What things in our lives seem so important to us that they tend to pull our attention away from Jesus? How can we keep these things in perspective so that we can know the full power of our relationship with Jesus?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read John 3:16-21.

What was God’s purpose in sending Jesus into the world? What is the result of believing in Jesus? What is the result of not believing in Him?

○ **MONDAY**—Read John 10:10-18.

How does Jesus describe His reason for coming to earth? What do you think it means to have life “to the full”? In what ways do you see that Jesus is like a shepherd?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read 1 John 3:1-6.

What does it mean to you to say that you are a “child of God”? How does it demonstrate God’s love that He made us His children? How should our lives change because of the hope Jesus gives us?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read 1 John 4:7-12.

What is the greatest example of love? How does God’s love affect us? How should our love reflect God’s love for us?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read 1 John 5:11-13.

What does “eternal life” mean to you? Why is it important to know that we have eternal life? Why is it important to share the story of Jesus with others?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Romans 6:5-10.

When we “die with Christ,” it means that we don’t live the way the world does. How does it help us to know that Jesus gives us power over sin?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Romans 8:10-14.

In what ways should our lives change when the Holy Spirit lives in us? (See Galatians 5:22, 23.) In what circumstances do you think you need to allow the Holy Spirit to lead you more?



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Acts 4:12

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Matthew 4:18-22.
What was the response of the men who Jesus called to follow Him? What would you have done if Jesus called you that way?
- **MONDAY**—Read Acts 2:37-42.
When Peter finished telling the people about Jesus, how did they respond? Are there things in your life that need to change as you respond to Jesus?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Matthew 10:32-39.
What does Jesus promise if we make Him the most important authority in our lives? Does our family need to move anything out of the way to give Jesus first place?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Acts 16:25-34.
What did the jailer see in the lives of Paul and Silas that made him want to change? What do you think other people might see in our family that would make them want to follow Jesus?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Joshua 24:14-17.
What choice did Joshua present to the people? How is this choice like the choices we have to make every day?

- **FRIDAY**—Read 2 Timothy 2:1-6.
Paul compares the life of a Christian to a good soldier, an athlete in a competition, and a hardworking farmer. What can we learn from the examples of these people?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Romans 10:9-15.
According to this passage, each of us needs to believe in Jesus and confess that belief to others. Then we need to tell others the good news of Jesus. Who can we tell about Jesus?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Job 1:6-12.

What can we learn about Job from these verses?
How does the description of Job in verse 8 compare with how God might describe our family?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Job 1:13-20.

What was taken away from Job? Do you think our family would continue to worship God if something like this happened to us? Why or why not?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Job 2:7-10.

Why do you think Job’s wife reacted the way she did? What does Job’s response tell you about his understanding of God? Which would be harder for you, losing all you had or being sick?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Job 42:10-15.

Why do you think Job’s relatives and friends waited until his troubles were over before they came to comfort him? When is it appropriate to give someone “alone time” to process grief or loss? Is there someone our family needs to reach out and comfort?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Psalm 9:7-10.

What do these verses tell you about who God is and how He cares about the people He made? How does it help you to know that God is in control of everything?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Psalm 71:19-21.

What problems has God helped our family through? Are there problems He is helping us through now? How can we praise Him for what He does for us?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11.

When has our family been under a lot of pressure? What do these verses teach us about the importance of hope and prayer during tough times?

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read John 9:1-5.

What question did the apostles ask about the man who was born blind? How do you think Jesus’ response changed the way they looked at the man?

○ **MONDAY**—Read John 9:6-12.

How did Jesus heal the man who was blind? What would you have thought if you had been one of the man’s neighbors or a person who had seen the man before he was healed?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read John 9:26-33.

In what ways did the Pharisees try to make Jesus look bad? What did the man who had been blind say in response? Have you ever had to take a stand for Jesus?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Acts 3:1-10.

What did Peter give to the man who could not walk? What could our family give in the name of Jesus to someone who is in need?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Acts 4:5-12.

Who does Peter recognize as the only source of true power and salvation? How is God’s power at work in our family?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Ephesians 3:14-21.

What did Paul pray for the Ephesians? What can we learn from these verses about praying for others and ourselves?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

What can we learn from these verses about God’s help in enduring ongoing problems? What should be our attitude toward such problems?

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