

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 2 Samuel 7:12, 13, 16
God promised to establish His eternal kingdom through the family line of David. What does this promise mean to you?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Micah 5:2, 4, 5.
According to Micah's prophecy, the coming Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. How did Micah describe the Messiah?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Isaiah 9:6, 7.
The names given in this prophecy describe the coming Messiah—Jesus. Which name means the most to you?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Jeremiah 23:5, 6.
What do the words righteous and righteousness mean? (If you don't know, look in a dictionary.) What did Jesus do to become our righteousness?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Matthew 1:20, 21.
According to Matthew 1:21, what is the significance of the name "Jesus"? Don't forget to thank God for sending His Son for this important reason.

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Galatians 4:4-7.

How do you feel knowing that you can be a child of God and an heir of the wonderful things He has promised?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read John 1:10-14.

What can you do to help someone else see the glory of Jesus?



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Isaiah 9:6

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Isaiah 40:3-5.

In ancient times, representatives were sent to prepare the way for the visit of a king. What can we do to prepare the way so that others can learn about Jesus?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Isaiah 40:4 and 42:16

Both of these verses talk about rough places. Do you know someone who is having a rough time? How can knowing Jesus make that person’s life smoother?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Luke 1:11-13, 18, 19.

Zechariah asked, “How can I be sure of this?” What can you tell someone who is unsure whether or not to follow Jesus?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Luke 1:13, 57-63.

Zechariah named his son John, just as the angel of the Lord said to do. Is there something you should do to obey God?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Malachi 3:1a and Mark 1:2-5.

John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy of Malachi. What did the people who heard John do? What might your friends do if you told them about Jesus?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Mark 1:6-8.

How did John describe Jesus? How would you describe Jesus to others?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 2 Corinthians 5:20, 21.

Just as John the Baptist was a representative of God, we are to represent Jesus to the world. What message about God and Jesus are we to tell others?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Luke 1:26-28.

Gabriel told Mary, “The Lord is with you.” Do you believe God is with you? How does that affect the way you live?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Luke 1:29-33.

At first, Mary was troubled and wondered about the angel’s words. Have you ever wondered what God’s Word means to your life? What helps you understand His Word?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Luke 1:34-38.

The angel reminded Mary that God’s word never fails. When do you need to remember that God’s Word never fails?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Luke 1:46-50.

Mary had an attitude of praise about the work God had given her to do. What is your attitude when you serve God?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Luke 1:51-55.

What “mighty deeds” has God done in your life or in the lives of people you know? How can we push aside pride and remain humble before God?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read 2 Timothy 2:20, 21.

Paul wrote to Timothy that we are to be “made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do good work.” What can you do to be useful to God?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Ephesians 6:7, 8.

How are we to serve God? What does God promise to those who do good?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Micah 5:2.

How was Micah’s prophecy fulfilled? Thank God for always keeping His promises!

○ **MONDAY**—Read Luke 2:1-7

According to verse 7, in what was Jesus wrapped? Would you wrap a special present in this way? Do your friends know about God’s wonderful gift?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Luke 2:8-14

Have you ever been told good news that surprised you? How did you react? How do you react when you hear God’s great news about Jesus?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Luke 2:15-18.

If you had been one of the shepherds, how would you have celebrated your find in Bethlehem? How are you celebrating Jesus in your life today?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Luke 2:19, 20.

How did Mary respond to the shepherds’ visit and all that was happening? When can you spend time quietly thinking about God’s gifts to you?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read John 3:16, 17.

What was God’s main reason for sending Jesus to earth? How have you seen God’s love in your life? How can we celebrate God’s love today?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 2 Corinthians 9:15.

What do you say to someone who gives you a great gift? Have you thanked God for Jesus? Have you told Jesus why you appreciate Him?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 1:9-11.

Hannah desperately wanted a child. What was she offering to do if God granted her request? How can you give yourself “to the Lord for all the days” of your life?

○ **MONDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 1:17-20.

When Hannah left the temple, her face was “no longer downcast.” How do you feel after you pray? Do you worship God after you pray, as Hannah did?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 1:24-28.

What did Hannah do to fulfill the promise she had made earlier to God? What have you done to show God that you are thankful for answered prayers?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 2:18-21.

Hannah demonstrated her continued care for Samuel, and God blessed Hannah’s life with more children. When has God given you more than you asked Him to give? Thank God for His continuing love.

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Matthew 6:5-8.

Jesus said the hypocrites liked to be seen when they prayed. How should your prayers be different? When and where will you pray?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Matthew 6:9-15.

What parts of this prayer focus on God? What parts focus on people? Do you ask God to help you avoid or overcome temptation?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read James 5:13-18.

When Elijah prayed a very specific prayer, God answered in a specific way. Do you pray for God’s help in specific situations?



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Romans 12:2

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read 2 Kings 22:1-10.

Josiah obeyed God. As king, Josiah gave instructions for the temple to be repaired. That's when the Book of the Law was found! Where do you keep God's Word?

○ **MONDAY**—Read 2 Kings 22:11-13.

King Josiah tore his robes because he knew the people were not obeying God. Have you ever read something in the Bible that let you know you had done something wrong? What did you do about it?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read 2 Kings 23:1-3.

Josiah and the people committed themselves to follow God and keep His commands. What kind of commitment have you made to God?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Do you remember who first taught you from the Bible? What should be the result when you study God's Word?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read 2 Peter 1:19-21.

God's Word is described as a light shining in a dark place. How can God's Word help light up the dark times in your life?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Hebrews 4:12, 13.

God's Word is described as being sharper than a double-edged sword. How do you feel when you remember that God knows everything about you?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read James 1:22-25.

We aren't fooling anyone if we read the Bible but don't do what it says. What might be the result when we read and do what is written in the Bible?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Acts 2:42-47.

The early believers regularly listened to the apostles' teachings, shared together, took the Lord's Supper, and prayed. Which of these things are parts of your congregation's worship and fellowship?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Romans 12:1, 2.

What action of the mind is involved in offering yourself as a living sacrifice to God? (Read verse 2 again.) What might keep you from worshipping God completely?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read 1 Chronicles 16:23-29.

The word ascribe (verse 28) comes from a Latin word meaning "to write." If you were asked to write a worship poem to God, what would you write?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Revelation 4:9-11.

Why does the fact that God is our creator make Him worthy of worship? For which of God's creations are you most thankful?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Colossians 3:15-17.

What different activities of the church are mentioned in these verses? Why should everything we say and do be done in the name of Jesus and with thanks to God?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16.

In what areas of his life was Timothy to set an example? To what was Timothy to be devoted? In what ways can you set an example?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Hebrews 13:15-17.

What ways of serving and obeying God are mentioned in these verses? Do you need to work harder on any of these?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Luke 2:41-47.

Jesus was 12 years old when He spent time talking to the teachers in the temple courts. When can you spend time talking to adults about God's Word?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Luke 2:48-52.

Even as a preteen, Jesus made being in God's house a priority in His life. In what ways was Jesus growing? Do you think you are growing in all these ways?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read 2 Peter 3:14-18.

What character traits should we be trying to develop? (Read verses 14 and 18 again.) Who should we not listen to when we are trying to grow as God wants us to grow?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Colossians 1:9-12.

Make a list of the things for which Paul prayed for the Colossians. In which of these areas do you think you need to grow?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Ephesians 4:11-16.

Jesus is the main source of our Christian growth, but He uses others in the church to help us grow. Who is Jesus using to help you grow?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1.

According to verse 31, what should be our goal in everything we do? What is the best way to set a good example for other people to follow?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-7.

When might it be difficult to imitate Jesus and be the example God wants you to be? What are some ways in which you can be a model of Jesus to others?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Ephesians 4:29–5:2.

What needs to be removed from your life so that you can live the way God wants you to live? What attitudes toward others do you need to build into your life?

○ **MONDAY**—Read John 15:9-12.

How can you remain in Christ’s love? What happens in our lives when we accept Christ’s love and pass it on to others?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read 1 John 3:16-18.

What is the greatest example of love? How can you show true love to others?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read 1 John 4:7-11.

What does the love you show to others say about your relationship to God? When do you need to show love to family members? to friends? to those who don’t know Jesus?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read 1 John 4:16-18.

What do you think the Bible means when it says “God is love”? How does knowing God’s love keep you from fear?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read 1 John 4:19-21.

Is it possible to love God and not love a particular person? Why or why not? Do you have trouble loving anyone? Pray that your love for God will carry over to that person.

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Galatians 5:13-15.

What is the result of putting others down, rather than encouraging them? When do you need to focus on serving others rather than on getting what you want for yourself?



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John 13:34, 35

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read John 4:1-9.

The Jewish people and the Samaritans didn’t like each other, and it was uncommon in Jesus’ day for a man to ask a question of a woman in public. When have you taken the time to talk to someone who might not have expected you to do so?

○ **MONDAY**—Read John 4:10-15.

What kind of water did Jesus offer the woman? How did the woman respond to Jesus? How do you respond to the gifts God offers you?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read John 4:16-24.

Why do you think the woman tried to change the subject when Jesus began talking about her past? When have you changed the subject when you were confronted with a wrongdoing?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read John 4:25-30.

How did the people of the town react when the woman told them what Jesus had told her? How do you feel knowing that Jesus is the Messiah?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read John 4:34-38.

What did Jesus say about the harvest? Do you know someone who needs to know about Jesus? How can you help that person learn about God’s kingdom?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Romans 10:12-15.

Are there some people you might have a harder time telling about Jesus than others? According to verse 15, what people have “beautiful feet”?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.

To reconcile means “to restore to friendship or harmony.” God wants all people to be restored to Him. What can you do to help accomplish this goal?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Matthew 25:31-33.

What two animals are named in these verses to represent the division Jesus will make among people? Where are the groups placed?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Matthew 25:34-40.

What things does Jesus say the group on the right has done for Him? How is it true that something done for someone else is also done for Jesus?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Matthew 25:41-46.

How does the judgment for people who haven't cared for others differ from the judgment for those who have? What have you done for others this week that shows your love for them and, in turn, for Jesus?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Acts 9:36-39.

When Dorcas died, the widows wanted to show Peter the robes and other clothing Dorcas had made for them. Would other people want to tell someone about you?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Acts 20:34, 35.

What can you do with your hands to meet the needs of others? How is it true that we can receive a greater blessing from giving than from receiving?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.

The believers in the Macedonian churches didn't let their hard times stop them from being generous. How can you be generous, even though you may not have much money?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Luke 14:12-14.

Whom does Jesus say we should invite to our parties? Do you know someone who needs a special friend? Are you willing to be that friend?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read James 2:14-17.

What is missing from the kind of faith that isn’t demonstrated by action? Can you give an example of an action you have done that shows your faith in God?

○ **MONDAY**—Read James 2:18, 19.

According to this verse, what makes demons shudder? What do you do on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis that shows your faith is more than words?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read James 2:20-24.

What did Abraham do to demonstrate his faith in God? Have you ever been asked to do something difficult that demonstrated your faith?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read 1 Peter 1:6-9.

Genuine faith can be demonstrated by the way we handle the hard times in our lives, and we can have joy because we believe God’s promise of salvation. When have you felt joy in Jesus?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read 1 John 5:1-5.

What do you think John meant when he said that we can “overcome the world”? What is it that allows Christians to overcome the world?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Hebrews 11:1-4.

What do you think the writer of Hebrews means when he says that Abel “still speaks, even though he is dead”? Do your friends remember your Christian example even when you are not around?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Hebrews 11:5-7.

According to verse 6, what two things must we believe about God? What have you done or said to show to others your faith in God?



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○ **SUNDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.
What miracles, special gifts, or great accomplishments are mentioned in these verses? How meaningful are such special deeds if you don’t love others?

○ **MONDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 13:4, 5.
What characteristics of love are listed in these verses? How many of these characteristics involve considering other people as more important than yourself??

○ **TUESDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 13:6, 7.
What is the difference between delighting in evil and rejoicing with the truth? Look at the list of actions that love “always” does. How does your love measure up to these qualities?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-10.
How does love differ from gifts such as prophecy, tongues, and knowledge? When Jesus comes again, what would you like to know?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read 1 Corinthians 13:11-13.
Can you think of some childish actions you used to do, but you don’t do now? How are you growing in love? Why is love even more important than faith and hope?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Matthew 5:43-48.
How can showing love to our enemies make us different from people who don’t serve Jesus? How does God demonstrate this kind of unbiased love?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read John 11:32-36.
How did Jesus respond when He saw the sadness of Mary and Martha over the death of their brother Lazarus? How can you show love to people who are hurting?



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