

10 Day Family Devotional

Devotional Excerpts taken from "NIV Once a Day at the Table Family Devotional"



Day 1



Start your devotional time with prayer. Take turns having a different family member pray each day.

Devotional:

In 1 Samuel 13:14, God describes David as “a man after [God’s] own heart.” One of the ways that King David sought God was through prayer. David’s conversations with God were notable.

In Psalm 5, we find three clues to David’s prayer success. The first is found in the words, “*In the morning.*” David didn’t pray whenever he felt like it; he prayed every day. More specifically, he prayed every morning. He dedicated the first part of his day to God.

The second clue is found in the words, “*I lay my requests before you.*” David wasn’t shy about telling God what he needed. He approached God with confidence, the way he would approach a friend. He shared what was going on in his life and what he thought he needed.

The third clue is found in the words, “*wait expectantly.*” David didn’t drop his requests at the Lord’s door and then go on his way. He waited for God’s response. Sometimes God said “yes”; sometimes God said “no.” Either way, David listened to God.

If you want to be a person after God’s own heart, you need to devote yourself to prayer as David did.

Question:

When do you usually pray to God? If you don’t have a regular habit, what would be the best time to have your prayer time?

Verse:

'Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord . Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.' Psalms 5:3

End with Worship:

Song:Freight Train by Circuit Riders, find it on Youtube with lyrics

Day 2



Start your devotional time with prayer. Take turns having a different family member pray each day.

Devotional:

Devotion is the word we use to describe participating in a short Bible study and discussion, like the one we're having now. But the word devotion also refers to the attitude that drives us to seek God.

To be devoted means to be dedicated. And in this verse, David is telling his son Solomon to wholeheartedly dedicate himself to God. King David knew that people can't halfheartedly serve God.

When we do serve God with wholehearted devotion, God will reward us. When we make him the focus of our lives, he will bless us. That's his promise. The more devoted we become, the more he blesses us.

To devote our life to God means that we live completely for him. It means that we live our life to please and honor him. We seek him, worship him and love him — with our whole heart.

Question:

- Is there something in your life that you give more of your time and devotion to than you do God?

Scripture:

'And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the Lord sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.' 1 Chronicles 28:9

End with Worship:

Song: Let Go by Hillsong Young and Free, find on Youtube with lyrics



* Start your devotional time with prayer. Take turns having a different family member pray each day.

Devotional:

How much can we learn about people by observing them? If we followed someone around for a day, we would quickly learn what food that person likes to eat, what music they listen to and what makes them laugh. We would be able to see what that person read, who their friends were and how they spent money. Before long, we would be able to give a full report on our subject.

What if someone followed you around for a day? What might they learn about you? What would your daily choices say about you? How long would it take your observer to figure out that you're a Christian?

There's an old expression that says, "If you were on trial for being a follower Christ, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" What would you say to that? Is there evidence in your life that you have been transformed?

Question:

- What is something that you do or say that helps people know that you belong to Jesus?

Scripture:

'And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.' Romans 12:12

End with Worship:

Song: What a Beautiful Name by Hillsong Worship, find on Youtube with lyrics



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Devotional:

If you ask someone, “What were you put on this earth to do?” chances are you’ll find out what that person likes to do: “I was put on this earth to play soccer.” Or you might find out what that person feels responsible to do: “I was put on this earth to take care of my family.” But neither answer is correct. As human beings, we were created for one purpose: to give glory to God.

That means worship — and that’s what God wants from us more than anything. The Israelites discovered how important worship is to God. When King David announced that he was building a temple where the people could worship God, the Israelites leapt at the chance to be a part of it. They gave the best of everything they had to use in the construction. They devoted themselves to worship. As a result, God blessed their nation with peace, wealth and respect among the other nations of the world.

God is pleased by our worship and blesses us. Receiving his blessing gives us cause to worship him more, which gives him reason to bless us more. It’s a beautiful cycle!

Question:

- Why does God want our worship?

Scripture:

‘The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord, and King David was filled with joy.’ 1 Chronicles 29:9

End with Worship:

Song: Deep Cries Out by Bethel Kids, find on Youtube



Start your devotional time with prayer. Take turns having a different family member pray each day.

Devotional:

We live in a complicated world. We will face complicated decisions. Fortunately for us, we have a resource we can use. God, the source of all wisdom, invites us to share our dilemmas with him. He makes his wisdom available to us.

In order to take full advantage of the opportunity, though, we first need to empty ourselves of our own "wisdom." Sometimes when we ask for advice, we have already made up our minds, and we're just looking for someone to agree with us. That might work with friends, but not with God. If we're going to tap into his wisdom, we need to forget about what we want or what we think should happen. We need to let him guide us.

If you're not sure how to recognize God's voice, try talking to him from different perspectives about the situation you're facing. Talk about the pros, the reasons you should do something. Then talk about the cons, the reasons you shouldn't do it. Let him work in your heart and mind to help you realize which direction is best.

If you really want God's wisdom, just ask him for it.

Question:

- How do you think the Holy Spirit helps us make decisions?

Scripture:

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.
James 1:5

Question:

- How do you think the Holy Spirit helps us make decisions?

End with Worship:

Song: Only King Forever by Elevation Worship, find on Youtube



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Devotional:

In order to acquire knowledge, we must be open to new ideas. If people weren't open to new ideas, consider the following repercussions:

All movies would still be in black and white.
We would still be writing letters instead of texting.
Computers would still be the size of refrigerators.

Thankfully, many who have gone before us have been open to new ideas. In Proverbs 18, King Solomon tells us that being open to new ideas is also important in our spiritual lives.

This can be a challenge sometimes. It's easier for us to stay in our comfort zones, to hang out with people who act, think and believe like we do. New ideas can be disruptive and uncomfortable. They challenge us to look at the world, other people and ourselves in ways we may not want to. But new ideas also stretch us and help us grow. That's why wise believers are open to new ideas. If you want to be wise, surround yourself with God-honoring people who challenge you. Push yourself to read different kinds of books than you would normally choose. Ask God to open your eyes to new ways of thinking that give you more insight into his truth.

Question:

- What do you think God's destiny or plan for your life is?

Scripture:

"Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge." Proverbs 18:15

End with Worship:

Over and Over by Chris McClarney, find on Youtube



Day 7

Start your devotional time with prayer. Take turns having a different family member pray each day.

Devotional:

Have you ever gotten lost? Even though you really thought you knew where you were going? Would you have gotten lost if you had had good directions?

We can get lost in life if we don't use the guidebook God has provided us with — the Bible. We were not designed to be “know-it-alls.” None of us were. We were designed to rely on God's instructions and on his will.

This isn't always simple. God's will isn't always obvious, but that doesn't mean that we should put our lives on hold while we wait for him to reveal his plan for our lives. God's Word gives us plenty to go on. The Bible tells us how to behave, how to treat others and how to live wisely. When we follow the instructions God has already given us, he will further reveal his will to us.

Question:

- Think and tell us one time where you felt God leading you in a certain direction

Scripture

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

End with Worship:

Song: Ever Be by Bethel Kids, find on Youtube



Start your devotional time with prayer. Take turns having a different family member pray each day.

Devotional:

While God gives us direction through the Bible, he is not a GPS that we can stick on the windshield. God won't say, "In three and a half years, turn left and attend this college." God leads us in a more subtle way, through our hearts.

God's leading may not always make sense to us. For one thing, his choice of route may not be a straight line. He may lead us off the highway, against traffic or through a random desert. He may take us in a complete circle and bring us right back where we started. He may lead us out into the middle of the ocean and then tell us to make a U-turn.

The GPS only considers where we want to go and the shortest way to get there. God considers an infinite eternity that includes where we begin, where he wants us to go and what we need to learn along the way.

If we trust God to guide us, one day we'll look back on our life and see just what an incredible journey it was.

Question:

- What is something you can trust God with this week?

Scripture

"The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.
I will advise you and watch over you." Psalms 32:8

End with Worship:

Song: Jesus We Love You by Paul McClure , find on Youtube with lyrics

Day 9



Start your devotional time with prayer. Take turns having a different family member pray each day.

Devotional:

The word good is a bit vague in our language. We use it to describe everything that's average in our lives. "How was your day today?" "Good." "How did you sleep last night?" "Good." "How was your peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich?" "Good." So when we say, "God is good," what are we really saying?

The Hebrew word that is translated "good" in this verse meant pleasant, agreeable to the senses, excellent, valuable, kind and morally correct. It was a word packed with meaning, not an empty one!

God is difficult to describe. He is certainly not average. He is perfect. He is all the goodness we can imagine — and even more. Nothing about God is bad, evil or impure — everything about God is good.

And not only is God good, but he wants what's good for us. And there's nothing average about that either. God's idea of good may not mean easy or comfortable, but it will get us to where he wants us to be, which is right where we need to be.

Question:

- What are some ways you would describe God?

Scripture:

"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!" Psalms 34:8

End with Worship:

Song: To my Knees by Hillsong Young and Free, find on Youtube with lyrics
Over and Over by Chris McClarney, find on Youtube



Start your devotional time with prayer. Take turns having a different family member pray each day.

Devotional:

Are you comfortable with the Bible? Many people aren't. Some are intimidated by its size. Others get lost in all the old traditions and strange stories. Still others have a hard time understanding the actual words — even in modern translations. Because the Bible is not like any other book ever written, some people have a hard time getting into it.

God understands the limits of our human minds. He should — he created them. And he really wants us to understand what is in his Word. So he sends his Holy Spirit to act as an interpreter for us. The Holy Spirit takes the words of the Bible and translates them in a personal way so that we understand not only what they mean but also how we can use them in our lives.

The secret to understanding Scripture is to pray before and after you read it. Before you start to read, ask the Holy Spirit to clear your mind of any distractions. Ask him to help you focus on the words in front of you. After you read, ask him to help you find ways to use what you read in your daily life.

Question:

- How do you feel that Holy Spirit helps you understand God more?

Scripture

"And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us." 1 Corinthians 2:12

Worship

Song: Holy Spirit by Bryan and Katie Torwalt, find on Youtube with lyrics