

faith & family



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 Galatians 4:4-6.

God sent His Son “when the time had fully come.” How does it make you feel to know that God sent Jesus for you and God’s Spirit is now available to help you?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Acts 13:26-33a.

Read verses 32 and 33a again. How does it help you to know that God always keeps His promises, even when things look bad?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Romans 3:22-24.

To whom does God want to give His gift of righteousness? What difference does it make in your life when you think about God sending His Son to forgive your sins?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read 1 Timothy 2:5-7.

Paul says that he was appointed to be a “herald,” or messenger, for God. When can you be a “teacher of the true faith” like Paul?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read 2 Peter 3:8, 9.

What does this text tell about God and time? How willing is God to wait for people to turn to Him?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read John 3:16-18.

What motivated God to give His Son? What does God do for the person who believes in His Son? What is the result of not believing in Jesus?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Hebrews 9:27, 28.

What can we do to be ready for Jesus’ return?



Find these verses in the Bible.
Together, memorize the verses.

2 Timothy 3:14, 15

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Genesis 2:4-9.
How do these verses describe God's creation? What impresses you about God's creation of the earth?
- **MONDAY**—Read Genesis 2:15-17; 3:6, 22, 23.
What happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God? What might be the consequences of disobeying God's commands today?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Genesis 6:5-9.
How did God feel when He saw the sorry state of the world in Noah's time? How do you think God feels about the world today?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Genesis 11:1-9.
Why did the people want to build a tower to the sky? What do some people do today just to make a name for themselves? How do you think God views their actions?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-6.
How did Abram respond to God's commands and promises? What promises has God made to you?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 28:10-15.
How was God's promise to Abram like the promise made to Abram's grandson Jacob? What is the spiritual history of your family?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Genesis 45:4-9.
God used the cruel deed of Joseph's brothers to save many lives. When have you seen God take a bad situation and create something good from it?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Exodus 7:1-6.

What did God say the Egyptians would know when He was done showing His signs and wonders? How does God show His power in the world today?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Exodus 12:3, 6-8, 12, 13.

What promise did God make to Israelites who followed His instructions about the Passover lamb? How are observing the Passover and the Lord's Supper alike? different?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Exodus 12:40; 14:9, 13, 14, 21, 22, 26-28. Read Genesis 14:14 again. How did God "fight for" the Israelites while they were "still"? When have you felt surrounded and afraid? How did God fight for you?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Joshua 6:1-5, 27.

God made it possible for the Israelites to take Jericho when they followed His instructions. When have you seen God give victories to people who obeyed Him?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Joshua 21:43-45.

Compare this text to Genesis 12:1-3. What long-ago promise did God fulfill in Joshua's time? Do these passages help you trust God to keep His promises today?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Ruth 2:2, 3, 11, 12; 4:13, 16, 17.

Ruth really cared for Naomi! When have you given up something you wanted so that you could help someone else? How did God honor your choice?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 3:19-21; 7:5, 6, 15.

Samuel was able to lead the people because he listened to God. When can you lead others to make godly choices?



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SUNDAY—Read Isaiah 6:8; 7:14; 53:5, 6.
Isaiah was willing to bring to the people God's message about a coming Savior. How can we tell others about Jesus and the salvation He offers us? Who can we tell?

MONDAY—Read 2 Samuel 5:4, 5, 9, 10; 7:8, 9; 8:15. How did God encourage David? How does God encourage you? How do you encourage your friends?

TUESDAY—Read 1 Kings 6:1, 11-14.
What promise was Solomon given? Have you ever felt left out or abandoned? What was the situation? What promise of God can help you through a hard time?

WEDNESDAY—Read 2 Kings 25:8-12.
How do you think the Israelites reacted when the Babylonians set fire to the temple of the Lord? How should we respond when we hear people make fun of God and His laws?

THURSDAY—Read Haggai 1:12-15 and Ezra 5:1, 2. The Israelites honored God when they rebuilt the temple. What can we do to honor and show respect to God?

FRIDAY—Read Nehemiah 2:17, 18; 6:15, 16.
God helped the Israelites rebuild the wall of Jerusalem in record time, and it surprised their enemies. Can your friends see God helping you? How do they react?

SATURDAY—Read Jeremiah 1:4-10.
Before Jeremiah was born, God knew him. What difference can it make in our lives when we understand that God knows all about us too?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Luke 2:4-12.

Try to read these verses as though you had never heard the story before. Does anything surprise you? For whom does God promise great joy?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Matthew 3:13-17.

What was God's response to Jesus' baptism? Have you been baptized? If so, what do you think God's reaction was to your baptism? (Read Luke 15:10.)

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Mark 3:13-19.

From what you know about the 12 apostles, compare their lives to your own. What do you think God wants you to do for Him?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Matthew 16:13-20.

Who do the people you know think Jesus is? Who do you believe Jesus is?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Matthew 17:1-9.

When Jesus was transfigured, God spoke and told the disciples to listen to Jesus. How can our lives show that we are listening to Jesus?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Luke 23:32-34, 44-46, 50-53.

Jesus placed His life in God's hands. What are some situations we need to turn totally over to God?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Matthew 28:1-10.

How do you think you would respond if you met an angel or Jesus face-to-face? What can we tell others about our resurrected Lord?



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John 3:16, 17

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Acts 2:1-4.

On the Day of Pentecost, God gave His Spirit to His people in a special way. How have you seen the Spirit of God work in people's lives today?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Acts 3:1-8.

When God healed the man who was crippled, the man wasn't afraid to show his excitement. How can we let others know we are excited because of the good things God does for us?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Acts 8:26-31, 35.

Philip was willing to go and explain the good news about Jesus to a stranger. With whom can we share the good news of Jesus?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Acts 9:1-6, 10, 15-17.

Saul and Ananias both obeyed the Lord's instructions immediately. In what situations do we need to obey God's instructions today?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Acts 10:25-27, 34, 35.

Peter realized that God does not show favoritism because God loves everyone. When might it be hard to treat both Christians and non-Christians as people whom God loves? What can we do in those situations?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Acts 13:42-49.

When crowds of people gathered to hear Paul and Barnabas, the Jews were jealous. Do you ever feel jealous of a Christian friend? How can jealousy prevent us from doing what God wants us to do?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Revelation 1:1-3, 9-11; 22:8, 9. When John was given a special revelation, an angel reminded John to worship God alone. What can we do to worship God today?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read 1 Peter 3:8, 9, 15, 16.

Is there someone with whom you have a conflict?
Is there someone you need to tell why you follow Jesus? Ask God to help you live out your faith.

○ **MONDAY**—Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11.

In what situations do you need encouragement?
Does someone you know need to be encouraged?
How can we encourage others?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Hebrews 10:22-25.

How can we remain confident in God even when we have hard days? How can members of our family encourage each other more?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read 1 John 2:24, 25.

If we remain in Jesus, what promise do we share?
What aspects of Heaven do you anticipate?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Colossians 3:12-17.

Which of the characteristics or actions listed in these verses are hardest for you? Ask God to help you grow in these areas of your life.

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Matthew 28:19, 20.

How are you carrying out God's instructions to make disciples in all nations? How can our family teach others to obey God's commands?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Philemon 4-6.

What good things do we have in Christ? How can we show love to and share our faith with others?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Luke 11:42.

How do you think God feels when you claim to be a Christian but you don't show His love to others? Ask God to help you to walk your talk in living for Him.

○ **MONDAY**—Read Matthew 15:8, 9.

How does God feel about worship that is not from the heart? How do you feel when you are just going through the motions of worship and not really thinking about it?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 16:7.

What characteristics are important to you when you choose your friends? What characteristics are important to God?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Philippians 2:3, 4.

The world often encourages us to look out for ourselves. How does this fit with God's teachings? How can we keep from being selfish and full of pride?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Mark 14:43-46.

To *betray* means "to deliver to an enemy by trickery; to be disloyal." Have you ever felt betrayed? What happened? Ask God to help you forgive the person who betrayed you.

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Matthew 6:1-4.

Have you ever done a good deed that no one found out about? What do you think God thought of your action? What could our family secretly do for someone?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Matthew 23:1-7, 12.

When have you been tempted to make yourself seem important in front of others? Would you rather be considered important by your friends or by God?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Matthew 8:1-3.

What can you do to make a difference in the life of someone who is ill? Do you find it easy or hard to willingly help a person who others avoid?

○ **MONDAY**—Read John 4:7-10.

Do you know someone who is of a different nationality than you are? Have you ever talked to that person about Jesus?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Luke 10:30-37.

If you had the money to do so, would you care enough to pay for a stranger's medical treatment? What can our family do or give to show care for another person?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Leviticus 19:32-34.

God instructed Israel to respect the elderly and treat foreigners as though they were native-born. When might we have opportunity to follow these same instructions?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Luke 6:27-36.

Are you able to pray for someone who mistreats you? What do you think would happen if you told someone he could have what he had taken from you without asking?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Matthew 22:37-40.

Jesus said the two greatest commands are to love God and love others. If you follow these two commandments, can you think of any law you still might willfully break?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 1 John 3:11, 16-18.

According to verse 17, what are we lacking if we do not show love for others? Do you know anyone in need? How can our family help that person?

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read James 4:7-10.

What are some situations in which we need to resist the devil? As a family, how can we come near to God? When can we do that?

○ **MONDAY**—Read 1 Peter 5:6-9.

What kinds of suffering are Christians in other parts of the world facing? How can we be alert to times when the devil is trying to bring us down?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read 2 Chronicles 7:13, 14.

What advice does this Old Testament passage give that can apply to the church today? What is God's promise when we follow that advice?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Micah 6:6-8.

According to these verses, what does God require of us? What are some times when we need to be more kind, or more merciful, to family members? to friends?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Matthew 11:25 and Matthew 18:1-4. Does thinking of yourself as a little child standing before God make you feel humble? Ask God to help you be more childlike.

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Ephesians 4:1, 2.

Think of a fellow Christian who bugs you. What good qualities can you find in that person to concentrate on instead of the characteristics that annoy you?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Philippians 2:1-8.

Jesus gave up His home in Heaven because He thought more of us than himself. What would you be willing to give up in order to show Jesus to someone else?



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- **SUNDAY**—Read Exodus 20:17 and Galatians 5:19-21. We are not to covet what others have. We are not to have selfish ambitions or be filled with envy. What helps you overcome human greed and grow in generosity?
- **MONDAY**—Read Matthew 6:19-21, 33. What earthly treasures (material things) are important to you? What will eventually happen to these things? What kind of treasures can we expect to have in Heaven?
- **TUESDAY**—Read 1 Timothy 6:9, 10. What unselfish things would you do for others if you were wealthy? What would keep you from loving money more than loving God?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Matthew 19:16-22. As a follower of Jesus, what is hard for you to do or give up? Ask God to help you be willing to do what He asks in all areas of your life.
- **THURSDAY**—Read James 3:13-16. In what situations do you find yourself being envious or wanting things for yourself? When we seek God's wisdom, He will help us not to be envious and selfish.
- **FRIDAY**—Read Philippians 4:12, 13. Through a combination of suffering and successes, Paul learned to trust God and be content with what he had. What can help you learn to be content?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Hebrews 13:5, 6. It's easy to be discontent or to fear the future when we don't have much money or many material possessions. What do these verses tell us about trusting God with our future?

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 19:12.
What are some proper uses of God's name?
What does your speech show others about your relationship to God?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Psalm 15:1-3.
How much importance do you place on speaking the truth? What can we do to develop the kind of speech God wants us to have?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Proverbs 15:1-4.
What triggers you to become angry and yell at others? Ask God to help you give a gentle answer the next time you are ready to lose your temper.

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Proverbs 12:13; 21:23.
Can you think of a time when your words got you into trouble? What happened? How can we control our tongues when we are tempted to spout off?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Matthew 5:21, 22.
Have you ever been called an offensive name? How hurtful can name-calling be? What does this passage say about name-calling?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Ephesians 5:3-7.
If we routinely listen to dirty jokes or foul language, are we honoring Christ? How can we make godly choices in what we listen to?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Matthew 12:36, 37.
Try to imagine yourself standing before God, giving a reason for every word you spoke on earth. Will you be acquitted or condemned? Ask God to help you speak more wisely.

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Exodus 20:16 and Exodus 23:1, 2. *Malicious* is a strong word used in the Bible to describe a person who spreads false reports. How should we respond when we hear gossip being spread?
- **MONDAY**—Read Proverbs 22:11 and Matthew 5:8. How might our speech affect whether or not we have a pure heart? What can we do to be kinder and more polite in our speech at home? With friends?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Proverbs 24:8, 9; 25:9, 10. If you become known for doing mean things, spreading gossip, or telling secrets, it's hard to get rid of that bad reputation. Ask God to help you develop a good reputation.
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Ephesians 4:29-32. Why do you think Paul told the Ephesians to get rid of all bitterness and anger? Remembering how God forgives us can make it easier to be kind and forgive others.
- **THURSDAY**—Read 2 Thessalonians 3:11-13. What is the difference between being busy and being a busybody? What right things can we do to stay busy and serve Jesus?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Titus 3:1, 2. Even if the facts are true, sometimes the way we talk or what we say can be wrong. What guidelines from these verses should a person consider before talking to or about someone?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Philippians 4:8, 9. According to these verses, what kinds of things should you think about? Could you tell someone to follow your example and "put it into practice," as Paul told the Philippians?



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