



# Family Devotions

**HEY, LOOK!**

**H**ere are a whole bunch of devotions you can do with your family! You can even be the one to lead the devotions if you want. Each devotion has a box to check off when you're finished and a place to write who led the devotion. (You can write the date you did the devotion too. It'll be fun to look back later to see who did what when. Did that make sense?)

You might want to look at each devotion a few days before you plan to do it. That way, you'll have plenty of time to get the supplies you need.

**SO ARE YOU READY?**

Go call your family together and get started!





WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## I PROMISE

With your family, read and do the "I Promise" activity found near **GENESIS 9** (page 11). Let each family member make a raindrop promise and write his or her name on the back. Then discuss these questions together:

✎ Which of the promises is going to be easy to keep? hard to keep? Explain.

✎ How can we encourage each other to keep our promises to God?

✎ Why is it important for each of us to keep our promises?

✎ How can we, as a family, thank God for keeping all of his promises?

Then encourage each other all week to keep your promises to God. Pray together, thanking God for always keeping his promises.

Then ask God to help you keep your promises. In the coming week, when you notice another person keeping one of his or her promises, draw a smiley face on that person's raindrop to say you noticed!

be  
nice  
to my  
sister



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## DO YOU REALLY TRUST ME?

With your family, read the "Do You Really Trust Me?" activity found near **GENESIS 22** (page 23). Then let each family member make a reminder stone. Take turns telling what you wrote or drew on your stones. Then talk about these questions:

✎ Who is a person you trust?

✎ What makes that person trustworthy?

✎ What makes God trustworthy?

✎ What makes it tough for you to trust God?

Each day this week, trade stones with a different family member. Keep that person's stone in your pocket, on your desk, or in another place where you'll see it throughout the day. Pray for that family member each time you see or touch the stone.










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## LET'S MAKE A DEAL

With your family, read and do the "Let's Make a Deal" activity found near **GENESIS 25** (page 26). Make a family treasure box together. Take turns telling about the words and pictures you each chose to decorate the box. Then let each person put a treasure in the box. Take turns telling why you chose those treasures to put in the box. Then take a few minutes to talk about these questions:

-  **After looking at the outside and inside of the box, what's one thing you learned about each family member?**
-  **What are things you treasure that won't fit into a box?**
-  **What do you treasure about our family?**





Write a short note to each person in your family. The note should tell one or two good things you treasure about that person. Give each person the note you wrote about him or her, and then let everyone store the notes in your treasure boxes.



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## WELL, WELL, WELL!

With your family, read the "Well, Well, Well!" activity found near **GENESIS 37** (page 39). Then have each family member make a Wacky Well. One thing that made Joseph's brothers jealous was the fact that he dreamed they would one day have to bow down to him. Take turns talking into your Wacky Wells about a dream you've had recently. See how well everyone can understand your distorted voice. Then put aside your Wacky Wells, and talk about these questions:

-  **When are you most likely to feel jealous?**
-  **Who are you often jealous of, and why?**
-  **What does the story of Joseph help you understand about jealousy?**
-  **What's one thing you can do when you start feeling jealous?**

Write your answer to the last question on the side of your Wacky Well. Then pray together, asking God to help each person in your family when jealousy strikes.










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## A CLEAN SLATE

With your family, read and do the “A Clean Slate” activity found near **GENESIS 45** (page 49). Be sure to share your answers with family members before you wipe your slate clean. Then write “Forgive” down the left side of the chalkboard. Together, talk about how it feels to be forgiven. Write one of those feelings next to each letter of the word *forgive*. For example, Fresh, Optimistic, Relieved, and so on. Then talk about these questions:

-  **When is it hard for you to forgive someone?**
-  **Do you think it was hard or easy for Joseph to forgive his brothers? Why?**
-  **Do you think it's hard or easy for God to forgive us? Why?**
-  **Why does God forgive us?**
-  **Who is someone you need to forgive right now?**





Put the chalkboard in a place where everyone can see it during the coming week. As you think of other words that remind you of the great feeling of forgiveness, add those to your list. And every time you look at the list, thank God for forgiving you over and over again!



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## SINK OR SWIM?

With your family, read and do the “Sink or Swim?” activity found near **EXODUS 2** (page 60). Then pull out a few more eggs and a recipe book, and make deviled eggs together. Consider how the halved egg whites look like little boats. As you cook and prepare the eggs together, talk about these questions:

-  **How do you think Moses' mother felt when she put Moses into that basket boat and then into the water?**
-  **How do you think Moses' sister felt as she watched him from the edge of the river?**
-  **How did God protect Moses?**
-  **How does God protect you?**

Tell what you wrote to God about needing help, and then pray for each other, asking God for help in these areas. Then eat your egg boats!








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## DID YOU SEE THAT?

With your family, read and do the “Did You See That?” activity found near **EXODUS 3** (page 61). Share your answers to the questions in this activity, then pull out your calendars to make a few fun plans for the coming days. Plan a few simple but fun events for your family, such as a pizza and movie night, a slumber party on the living room floor, or a game of miniature golf. When you’ve got those on the calendar, talk about these questions:





-  What amazing things have you seen God do in your own life or in our family?
-  What plans do you think God might have for our family in the next week? the next year?
-  How can the plans we make as a family remind us of the amazing plans God has for our lives?



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## RUN! I MEAN, SWIM! I MEAN, RUN!

With your family, read and do the “Run! I Mean, Swim! I Mean, Run!” activity found near **EXODUS 14** (page 72). Then cut out a paper person for each member of your family. Read the story from Exodus 14:19-25 again, and use the paper people as you act out the story with your Red Sea. Then discuss these questions:

-  How do you think the Israelites felt with the Egyptian army behind them and the sea in front of them?
-  When have you felt like you had nowhere to turn?
-  What do you think it was like for the Israelites to walk through a path with walls of water on both sides?
-  What gives you the courage to walk through difficult situations?



Pray for each person in your family. As you pray, move your paper people through the water again. This will represent going through a difficult time and coming through that time with God’s help.

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## I'M STARVING!

With your family, read and do the "I'm Starving!" activity found near **EXODUS 16** (page 75). Gather some fresh miniature marshmallows and mix them with dried cereal, raisins, nuts, or pretzels to make a tasty snack mix. As you munch your treat together, discuss these questions:

👉 What would it be like to gather your food off the ground each day?

👉 Where are there people who need food or other basic necessities?

👉 What can our family do to help these people?

Think how your family can help people in need. Put together a bag of nonperishable groceries, and deliver the bag to a shelter or food bank in your area. Or mix up another batch of your marshmallow manna mix, and deliver it to a family who needs some encouragement. Let this family know you're praying for them and that God cares about their needs!



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## WHADYA SAY?

With your family, read and do the "Whadya Say?" activity found near **EXODUS 19** (page 78). Then do this listening experiment. Have family members cover their ears with their hands while one person tells about his or her day. See how much of the story the listeners can understand. Then be sure your ears are clear from obstructions while you talk about these questions:

👉 What are some things that get in the way of our listening to other people?

👉 What things keep us from listening to God?

👉 How can we show people that we're listening to them and that we care about what they say?

👉 How can we make it a point to listen to God?

For two whole minutes (time yourselves to be sure), sit in silence. Listen to the sounds around you. Listen to what God might be telling you. Then whisper prayers for each other, asking God to help each person listen for God's voice and direction in the coming week.











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## THE TOP DOG

With your family, read and do “The Top Dog” activity found near **EXODUS 32** (page 81). As a family, place a sticky note (or tape a 3x5 card) on the object you selected. Write these words on the sticky note or card: “Good...but not the best.” Then discuss these questions:

-  If you were sad or scared, in what ways would the object you picked help you?
-  If you needed a hug, or to be reminded you’re loved, how would the object help you?
-  Why do you think some people value objects more than people? More than God?
-  How can you live this week to show God he’s more important than any object?

Leave the note on the object for a week. Every time you see it, read the words out loud: “Good...but not the best.” Only God can be first!







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## WHO SAID THAT?!

With your family, read and do the “Who Said That?!” activity found near **NUMBERS 22** (page 157). It’s time to give your invisible donkey a treat! Offer your donkey a healthy carrot snack, and eat anything your donkey doesn’t eat. As you munch, talk about what words God might like you to speak this week



-  to your friends at school,
-  to your family members,
-  to your friends at church, and
-  to God himself.

Start sharing words with God right now. As a family, take turns praying and thanking God for using all his creatures—including you!

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## I JUST DON'T LOVE YOU

With your family, read and do the "I Just Don't Love You" activity found near **DEUTERONOMY 6** (page 181). Loving God fills up our hearts! Gather your family around the mobile you created, and take turns sharing one way God fills up your heart. Come up with an answer for each of the cut-out hearts on your mobile. When you've finished, discuss these questions:

- ✎ How does loving God help you when you're sad?
- ✎ How does loving God help you when you're angry?
- ✎ How does loving God help you when you're scared?
- ✎ How does loving God help you when you're happy?

Step back from the mobile and blow hard. See who can move it from the greatest distance. Then thank God for filling your hearts with his love!



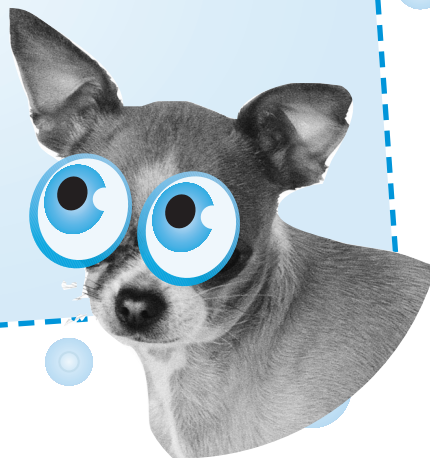
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## BON APPÉTIT

With your family, read and do the "Bon Appétit" activity found near **DEUTERONOMY 30** (page 203). Together, keep thinking about how lies can get out of hand when you try to cover up a sin instead of telling the truth. Discuss different scenarios to show how lies get out of hand. Here are a few ideas to get you started. (Encourage your parents to come up with some scenarios too!)

- ✎ You lie about where you are so you can go to a friend's house.
- ✎ You take \$10 from the envelope where the family's food money is kept.
- ✎ You break a lamp but want to blame someone else.
- ✎ You download something from a Web site you shouldn't visit at all.

As a family, pray for the courage to always choose a life of honesty.









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## FALLING WALLS

With your family, read and do the “Falling Walls” activity found near **JOSHUA 6** (page 217). After you enjoy your snack, take a family walk around the room silently seven times. When you finish, shout together, “God is powerful!” Then discuss these questions:

-  Why do you think God asked the army to march around the walls of Jericho?
-  How do you think God’s people felt while they were marching?
-  How do you think God’s people felt when the walls fell?
-  How does God show his power in our family?




March around the room one more time, stepping to the beat of “Left, right, left, right; walls will fall by God’s great might.” (For extra fun, build a wall of blocks to march around!)



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## JARS OF PROTECTION!

With your family, read and do the “Jars of Protection!” activity found near **JUDGES 7** (page 243). Place the jar you made on the table where your family eats meals. Ask everyone in your family to write a prayer request on a slip of paper and place it in the jar. Take turns pulling out the prayer requests. After you read all of the prayer requests, discuss these questions:

-  How has God used small things to make big changes in the world?
-  When has God used small people to make big changes?
-  How might God use the prayer requests you’re holding to bring about big changes?





Take turns praying aloud about the requests on the slips of paper you pulled from the jar. Keep a pencil and slips of blank paper next to the jar for a week so you can continue to write new requests and pray as a family.



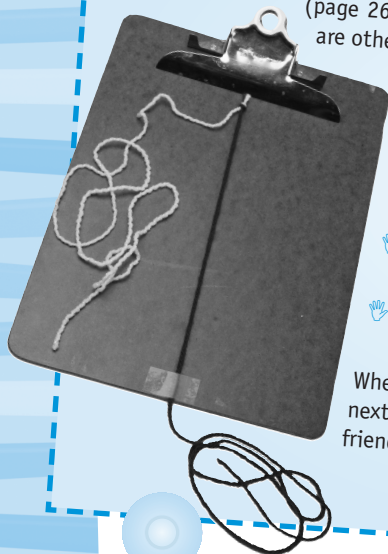
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## FRIENDSHIP BRACELET

With your family, read and do the “Friendship Bracelet” activity found near **RUTH 1** (page 262). Besides your good friends at school or church, there are other people who love you and want what’s best for you: your family! As a family, create another bracelet and hang it on the doorknob of your front door. Then discuss:

-  **How do you think Naomi felt when Ruth was so loyal to her?**
-  **How do you feel when your friends are loyal to you?**
-  **How can we be loyal to each other and be friends as well as family members?**
-  **What is something we can do today to be friendlier to each other?**






When you see the bracelet on the doorknob during the next week, remember that your family members are good friends, too!



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## UM, EXCUSE ME...

With your family, read and do the “Um, Excuse Me...” activity found near **1 SAMUEL 3** (page 272). Gather in front of the television and as a family watch a familiar show—with the sound turned all the way down. Pretend you’re the characters, and make up your own soundtrack! After a few minutes, turn off the television and discuss these questions:

-  **What was easiest about filling in the words of the soundtrack?**
-  **What was most difficult about filling in the words?**
-  **When you made up lines, how well did the characters on-screen seem to listen?**
-  **When God speaks to you, how well do you listen?**
-  **As a family, how well do we listen to each other?**

Together, in front of the silent television, ask God how you should go about listening to his voice more carefully. What might he want you to do? Then pray together that you’ll know how to hear God speaking to you, and that you’ll want to hear him.











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## I CHOOSE

With your family, read and do the “I Choose” activity found near **1 SAMUEL 16** (page 282). Play Follow the Leader, and ask the smallest person (not counting babies!) in your family to lead several rounds of the game. Have that person do things the largest family member can’t do, such as squeeze through a tight space or bend under a barrier. Then discuss:

-  **What’s it like to be the smallest person in our family?**
-  **What’s it like to be the largest person in our family?**
-  **What can small people do that big people can’t do?**
-  **How do you think little David felt when Samuel chose him?**




Starting with the largest person and ending with the smallest, pray together. Thank God for using people of all sizes!



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## MEAN GREEN? MELLOW YELLOW?

With your family, read and do the “Mean Green? Mellow Yellow?” activity found near **1 SAMUEL 20** (page 287). Using colored pencils or crayons and a piece of paper, take turns making and adding to a design that includes colors that mean something to your family—maybe green because you like to be out in nature, or blue because it’s been a sad time for your family. After you finish, gather around your drawing. Discuss these questions:

-  **What do the colors in our design mean to us?**
-  **How did it feel to work as a family on this design?**
-  **How is working on this project together like how friends work together on their friendships?**





Hang your family design on the refrigerator door for the next week. When you see it, remember what the colors mean to your family. Pray that God will keep your family close and working together for him.



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## COULDA, SHOULDA, WOULD A

With your family, read and do the “Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda” activity found near **1 SAMUEL 26** (page 295). Sometimes it’s hard to do what we should do instead of what we want to do. As a family, look online or in the paper for a list of movies playing in your community. Decide which ones you might want to watch and which movies you should or shouldn’t watch. (Or look at TV listings instead of movies.) Then discuss these questions:





-  **Why don’t we just automatically want to do what’s right?**
-  **What’s the hardest part of living in a way that pleases God?**
-  **What’s the easiest part of living in a way that pleases God?**
-  **Which is our family better at: the Couldas, Shouldas, or Wouldas? How can we improve?**

As a family, rent and watch a video that falls in the “Shoulda” category. Pop some popcorn and enjoy the movie and each other’s company. As you watch, look for characters in the video who are having to choose between Couldas, Shouldas, and Wouldas.

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## WISE GUY!

With your family, read and do the “Wise Guy!” activity found near **1 KINGS 3** (page 331). Then make a copy of your book, add blank pages, and give or send it to grandparents, aunts, or uncles. Ask them to add their own wise sayings and return the book to your family. When you finish creating your book, discuss:

-  **What makes a saying “wise”?**
-  **How can wisdom help us in life?**
-  **What’s the wisest saying you’ve ever heard?**
-  **Why is it wise to know, love, and follow Jesus?**

As a family, take turns asking God for wisdom. Keep your family book of wisdom on display to remind you to keep asking God for wisdom!








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## JUST A LITTLE BIT

With your family, read and do the “Just a Little Bit” activity found near **1 KINGS 17** (page 347). Then fill another balloon—with air this time. As a family, bat the balloon to keep it in the air. Every time you hit the balloon, call out one way God meets your family’s needs. When you’re out of ideas, discuss:

-  **What ways that God meets our needs surprised you because you never thought of that way before?**
-  **How does it feel to know God cares about our family and our needs?**
-  **What needs does our family have that we need to bring before God in prayer?**





Pass the balloon around, and let each family member pray about the needs you mentioned.



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## TAKE A DIP!

With your family, read and do the “Take a Dip!” activity found near **2 KINGS 5** (page 364). And since you have the dish soap out, this would be a great time for your family to go to the kitchen to do the dishes, straighten up, and clean the tabletop. As you work, discuss these questions:

-  **Cleaning things is hard work! How do you think God was able to clean Naaman of a disease like leprosy?**
-  **Where’s the cleanest place you’ve ever been (besides your kitchen!)?**
-  **Who kept that place clean? How hard do you think it was?**
-  **God asks us to have a clean heart. How can we do that?**





Where else might your family clean together? Maybe in a city park, in your church parking lot, or in an elderly neighbor’s yard? Think of a way to help someone else clean up, then do it! As you work, ask God to give each person in your family a clean heart.



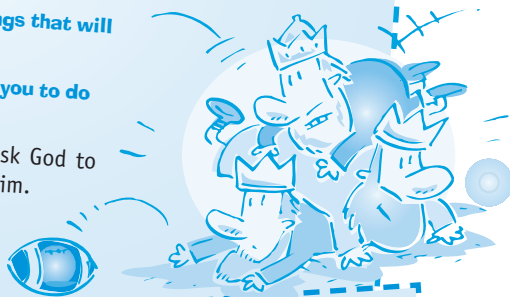
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## THEY DROPPED THE BALL!

With your family, read and do the "They Dropped the Ball!" activity found near **2 KINGS 20** (page 381). As a family, play Follow the Leader. The leader must call out something to do every ten steps. As long as those things are right things that will please God, everyone will follow. But if someone suggests a wrong thing, everyone must stop. After each person has had a chance to lead the game, give yourselves a big round of applause. Then sit down and relax to discuss these questions:

-  Why is it important to follow leaders who do things that please God?
-  Who are some of the leaders in your life?
-  How do you know if a leader is doing things that will please God?
-  What should you do when a leader wants you to do something that wouldn't please God?





As a family, pray for the leaders in your life. Ask God to help them make decisions that are pleasing to him.



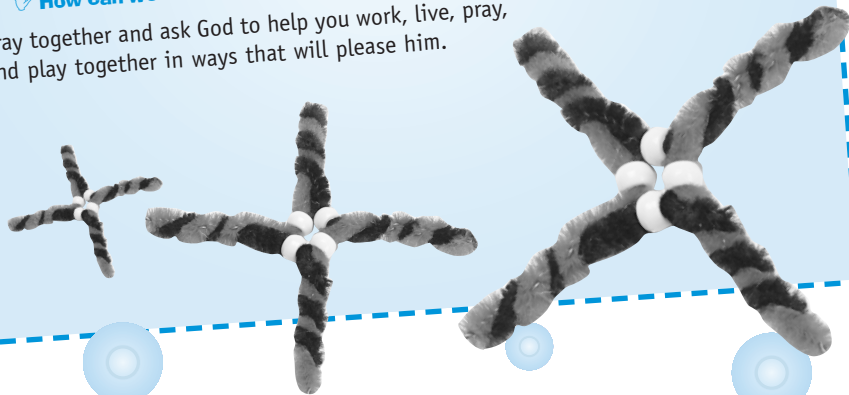
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## I WILL HEAR

With your family, read and do the "I Will Hear" activity found near **2 CHRONICLES 7** (page 428). As a family, create several crosses and place them where your family will see them often. After you've hung up your crosses, discuss:

-  How can we as a family be humble before God?
-  When can we as a family pray together to God?
-  How can we seek God's will for our family?
-  How can we as a family do the things God wants us to do?

Pray together and ask God to help you work, live, pray, and play together in ways that will please him.











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## RIGHT IN THE SIGHT

With your family, read and do the “Right in the Sight” activity found near **2 CHRONICLES 34** (page 451). Then take turns looking through the glasses you created. Ask each family member to share one way he or she sees God using the talents and abilities of other family members. Then discuss these questions:

-  How can God use kids to spread his Word and change the world?
-  How does it feel when you hear others mention ways they see God using you?
-  What are ways you'd like God to use you in the future?
-  What are ways God can use our family to do good and bless others?





Have your family hold hands and pray together, asking God to use you both as individuals and as a family to serve him.



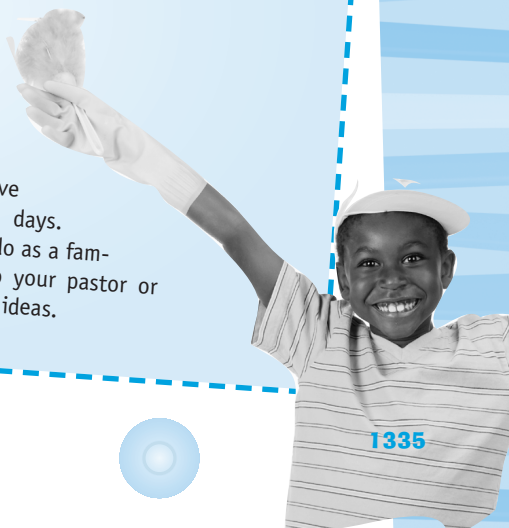
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## THAT'S A PIGSTY!

With your family, read and do the “That’s a Pigsty!” activity found near **EZRA 5** (page 461). But don’t stop there! As a family, clean a room you all use—the kitchen, family room, or bathroom. After your hard work, celebrate with a cold pitcher of lemonade or fruit juice! As you sip your drinks, discuss these questions:

-  Why was it important to rebuild the Temple?
-  How do you think the Israelites felt when the Temple was finally rebuilt?
-  How do you feel when you look at our clean room?
-  How might our family help take good care of the church where we worship?

Decide who will volunteer to keep the room you’ve cleaned picked up and tidy for the next three days. (Remember to take turns!) Then decide what you can do as a family to help keep your church in good shape. Talk to your pastor or church custodian about how you can accomplish your ideas.



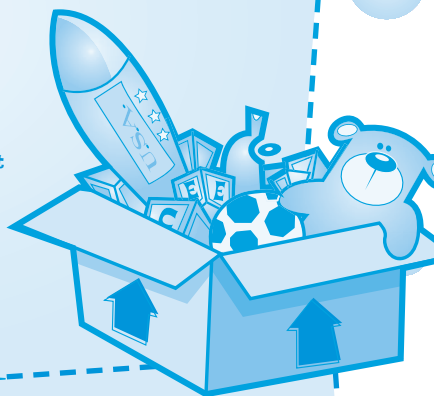
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### HELP...

With your family, read and do the "Help..." activity found near **NEHEMIAH 5:1-13** (page 474). After you drop your box off at the charity or at your church, celebrate by driving past your favorite ice-cream store and not stopping. Put the money you would have spent in an envelope. When you get home, talk over these questions as the sealed envelope sits on the table in front of you:

- 👉 What do you think it would be like to be so poor you never got treats like ice cream?
- 👉 How do you think your money could help a poor family?
- 👉 How will you get the money to a poor family?
- 👉 How can you pray for the poor family that will get the money?

Pass the envelope around as everyone in your family takes turns praying for the poor. Then give the money to a charity that will help a poor family.



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### COURAGEOUS COMEBACKS

With your family, read and do the "Courageous Comebacks" activity found near **ESTHER 3** (page 491). Practice makes perfect! As a family, take turns sharing challenges to your faith you've heard or experienced. How did you answer them? After you compare challenges and answers, discuss these questions:

- 👉 Why is it sometimes hard to explain your faith?
- 👉 When you're telling someone about your faith, what do you want to happen?
- 👉 How do you feel when someone is challenging your faith?
- 👉 How can you show God's love to people who challenge your faith?

As a family, think about people or situations that challenge your Christian faith. Pray for those people and for strength and wisdom in those situations.







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## GOOD ADVICE

With your family, read and do the “Good Advice” activity found near **JOB 2** (page 498). Write more sheets with the sections you’ve filled out already. What are problems other family members face? Take turns talking about them, then discuss these questions:



 **How does it feel to talk about important things as a family?**

 **How does our family find out what the Bible says about problems?**

 **How easy or hard is it for you to find Christian friends who can give good advice and pray for you? Explain.**


Having relationships with Christian friends is important! As a family, pick another Christian family to invite over so you can get to know them better.





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## FATHER KNOWS BEST

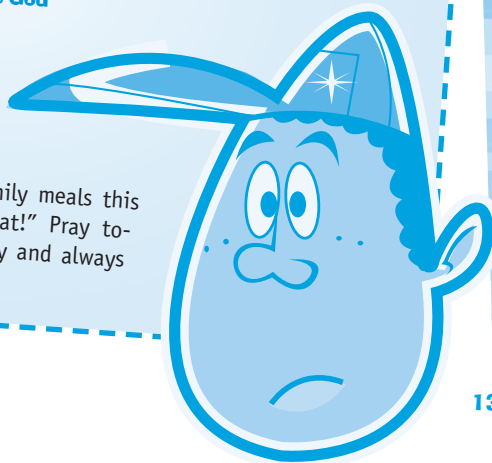
With your family, read and do the “Father Knows Best” activity found near **JOB 40** (page 525). Job discovered that God is powerful and knows things far beyond what we’ll ever know. But that’s OK—because God loves us! As a family, see if you can come up with 10 “unanswerable questions” such as “How far is it in inches to the farthest star?” After you’ve finished your list, discuss:

 **How do you feel about the fact that you’ll never understand everything about God and what he knows?**

 **How do you feel about the fact that God loves you—and knows you inside and out?**

 **If you could ask God any one question and have it answered, what would you ask?**

Whenever someone asks a question at family meals this week, have everyone say, “God knows that!” Pray together, thanking God for loving your family and always knowing what’s best.







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## ROCK SOLID!



With your family, read and do the “Rock Solid!” activity found near **PSALM 18** (page 539). Go outside and see how the place where you live is built. Pretend you’re inspectors and take a close look at your building construction. What was done to make the foundation solid? Are there any cracks in the foundation? Does it look rock solid? Then discuss:




-  **What’s the foundation of our family?**
-  **What’s the foundation of our faith in Jesus?**
-  **What’s the foundation of our church?**
-  **How can we make sure that God is the foundation of our family?**

As a family, pray together and thank God for being a rock-solid foundation for life!

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## WAAAATTTTEEEERRR

With your family, read and do the “Waaaattttteeeerrr” activity found near **PSALM 42** (page 553). Then, for each of your family members, fill a glass with cool, clean water. Have each family member eat at least three saltine crackers (Gluten allergies? Put salt on a gluten-free substitute.) as you discuss:

-  **When—besides now—have you been truly thirsty?**
-  **What will truly thirsty people do to get something to drink?**
-  **How much do you “thirst” for a relationship with God?**

After your discussion, enjoy your glasses of water. Then pray together, thanking God for being “living water” for you.











WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## HEY! QUIET DOWN!

With your family, read and do the “Hey! Quiet Down!” activity found near **PSALM 46** (page 557). Take turns listening to the heartbeats of a family member by placing an ear to the family member’s chest. Then discuss:

-  Besides heartbeats, what other sounds do you often miss, even though they surround you?
-  What was it like to hear the heartbeat of someone you love?
-  How do you think you can hear God’s heart-beat of love?
-  If God was to share a message with you right now, what do you think it might be?




Pray together, thanking God for speaking to your family through his Word and through his Holy Spirit.



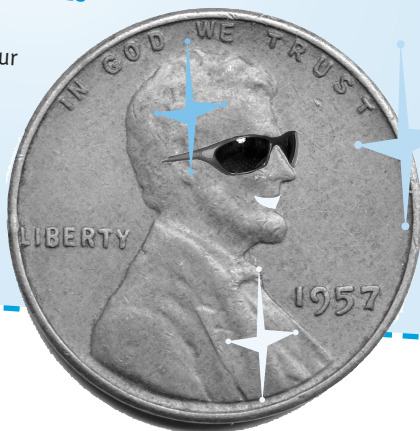
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## DEEP CLEANING

With your family, read and do the “Deep Cleaning” activity found near **PSALM 51:10** (page 558). Let each person clean one penny. Hold your clean, shiny pennies as each person thinks of something he or she needs to repent of. Pray silently, asking God to help you repent. Then drop your pennies in a jar. After a few moments of silence, talk about these questions:

-  Why does God think repentance is so important?
-  Why is repentance so hard sometimes?
-  How can we help each other realize when we need to repent?

Pray together, asking God to keep your hearts open and ready for repentance. Then put your jar of pennies where everyone will see it. Put a pile of dirty pennies nearby. Make it a habit to drop a clean penny in the jar every time you repent!




☐ WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## LET IT SHINE!

With your family, read and do the "Let It Shine!" activity found near **PSALM 119:105** (page 603). Play the game a few times so each person has a turn to hide the treasure. Then sit down with a Bible and think of a few tough choices people in your family have to make. (You might want to turn on the lights first.) Use the Bible to find what God has to say about those choices. Then talk about these questions:

 **How is the Bible like a flashlight?**

 **Why do you think God gave us the Bible?**

 **When has God's Word helped our family make a tough choice?**

 **How can we follow God's Word in our everyday choices?**

Pray together, asking God to help your family follow him when you have tough choices to make. Then make plans to explore God's Word as a family whenever someone is facing a tough choice.




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## GOING TO CHURCH ROCKS!

With your family, read and do the "Going to Church Rocks!" activity found near **PSALM 122** (page 604). After you make your poster, work together to make another poster. On this poster, list ways your family helps make your church a great place. For example, maybe your family sings really enthusiastically. Or maybe you always bring the best fried chicken to church potlucks. Then talk about these questions:

 **What else can we do to make our church even better?**

 **Why do you think God wants us to make our church great?**

 **How can we remember to bring our contributions with us when we go to church?**

Hang your poster somewhere in your house where everyone will be able to see it. Every time you leave your house to go to church, look at the poster and remember what you can bring to make your church rock!








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## GOD KNOWS

With your family, read and do the "God Knows" activity found near **PSALM 139:1-3** (page 608). When your map is finished, take turns picking one place on the map where you really need to remember that God understands and loves you (like maybe in gym class or on the way to work!). Then discuss the following questions:

-  **Why did you choose the place you did?**
-  **When you're in that place, how can you remind yourself that God loves you?**
-  **How can our family make our home a place where people always know God loves them?**

Hang your map next to the door of your house. Near the map, put a supply of candy hearts, heart-shaped sticky notes, heart stickers...anything heart-shaped. Every day when you leave the house, look at the map and grab a heart on your way out. All day the heart can remind you that God loves you!



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## GOD'S NEST

With your family, read and do the "God's Nest" activity found near **PROVERBS 3** (page 618). After you make your nest (and after you clean up your muddy kitchen), set the nest aside to dry. Then find a cotton ball for each person in your family. Use colored markers to put a different-colored big dot on each cotton ball to represent each member of your family. Show each other your cotton balls, then talk about these questions:

-  **How does your cotton ball represent you?**
-  **How does it feel to trust God?**
-  **How has God taken care of our family?**
-  **How do we need God to take care of us in the future?**

When your nest is dry, put the cotton balls in the nest and place it outside. Keep an eye out for birds. And when you think of your cotton balls in the nest, remember that God wants you to hang out in his nest!




☐ WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## STICK TOGETHER

With your family, read and do the “Stick Together” activity found near **PROVERBS 18** (page 633). Then use your glue to make a collage of family photos, pictures from magazines, and anything else you can find. The collage should show what holds you together as a family. When your collage is finished, talk about these questions:

 What is your favorite part of this collage?

 Why is that your favorite part?

 What kinds of things help our family stick together?

 What can we do to stick together better?

Pray, asking God to help your family stick together. Hang the collage in your house so you can look at it often. Keep looking for new stuff to add to the collage. Whenever you find something, stick it on!





☐ WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....


## A SIGN FOR ME

With your family, read and do the “A Sign for Me” activity found near **ISAIAH 7** (page 668). Be sure your binder includes stuff from your entire family. Then let the whole family decorate the binder in a really cool way. When your binder is finished, talk about these questions:

 How can this binder help us remember how great Jesus is?

 Why do you think God wanted Isaiah to tell people about Jesus?

 Why do you think God wants us to tell people about Jesus?

 Who can our family tell about Jesus this week? What should we say?

Pray, thanking God for Jesus. Then put the binder in your family room or somewhere else where you won't forget about it. Put some construction paper and other art supplies nearby. When guests come to your house, ask them to look through the binder and add their own pages.











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## STRENGTH TO FLY

With your family, read and do the “Strength to Fly” activity found near **ISAIAH 40:31** (page 700). Then spice up the activity: This time, take turns lifting each other higher in the doorway so the person in the doorway can practice trying to hold the position without falling down (you’ll have to use your feet, too). Oh, and be sure to spot each other in case someone can’t hold on! When you’re finished playing around, discuss these questions:

-  **How did we give each other strength during this activity?**
-  **How does God use us to give each other strength in real life?**
-  **What kind of strength do you need from this family?**
-  **How can we encourage each other with God’s strength?**





Pray together and ask God to help you encourage each other to rely on God’s strength. Be sure to pray for any needs in your family. Then make a commitment to each other that you will let God use you to strengthen each other.



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## NEVER A LOSER

With your family, read and do the “Never a Loser” activity found near **ISAIAH 53** (page 712). Make a T-shirt for everyone in the family. Then use some more fabric paint to write encouraging, loving messages on each other’s shirts (notice the messages should be *encouraging*). Here are some questions to talk about while your shirts are drying:

-  **When have you felt like a loser?**
-  **Why does Jesus’ death mean no one is a loser?**
-  **When do we make each other feel like losers?**
-  **How can we help each other remember we aren’t losers?**

Pray together, asking God to help you treat each other like precious children of God instead of losers. Then plan a time and place to wear your T-shirts together when you go out as a family.



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## PICK A DAY, ANY DAY

With your family, read and do the “Pick a Day, Any Day” activity found near **JEREMIAH 29:11** (page 757). Make one calendar for your family—if you’re a busy family, you’ll need a big calendar with lots of room to write. Fill in your star days with family stuff and individual stuff. Use a highlighter to call attention to any of the stuff that people are worried about. Then hang the calendar in your kitchen or somewhere else in your house. Talk about these questions:



✎ What kinds of things on our calendar are you worried about? Why?

✎ How do you feel about the fact that God already knows what will happen every day?

✎ How can we remember to trust God with the future?

Have a family prayer time, asking God to help you trust him with the future. Pray for all the events on your calendar—especially the highlighted ones. Then in the future, remember to fill in your star days with what actually happens.

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## TEMPTING TREATS

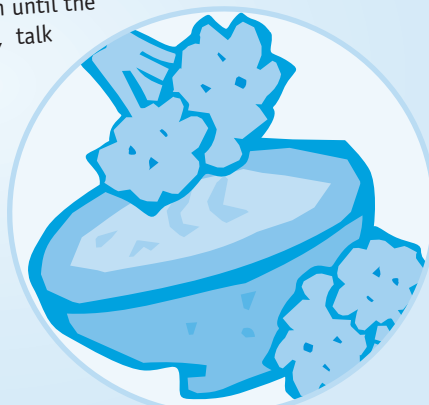
With your family, read and do the “Tempting Treats” activity found near **DANIEL 1** (page 847). Then grab a bunch more vegetables and make a veggie pizza. Mix 3 cups cottage cheese, 1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup mayo, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk. Spread the mixture on a ready-to-bake pizza crust, then top it with a variety of chopped raw vegetables. Bake it in the oven until the crust is golden brown. While it’s baking, talk about these questions:

✎ Why is it important to have a variety of vegetables on the pizza?

✎ Why is it important for our family to have a variety of ideas for fighting temptation?

✎ How can we help each other fight temptation?

Pray. Then enjoy your pizza!








WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....


## BAD TO GOOD

With your family, read and do the “Bad to Good” activity found near **DANIEL 9** (page 857). Make sure each person does a lint sculpture. Then let the sculptures dry for a couple of days. While they’re drying, talk about these questions:

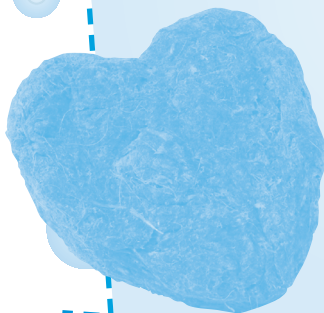
 **Why do you think God wants to forgive us for our sins?**

 **How does knowing that God will forgive you make you feel?**

 **How can God’s forgiveness make a difference in your life?**

 **How can God’s forgiveness make a difference in our family?**


When your lint sculptures are dry, use glue, string, or anything else to make one giant sculpture out of the individual sculptures. This sculpture will symbolize your celebration of God’s forgiveness in your family. When it’s dry, display the sculpture in your home. Continue to collect lint and add to the sculpture as you experience God’s forgiveness in new ways. When people come over and ask about the strange artwork, you can tell them about God’s forgiveness!



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## GOD’S CHILDREN

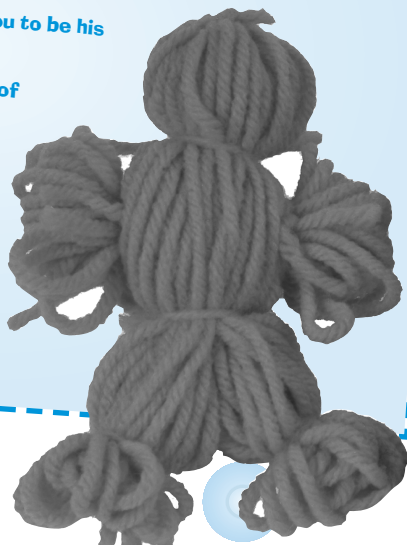
With your family, read and do the “God’s Children” activity found near **HOSEA 11** (page 871). Glue magnet strips on the backs of the finished dolls. Then stick them on the refrigerator. Next, talk about these questions:

 **Why do you think God chooses to describe himself as our parent?**

 **How does knowing that God wants you to be his child make you feel?**

 **How can our family act like children of God?**





Write “Hosea 11” on a piece of paper, and decorate it to remind your family of what the passage says. Then use your doll magnets to stick the paper on your refrigerator. Gather around the fridge and pray, thanking God for wanting you to be his children.



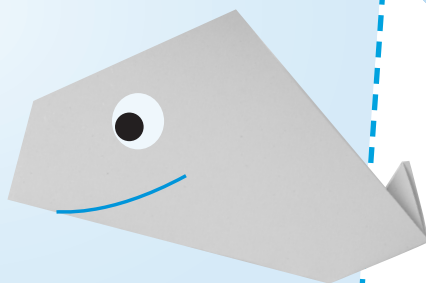
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## SINK OR SWIM OR...

With your family, read and do the "Sink or Swim or..." activity found near **JONAH 2** (page 897). Each person should make a Jonah storyteller. Then everyone should write on the fish one way he or she needs to choose to obey God. When you're finished writing, trade fish with each other. Then pray for each other to choose to obey God. After you pray, discuss these questions:

-  **Why did Jonah have a hard time choosing to obey God?**
-  **Why do we sometimes have a hard time choosing to obey God?**
-  **Why is it so important to obey God?**
-  **How can we help each other choose to obey God?**

Keep the other person's fish, and keep praying for that person. During the week, check in and ask each other how it's going. Encourage your partner to choose to obey God!






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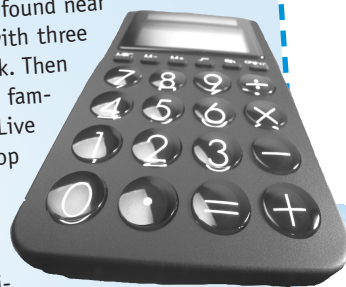
## IT ALL ADDS UP

With your family, read and do the "It All Adds Up" activity found near **MICAH 6:8** (page 905). As you do the activity, come up with three steps to help the entire family do what God wants this week. Then ask each person to write what he or she can do to help the family reach its goal. For example, if the goal for step 1 is "Live at peace in our family," your personal goal might be "Stop yelling at the dog."

When everyone is finished, make a family-goal-tree poster. Draw a large tree. On the main part of the tree (the trunk and the leaves in the middle), write your family's three goals. Then write each person's goals on a separate branch of the tree.

-  **Why do you think these steps are so important to God?**
-  **How would our family be different if we lived God's way all the time?**
-  **How can our family do a better job of living the way God wants us to?**

At the end of the week, pull out your family-goal-tree and see how you did.










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## DISAPPEARING ACT

With your family, read and do the "Disappearing Act" activity found near **MATTHEW 2** (page 943). Take some time to let the whole family master the trick. (You might have to help one or both of your parents figure it out.) Then take turns making the saltshaker disappear while praying this prayer: "Thank you, God, for protecting Jesus. And thank you for protecting me." Then talk about these very salty questions:

-  **Why do you think God protected Jesus the way he did?**
-  **What are some ways God protects people today?**
-  **When has God protected our family?**





Pray for God's continued protection for your family. Then commit to pray together for God's protection each morning before you start your day.



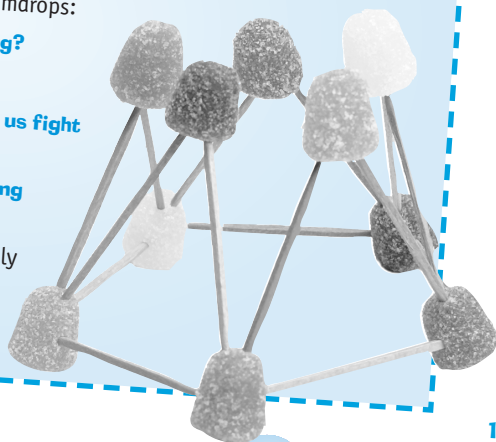
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## STANDING FIRM

With your family, read and do the "Standing Firm" activity found near **MATTHEW 4** (page 944). Make as many domes as you can. When they're dry, find a board, a large book, or a piece of sturdy cardboard, and lay it across the domes. Put the smallest person in your family on the board, and see if the domes hold. How many domes does it take? Can they support heavier family members? If it doesn't work, how many do you think you would need? Here are some questions to discuss while you share some gumdrops:

-  **What makes these domes so strong?**
-  **What makes our family strong?**
-  **How can being a strong family help us fight temptation?**
-  **How can we do a better job of helping each other fight temptation?**

Pray, asking God to strengthen your family and help you support each other in fighting temptation. Then pledge to ask each other how you are doing fighting temptation.



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## THE WAY TO PRAY

With your family, read and do “The Way to Pray” activity found near **MATTHEW 6** (page 947). Make a whole bunch of bags of trail mix. Write the five P’s on them—the five basic ingredients of the Lord’s Prayer. Then open one of the bags and share the trail mix while you talk about these questions:

👉 **Why do you think Jesus thought it was important to teach us how to pray?**

👉 **Why are these five prayer “ingredients” so important?**

👉 **What ingredients do our family prayers need more of?**

Use the five P’s for a family prayer time. Then plan to give away your bags of trail mix. Deliver them to neighbors, friends, and people at church, and tell them about the Lord’s Prayer!



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## MIRROR IMAGE

With your family, read and do the “Mirror Image” activity found near **MATTHEW 7:12a** (page 948). Then try mirroring each other with your whole bodies instead of just your hands. Challenging, huh? Instead of writing the verse on a sticky note, have fun as a family writing it on a mirror in your house. Do some fun decorating, too. Bathtub crayons work well. So does soap—especially if you have a few different colors. When your mirror masterpiece is complete, talk about these questions:

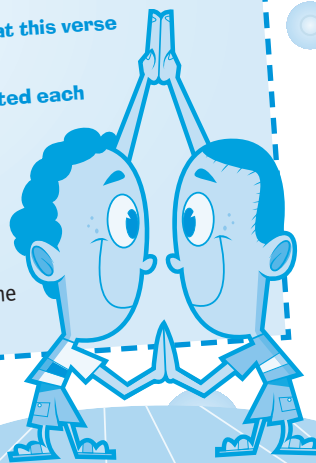
👉 **What makes this simple verse so powerful?**

👉 **How would the world be different if everyone did what this verse says to do?**

👉 **How would our family be different if we always treated each other the way we want to be treated?**

👉 **How can our family do a better job of doing what Jesus asks us to do in this verse?**

Pray together for God’s help in following “the golden rule.” Leave your mirror art up for a while. Every time you look in the mirror, remember to treat your family—and others—the way you want to be treated.








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## COMPLETE CONTROL

With your family, read and do the “Complete Control” activity found near **MATTHEW 8** (page 949). Instead of making your crosses into necklaces, hang all your crosses on one piece of string. Hang the crosses from the rearview mirror in your family car (they beat fuzzy dice), or hang them on the inside of the doorknob on your front door. Then use these questions for discussion:

-  What kinds of “storms” has our family faced?
-  How has Jesus shown us that he is in control of the storms in our lives?
-  How can knowing that Jesus is in control change the way we live?




Pray, asking God to help your family trust that Jesus is in control of the storms in your lives. Leave the crosses hanging for a while. Every time you leave the house or drive somewhere as a family, let the crosses remind you that Jesus is in control of your family's lives.



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## JESUS ATTRACTION

With your family, read and do the “Jesus Attraction” activity found near **MATTHEW 11:28** (page 952). Instead of gluing the cereal to a piece of construction paper, find a bigger piece of paper—or poster board—or tape pieces of construction paper together. Work together to glue the cereal and make your reminder of the verse. Then use more cereal to make pictures or symbols of yourselves around your reminder. When the glue is dry, spray the picture and hang it in your kitchen (maybe near the cupboard where you keep your cereal). When you're finished gluing and munching on cereal, discuss these questions:

-  When have you felt drawn to Jesus?
-  When has Jesus given you rest and peace?
-  How do we “come to Jesus”?





Pray together as a family, thanking Jesus for calling you to himself. Ask him to draw your family closer and closer to himself every day.



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## PARADE OF PRAISE

With your family, read and do the "Parade of Praise" activity found near **MATTHEW 21** (page 964). Then spend some time planning a family praise service. Each person should do one part of the service, using one of the ideas he or she came up with. Set a time and a place for the service. Don't forget to practice so you'll be able to do your best for Jesus! After you're finished planning, talk over these questions:

-  Why do you think the people got so excited praising Jesus?
-  When have you seen people get excited as they praise Jesus?
-  Why does Jesus deserve our praise?
-  How can our family praise Jesus at home?




Come together at your scheduled time and place for your family praise service. Praise Jesus together!



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## WORTH THE EFFORT

With your family, read and do the "Worth the Effort" activity found near **MATTHEW 28** (page 973). Make sure each person gets to try at least once. Then spend a little time talking about what it means to know Jesus and how a person can know Jesus. On your gum wrappers, write your own stories about what Jesus means in your lives. (Your little sister might need some help.) Then read your stories to each other. You just shared your faith! Talk about these questions:

-  Why do we get so nervous about sharing our faith?
-  Why does Jesus want us to share our faith in him?
-  What's the best way to share our faith with others?

Pray together for boldness, honesty, and excitement in sharing your faith with other people. Then work on remembering your stories so you can share them!










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## GOOD SOIL

With your family, read and do the “Good Soil” activity found near **MARK 4** (page 980). Then work together to plant something you can keep either inside your home or outside. You might plant a tree or a vine in your yard or a houseplant in a pot in your kitchen. Or you might try starting a new plant by taking a clipping off a plant you already have. (If you don’t have a green thumb, try a cactus!) As you plant, make sure you’re using good soil that will help your plant to grow. Then gather around your plant and talk about these questions:

-  **What kinds of things make a person’s heart “good soil” for a growing relationship with God?**
-  **What kind of soil do we have in our family?**
-  **How can we become better soil?**





Pray, asking God to use the plant as a reminder to be ready for a growing relationship with him. As you watch the plant grow over time (or slowly die if you don’t take care of it), remember to keep the right kind of soil in your heart.



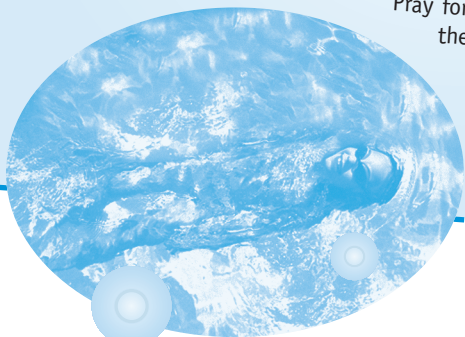
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## STAYIN’ AFLOAT

With your family, read and do the “Stayin’ Afloat” activity found near **MARK 6** (page 983). After you make your list of Jesus’ miracles, add more miracles to your list—miracles your family has experienced and ones you’ve heard about from other people. You might even try an Internet search to find true stories of miracles God has done. Then discuss these questions:

-  **What do you think the disciples thought when they saw Jesus walking on water?**
-  **What makes something a miracle?**
-  **Why do you think Jesus chose to do miracles while he was on earth?**
-  **Why do you think God sometimes chooses to do miracles today?**

Pray for God to open your eyes to miracles in the world. Keep your list of miracles. Watch and listen for other miracles, and add them to the list. (And no, a clean room is not a miracle.)









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## AFTER YOU...

With your family, read and do the “After You...” activity found near **MARK 9:35b** (page 987). Then put each other first for one whole evening. For example, one person can let another person go first in picking a piece of pizza and another person can let someone else go first in choosing what to watch on television. Then come back to this page and discuss these questions:

-  **How did it feel to put others first?**
-  **When was it hard? When was it easy?**
-  **Why do you think Jesus wants us to put others first?**
-  **What happens when we put others first?**





Pray together, and have each person pray for someone else in the family. Don't stop being kind to each other just because the devotion is over! Keep putting each other first every day!



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## HEAD AND SHOULDERS, KNEES AND TOES

With your family, read and do the “Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes” activity found near **MARK 10** (page 990). Then have family members choose their favorite of the five senses and do something together to enjoy that sense. You may want to enjoy tasting an ice-cream sundae, smelling the flowers in your backyard garden, or listening to your favorite music together.

-  **What's your favorite thing to see? touch? smell? feel? taste? hear?**
-  **What would life be like if we didn't have these senses?**
-  **What do your senses help you to do?**
-  **What makes you most thankful when you think about how God has made you?**

Have every person in your family say one thing about their senses that they enjoy. Keep going until everyone's mentioned at least three things. Then pray together, thanking God for giving us such wonderful ways of enjoying the world he created!





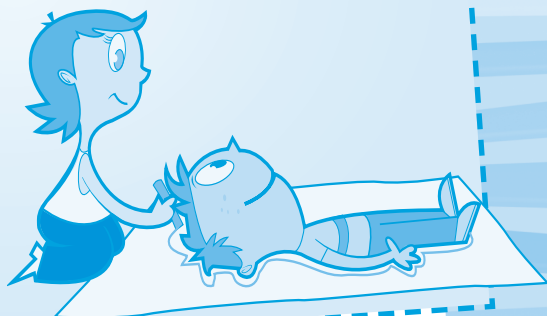
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## THE #1 COMMAND

With your family, read and do "The #1 Command" activity found near **MARK 12** (page 993). Have family members choose two things from their drawings to do this week: one thing to show love for God and one thing to show love for a friend. Tell each other what you're going to do and when you're planning to do these things. (Don't forget to follow through on your plans!) Next, discuss these questions:

-  **Why do you think the Bible tells us to love God with our heart and our mind and our soul and our strength?**
-  **Why do you think love is so important to God?**
-  **How can we, as a family, show love for God this week?**





Together with your family, sing your favorite praise song to God, telling him how much you love him.



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## IS THAT POSSIBLE?

With your family, read and do the "Is That Possible?" activity found near **LUKE 1** (page 1002). In the margin of the Bible activity, let each person write one word to represent another "impossible" thing that your family's glad God did.

-  **What kinds of things are impossible for people to do? Why are some things impossible for people?**
-  **How can it be that none of those things is impossible for God?**
-  **God can do anything; how does that make you feel about God?**
-  **How would you describe God's amazing abilities to someone who has never heard of him?**

Make up a family cheer for God. Every night before dinner, shout your cheer to praise him because nothing is impossible for God!






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## ARMIES OF HEAVEN

With your family, read and do the “Armies of Heaven” activity found near **LUKE 2** (page 1004). Just think! With Jesus’ birth, not only did one angel come, but a whole army of angels appeared! Just for fun, pretend that your family is the army of angels announcing Jesus’ birth. Make up a melody for these words and sing them just the way you think the angels might have sung them.

“Glory to God in highest heaven, and  
peace on earth to those with whom  
God is pleased.”

Then discuss these questions together:

-  **What do you think angels do all day?**
-  **What does the Bible say angels look like?**  
(Look at the angel bio on page 1263!)
-  **Why do you think God uses angels?**




Together, look through your Bible for other times God used angels to send messages. Then thank God for angels!



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## YOUNG AND OLD TOGETHER

With your family, read and do the “Young and Old Together” activity found near **LUKE 2** (page 1005). Next, tell each other about a time you’ve told someone outside of your family about Jesus. What happened?

-  **What can we tell others about Jesus?**
-  **When is it hard to tell others about Jesus?**
-  **Why is it important to tell others about Jesus?**

Have each family member choose an older person to talk to about Jesus. Pray for each other, asking God to help you tell about Jesus boldly.







WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## GONE FISHIN'

With your family, read and do the "Gone Fishin'" activity found near **LUKE 5** (page 1009). Next, name each paper clip you "caught" with the name of someone you can tell about Jesus. You might want to cut small paper fish shapes, write the names on them, and hang the fish on your refrigerator to help you remember to tell them about Jesus. Then make sure you each tell one of those people about Jesus this week!

👉 How was this activity like telling others about Jesus?

👉 What does it mean to go "fishing" for people?

👉 Who are you going to tell about Jesus?

👉 What are you going to say about Jesus?

Pray together and ask God to help you all enjoy a good fishing trip this week!



WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

With your family, read and do the "Anything Is Possible" activity found near **LUKE 6** (page 1010). Then have each family member think of someone to be nice to, even though it may be hard. All of you can write in the margin of this activity the first name or initials of the person you thought of. Then answer these questions together:

👉 When have you had a hard time being nice to someone who wasn't nice to you?

👉 Why does God want us to love our enemies?

👉 What happens when we love people who don't love us?


It can be hard to love people who don't love us. But we're showing God's love when we love our enemies. Pray for each other, and ask God to give you true love for others and to help you show that love every day.





☐ WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## THE ADVENTURES OF SUPER SAMARITAN!

With your family, read and do “The Adventures of Super Samaritan!” activity found near **LUKE 10** (page 1017). After a few days of being Super Samaritans, write on your Super Samaritan badges the names of the people you helped. Talk about what else you can do to help others. Hang your badges in a place where they’ll remind you to love your neighbors every day in every way! Then discuss these questions:

 **Whose names did you write on your badges? What did you do to help those people?**

 **How does it feel to help others?**

 **Why does God want us to help others no matter what?**

 **How does God help us?**

Tell each other about the best part of being a Super Samaritan. Then pray for each other, asking God to help you see more and more ways to help others.




☐ WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

With your family, read the “Ask, Seek, Knock” activity found near **LUKE 11:9** (page 1019). Assign specific “prayer tasks” from the list to specific family members. Every night at dinner, talk about how your prayer tasks are going. At the end of one week, discuss these questions:

 **Which prayer tasks were easy? Were any hard? Why?**

 **When is it hard for you to pray?**

 **Why do you suppose God wants us to talk to him so much?**

 **What happens when we pray?**

Keep the list of prayer requests someplace where you’ll all see them—like on the breakfast table. Update the prayer request list often, and keep on praying for each other!









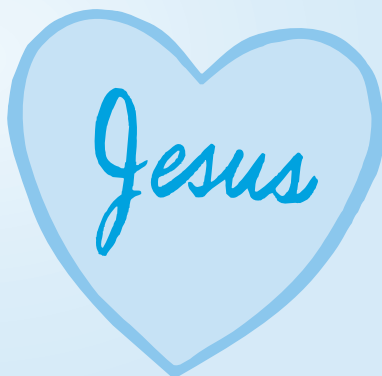
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## KID STUFF

With your family, read the “Kid Stuff” activity found near **LUKE 18** (page 1027). Have each family member make a heart paper. Show each other your papers and pictures, and talk about what it means to have the faith of a little child. As you’re working, discuss these questions together:

-  **Why do you think God wants us to have faith like little children?**
-  **Why do little kids trust God (and people) so much?**
-  **Do you ever find it hard to trust God like that? Why?**
-  **What could help our family remember to trust God more?**




Display all of the pictures in a place that will remind your family to have “little kid” faith in God.



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## CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

With your family, read and do the “Clean Up Your Act” activity found near **LUKE 19** (page 1030). What are some ways you’ve seen yourselves change since you decided to follow Jesus? Encourage family members to talk about the changes they’ve seen in themselves and in each other. Then discuss these questions:

-  **Do you always want to do the right thing? Why or why not?**
-  **What would it be like to stop wanting to do the wrong thing?**
-  **Why do you think believing in Jesus changes us so we want to do right?**





Thank God for the way he’s changing you day by day to be more like him. Pray together and praise God for his power to change your hearts.



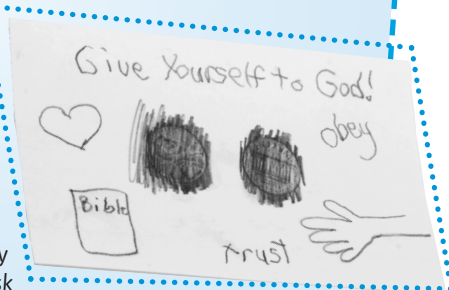
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## GIVE YOURSELF TO GOD!

With your family, read and do the "Give Yourself to God!" activity found near **LUKE 21** (page 1033). Show each other the cards you made, and tell why you decorated them the way you did. Then each pick one thing you'll do to give yourself to God this week. Tell each other what you're going to do—then do it! Encourage your family members all week to follow through too! During the week, discuss these questions:

-  What do you think it means to give yourself to God?
-  What are ways you've seen others give themselves to God?
-  How do you think that giving yourself to God will change what you do and think?
-  How can we encourage each other to keep giving ourselves to God?




Have each family member pray for another family member every day for the next several days. Ask God to help all of you give yourselves to God.



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## THREE IN ONE

With your family, read and do the "Three in One" activity found near **JOHN 1:1-2** (page 1042). Talk about what each member of the Trinity means to your family. Then discuss these questions together:

-  Who is Jesus?
-  Why is it so important to believe that Jesus is God?
-  How can we explain the Trinity to someone else?

Then invite a friend or neighbor over, and do the experiment for him or her. Use the experiment to explain the Trinity to your friend. Pray together, praising God for always existing. Then thank God for sending Jesus and the Holy Spirit into the world to teach us about him.










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## A WONDERFUL WEDDING

With your family, read and do the “A Wonderful Wedding” activity found near **JOHN 2** (page 1043). Then enjoy glasses of grape juice together to celebrate Jesus’ first miracle. While you’re sipping your juice, see how many more of Jesus’ miracles you can think of. (Look through this Bible for ideas!) Then discuss these questions:

-  What makes what you just did with the volcano different from the miracles Jesus did?
-  Why do you think Jesus did miracles when he was on earth?
-  What do those miracles tell us about Jesus?

Jesus really can do anything! Pray together, thanking Jesus for having the power to do miracles.






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## GOD LOVES YOU!

With your family, read and do the “God Loves You!” activity found near **JOHN 3:16** (page 1044). Then get a local phone book and look at all the names inside. Can you find some names that you know? What’s the longest last name you can find? the funniest? the strangest?

God loves all those people as much as he loves each member of your family. Today, as you go about your business, look at each person you see and remember, God loves him (or her)! Then at dinner, discuss these questions:

-  How did learning that God loves everyone change how you think about people?
-  Sometimes we call the news about Jesus the Good News. Why is it such good news?
-  What can our family do to make sure that others hear the Good News about Jesus?






Pick names from a phone book, and pray for them. Ask God to make sure those people understand how much he loves them. Then thank God for loving everyone.



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## LIVING WATER

With your family, read and do the “Living Water” activity found near **JOHN 4** (page 1047). Did you know that people can live only about three days without water? There are people right now who are very thirsty for the living water because they don’t know about Jesus. As a family, talk about why people need to know about Jesus. Then discuss these questions as you share a pitcher of ice cold water:

-  **What does it mean to say that Jesus is living water?**
-  **What would happen if people didn’t drink water?**
-  **What happens when people don’t know about Jesus, the “living water”?**
-  **Why is it important for us to tell people about Jesus?**
-  **What might happen if we don’t tell others about Jesus?**





Write your family’s favorite idea for telling people about Jesus, and then make plans to do it!



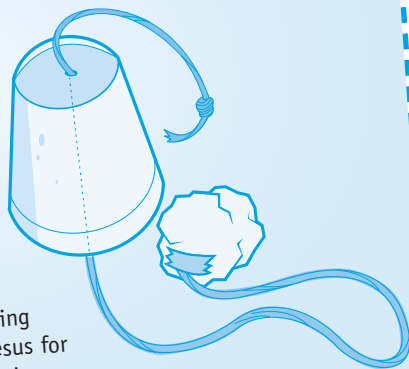
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## ROLL AWAY THAT STONE!

With your family, read and do the “Roll Away That Stone!” activity found near **JOHN 11** (page 1055). Make sure each person gets a few turns to try the game. What’s the family record for the number of times you caught the paper ball “stone” in the paper cup “tomb”? After you applaud the champion, discuss these questions together:

-  **Why do you think Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead?**
-  **What do you suppose everyone thought after seeing what Jesus had done?**
-  **How does learning about this miracle help you believe in Jesus?**
-  **Do you think there’s anything that Jesus can’t do? Explain.**

Jesus can do anything! Pray together, thanking Jesus for his awesome power. Then thank Jesus for using his awesome power to help your family!









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## SERVICE WITH A SMILE

With your family, read and do the “Service With a Smile” activity found near **JOHN 13** (page 1058). Grab a light-colored towel and some permanent markers. Have family members write on the towel the name of someone they’d like to serve. Let each person explain one way to serve the person named. Hang the towel in the bathroom to remind you to follow through on your service ideas. Then discuss these questions:

-  Why was Jesus willing to be a servant?
-  Why does Jesus want us to follow his example of servanthood?
-  What are ways our family members can serve each other?
-  How can we encourage each other to remember to be servants?




Remembering to serve others can be hard, so pray together and ask God to remind you to be willing and cheerful servants.



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## THE ONLY WAY

With your family, read and do “The Only Way” activity found near **JOHN 14:6** (page 1060). Sign each other’s pictures to show that you’ve all shown and explained them to each other. Then say the verse aloud together several times, replacing the words *I* and *me* with the word *Jesus*. (You’ll need to use *is* instead of *am* too.) Say the verse louder each time, and end with a great big cheer for God! Then relax and talk about these questions:

-  Do you know many people who don’t understand who Jesus is and what he does? How can you help?
-  What other ways can you think of to explain this exciting fact?
-  Who will you tell next?

Collect the pictures, and put them in an area of your house where guests visit. Each time you have guests, show them all the pictures your family made about Jesus.





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## DON'T DOUBT

With your family, read and do the "Don't Doubt" activity found near **JOHN 20** (page 1066). Together, make a great big chart just like the one shown in the Bible, and brainstorm about things you know about Jesus. You can write all those things in the right column. Next, fill in the column at the left with situations when knowing each fact about God could help or comfort you. Then discuss these questions:



**Were you surprised at how much your family knows about God? Why or why not?**



**Look at all the facts you wrote about God. What do they tell you about the one true God?**



**How will knowing all these things about God help you when you're feeling bad or doubtful?**

Together, look at the long list you came up with. Count all the things you know for sure about Jesus. Then pray together, thanking and praising God for being so big and powerful and loving that he can wipe all your doubts away. Hang your chart where you'll all see it often. Whenever you have doubts about God or your faith, check out your chart!



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## SAY AGAIN?

With your family, read and do the "Say Again?" activity found near **ACTS 2** (page 1072). Come up with a secret, made-up word that will be a signal in your family that God loves you. You can tell each other this word over the phone, in e-mails, or in notes you leave for each other as reminders of how much God loves you. If people ask you what your word means, you'll have a chance to tell them about Jesus! Then discuss these questions:



**Do you know anyone who speaks a different language than you do? Can you communicate very well with that person? Why or why not?**



**Sometimes people go to a language school for many months to learn how to tell others about Jesus in a different language. Why is it so important to tell people all over the world about Jesus?**



**What can you do to help people who speak other languages learn about Jesus?**

Pray together, asking God to put opportunities in your path to tell others about Jesus. Ask God to give you the boldness and the love to tell everyone the Good News about Jesus!

HUH?









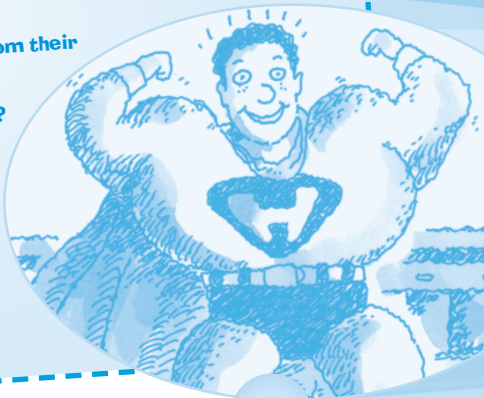
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## HEROES OF THE FAITH

With your family, read and do the “Heroes of the Faith” activity from **ACTS 6** (page 1077). Have everyone in your family make a note. Then tell each other who you’re sending your notes to and why. Pray together, thanking God for these wonderful examples of faithful living. Ask God to bless them for the help they’ve given you. Then discuss these questions:

-  **Why do you think the heroes that you recognized do what they do to serve God?**
-  **What can you learn about following God from their examples?**
-  **What does it take to be a hero of the faith?**
-  **How can you be a hero of the faith to someone else?**




Now pray again, asking God to help you be an extra faithful example to others every day.



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## REFLECTION OF LOVE

With your family, read and do the “Reflection of Love” activity from **ACTS 8** (page 1079). Next, shine the flashlight onto each person’s head so that the light hits the top of his or her head. As each family member is treated to a turn in the spotlight, have that person name one way to reflect Jesus’ love and light to others. You can keep going until you run out of ideas. Everyone should get at least two turns in the spotlight. Then talk about these questions:

-  **Who has reflected the light and love of Jesus to you?**
-  **How does it feel to help shine Jesus’ light into the world?**
-  **What else can our family do to be a shiny reflection of Jesus?**


Have each person pray for the person he or she wants to reflect Jesus’ love to this week. Ask God to help you find a way to show those people Christlike love.





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## INSIDE OUT

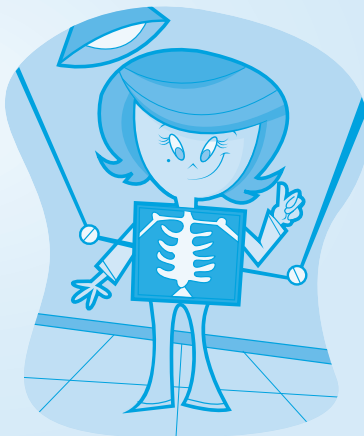
With your family, read and do the “Inside Out” activity from **ACTS 9** (page 1080). While you’re enjoying the bananas and chocolate sauce, talk about the different ways that God wants to change people. Write a few of your ideas right here in the margin. Then talk about these questions:

 **When have you discovered that someone was different on the inside than on the outside?**

 **How has God changed the members of this family?**

 **How can our family be more open to God’s changes in our lives?**


Pray together, asking God to make each of you more and more like him on the inside. Thank God for the changes that he’s already made in your family.





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## KNOCK, KNOCK

With your family, read and do the “Knock, Knock” activity found near **ACTS 12** (page 1085). On a sheet of paper, have everyone draw what he or she thinks heaven might look like. Then have everyone describe the drawings to each other. After that, talk about these questions:

 **Why do you think God rescued Peter from jail?**

 **Can you think of a time God helped your family out of a tight spot? Explain.**

 **Why does God rescue us when we’re in trouble and can’t help ourselves?**

During the next week, choose one person to tell Peter’s prison rescue story to and give that person your heavenly illustration to help him or her remember how God rescues us.









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## STAYIN' PUT

With your family, read and do the "Stayin' Put" activity found near **ACTS 16** (page 1089). Have everyone in your family take a close look at the penny you used in the activity. Notice the words "In God We Trust." Then have your family members each tell about a time they trusted God.

-  What happens when you trust God, even if you're unsure of what might happen?
-  Why do you think God wants us to trust him?
-  Have you ever been afraid to trust God? Explain.
-  How can we encourage each other to trust God more?





Give everyone in the family a penny to keep in his or her shoe during the coming week as a reminder to trust God. At the end of the week, talk about what it was like to trust God more. Then pray together and thank God for being trustworthy.



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## SHIPWRECKED!

With your family, read and do the "Shipwrecked!" activity found near **ACTS 27** (page 1102). Now pretend that, like Paul, your family has been shipwrecked on a deserted island. Get a piece of paper, and as a family, list five ways you'd try to send an SOS signal. Then answer these questions:

-  How do signals alert other people that we need help?
-  In what ways do you rely on your family to help?
-  How does God help us when we're in trouble?
-  How can we encourage each other to turn to God when we need help?





Now devise a secret family SOS signal (something like a secret handshake or code word) to use when someone needs help with a problem. Use your secret signal to help each other remember to turn to God for help.



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## EVERYONE HAS SINNED

With your family, read and do the “Everyone Has Sinned” activity found near **ROMANS 3** (page 1110). On the bull’s-eye target you drew, have everyone in your family write behaviors that do hit the target with God—the kind that make God smile! When everyone has written something, look at your list together and discuss these questions:

-  Are there any other good behaviors we can think of? (If you think of more, go ahead and add them to your list.)
-  Why is it important to act in ways that please God?
-  Why do you think God has a high standard of behavior for us?
-  How can we, as a family, act better toward one another?




Now have all the members of your family choose a behavior from the list that they’d like to improve on. Make a point during the next week to practice each good behavior at least once.



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## THE PIECES FIT!

With your family, read and do “The Pieces Fit!” activity found near **ROMANS 8** (page 1116). Then have each family member choose a leftover piece of the puzzle. Have everyone think of a problem in his or her life right now that’s frustrating or confusing and write the situation on the back of the puzzle piece. Then talk about these questions together:

-  Why do you think God allows problems to come into our lives?
-  Have you learned anything about yourself because of having to deal with a problem? Have you learned anything about God? Explain.
-  Have you asked God to help you solve the problem you have? Why or why not?

Pray together, thanking God for seeing the “big picture” of our lives and asking for his guidance for each person’s problem. Have everyone trade puzzle pieces. During the next week, pray daily for the person whose puzzle piece you have and for the problem he or she is facing.








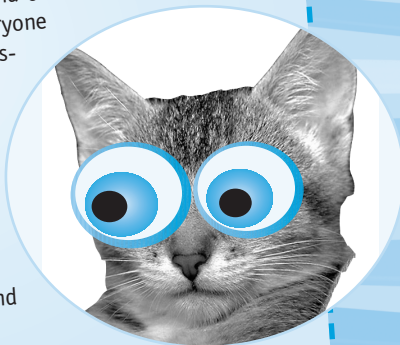
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## LOVE ALL AROUND

With your family, read and do the “Love All Around” activity found near **1 CORINTHIANS 13** (page 1136). Using the ball you created, play this game. Form a circle. Let the person wearing the most red start the game by bouncing the ball to someone else in the circle. The person who catches the ball will look to see what picture his or her right hand landed on. Then that person must “nominate” another family member who’s especially good at showing that kind of love, and pass the ball to this person. Play the game until everyone has had the ball at least twice. Then answer these questions together:

-  **How many different ways can you think of to show love?**
-  **Why does God want us to love each other?**
-  **How does our family show love to each other?**





During the next week, challenge each family member to show love to another family member in a unique and unexpected way.



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## CHRIST IN ME

With your family, read and do the “Christ in Me” activity found near **GALATIANS 2** (page 1154). Then take a field trip to your kitchen. Have everyone pick out two favorite snacks or foods and put them on the kitchen table. Check the ingredients of the food, and make a list of the foods that contain salt. Then talk about the following questions:

-  **Which of your favorite foods are made with salt? Do any of your favorite sweets contain salt? Why do you think that is?**
-  **How do you think these foods would taste without salt?**
-  **How important is salt in our everyday lives? (Think about all the foods you eat during the day. How many of them contain salt?)**
-  **How is having Jesus in our lives like or unlike having salt in our food?**




Just for fun, when preparing your next meal, choose one food, such as green beans or mashed potatoes, and omit salt from the recipe. Have your family eat the dish without salt and discuss the difference in taste. Then pray together, thanking God for sending Jesus into your lives!



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## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

With your family, read and do the "Fruit of the Spirit" activity found near **GALATIANS 5** (page 1158). Create a Fruit of the Spirit poster to remind your family of the qualities God's love produces in us. Across the top of a sheet of poster board, draw the fruits your family chose to represent the fruits of the Spirit. Under the drawings, write the quality each fruit represents. Hang the poster in a place where everyone will see it during the week. Then, whenever a family member demonstrates a fruit of the Spirit, write that person's name under the fruit on the poster. Right now, talk about these questions:

-  **How does God create fruit of the Spirit in us?**
-  **Do you think one of these qualities is more important than the others? Why or why not?**
-  **Which fruits of the Spirit do you need to develop more?**





During the next week, choose one fruit of the Spirit you'd like God to develop more in you. Practice that quality, and pray daily for God to help you grow more in that quality. At the end of the week, pray together and thank God for guiding you. Then pick another fruit and start over!



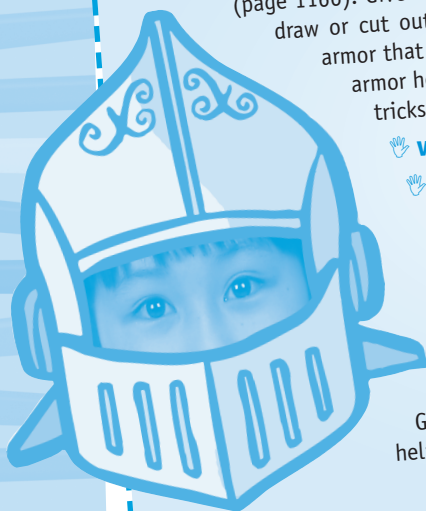
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## STAND FIRM!

With your family, read and do the "Stand Firm!" activity found near **EPHESIANS 6** (page 1166). Give each person a sheet of paper. Have each family member draw or cut out a piece of "armor" from the paper to represent the armor that God uses to protect us. Have each person write on the armor how he or she will use it to stand firm against the devil's tricks. Talk over these questions as you work:

-  **Why does God protect us against evil?**
-  **How can you stand firm in circumstances where it's easy to do the wrong thing?**
-  **How can we as a family help each other stand firm?**
-  **How can we do a better job of relying on God's armor to help us make tough choices?**

Each night, talk about the different temptations and choices each of you faced during the day. How did God's armor help you? Pray for each other, asking God to help you stand firm against temptation each day.








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## MOVE IT!

To do this activity, ask everyone except one person to leave the room. Have that person read and do the "Move It!" activity found near **PHILIPPIANS 2** (page 1171). That person should then choose a family member to come back into the room and then teach the second person the motions to the verse. The first person should leave the room as the one who has learned the motions chooses another family member. Repeat the process until everyone has learned the motions from a different person. Then gather everyone and do the motions together. Discuss these questions:

-  **Was it easy or difficult to teach the motions to each other? Why?**
-  **Is it always easy to tell others about your faith? Explain.**
-  **Why is it important to pass on God's Word?**





During the next week, have each family member share the Scripture with a friend. Next week, choose a different Scripture passage, and share some more!



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## DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY

With your family, read and do the "Don't Worry, Be Happy" activity found near **PHILIPPIANS 4** (page 1173). Have people name one thing they're currently worried about and explain why they're worried. Then talk over these questions:

-  **What kinds of things do you worry about?**
-  **What do you do when you're worried?**
-  **What should you do when you're worried?**
-  **How can we help when someone in our family is worried?**

Pray together as a family, asking God to take care of your worries. Then thank him for caring about our concerns.







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## GOOD EXAMPLES

With your family, read and do the “Good Examples” activity found near **1 TIMOTHY 4** (page 1195). Then create a Good Examples chart for your family using poster board, tempera paint, and markers. Ask each family member—no matter how old or young—to make a handprint somewhere on the board.

Write the person’s name under each handprint. Talk about the ways each person is a good example, and write those ways around the person’s handprint. As your poster dries, answer these questions together:

-  **How do you try to be a good example for others?**
-  **How is Jesus a good example for us?**
-  **Is being a good example important? Why or why not?**
-  **What can you do this week to set a good example?**




Devote the following week to setting good examples—especially in areas where you might be a little weak. Each night at dinner, compare notes on how each of you is doing. Pray for God’s help as you strive to be good examples!



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## IT’S KNOT A PROBLEM

With your family, read and do the “It’s Knot a Problem” activity found near **2 TIMOTHY 3** (page 1199). Then have everyone stand very close together and grab hands with two different people. When you give the signal, your family must work itself out of the “people knot” and into a circle without letting go of anyone’s hands. No cheating! This may require stepping over legs, heads, and entire bodies! Once the knot is untied, sit down and relax! Then discuss these questions:

-  **Did you think your human knot could become a circle? Why or why not?**
-  **How is that like facing problems in our lives that seem impossible to solve?**
-  **How can we encourage each other to rely on God to help us with our problems?**

Set the knotted rope you made in a place where you’ll all see it this week. Every time you look at the rope, remember that God can solve all of your “impossible” problems!







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## LIFE PRESERVER

With your family, read and do the "Life Preserver" activity found near **TITUS 3** (page 1202). Then share Life Savers candies with your family. As everyone enjoys the candies, discuss the following questions:



What is mercy?

When has someone in our family shown mercy?

When have you felt God's mercy?

Why does God show us mercy?

Give each person five individually wrapped Life Savers candies, one to eat each day of the coming work or school week. As you eat each day's candy, focus on mercy. Remember that God shows mercy to us because he loves us, and try to pass God's love to someone else each day.



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## FAITH IS...

With your family, read and do the "Faith Is..." activity found near **HEBREWS 11:1** (page 1217). Then sit together near a window in your home. As you look outside, make a list together of the evidence of God that you see. When you finish your list, talk over these questions together:

Why do you think God created such a beautiful world?

How does having faith in God help you every day?

How important is faith in God to our family?

When is it hard to have faith?


Pray together, thanking God for all the beautiful "evidence" he gives us of his love and presence. Ask God to help the faith of your family grow. Then hang your list on the refrigerator to remind you that God is real!




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## GOT GOD?

With your family, read and do the “Got God?” activity found near **JAMES 1:5** (page 1223). Have you ever heard of tying string around a finger to help you remember something? Give it a try! Cut a five-inch piece of string or yarn for each family member. Take turns tying the yarn onto another family member’s index finger. When everyone has a string tied to his or her finger, shout together, “Remember: Go to God first!” Then answer the following questions:

 **When you’re confused or facing a decision, who do you turn to first for help?**

 **Why does God want us to go to him for guidance?**

 **Why is God the very best source of wisdom?**


Have family members tie their pieces of string to something they’ll carry with them during the week—maybe a key chain, purse, or backpack. When you see the string this week, remember to go to God first!


**Got  
GOD?**


☐ WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## GOODBYE SINS!


With your family, read and do the “Goodbye Sins!” activity found near **1 JOHN 1** (page 1241). Now cut the coffee filter into enough pieces for each person to have one. Have everyone think of a sin he or she committed recently and pray silently for God’s forgiveness. (If someone’s sin hurt a family member, have that person apologize and ask for forgiveness.) Then talk over these questions together:

 **What does it mean to confess your sins?**

 **Why is it important to say you’re sorry when you’ve sinned?**

 **Why does God want us to confess our sins, even when he already knows what they are?**

 **Why does God forgive us when we confess and are sorry for our sins?**

 **What should we do when someone apologizes to us? Why?**




Because God forgives us, we should forgive each other. As a family, pray for God’s forgiveness for your sins and for his help in forgiving others. Then close with a big family hug.



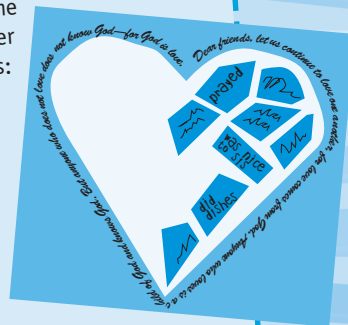
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## GOD IS LOVE

With your family, read and do the "God Is Love" activity found near **1 JOHN 4** (page 1242). Add pieces of white construction paper to the poster board heart whenever a family member "gets caught" showing love to someone else. To get started, have family members think of a time someone else in the family showed them love. Each person should write a few words about what happened on a small piece of white construction paper and attach the paper to the heart. Keep a jar of white construction paper pieces next to the heart. When the heart is full, you'll have a mosaic full of loving actions! After everyone has added a paper to the heart, discuss these questions:

-  Why does God want us to show love to each other?
-  How does God show he loves you?
-  In what ways does our family demonstrate God's love?






Make plans to intentionally share God's love as a family over the next week. Invite another family to dinner, send a care package to a friend, or donate to a charity. (And don't forget to keep adding to your paper heart!)



☐ WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## JESUS IS KNOCKING

With your family, read and do the "Jesus Is Knocking" activity found near **REVELATION 3** (page 1255). Have family members who believe in Jesus tell about the moment when they answered Jesus' knock and invited him into their hearts. As each person shares, have him or her answer the following questions:

-  How did you know Jesus was knocking on the door of your heart?
-  How did you feel when you answered Jesus' knock?
-  How has Jesus made your life better?
-  Why does Jesus want to be your forever friend?
-  Why is opening the door to Jesus' knock the most important decision you'll ever make?

During the next week, set a family goal for each person in your family to tell one other person about Jesus. Pray together, asking God to help you have the courage to share your faith in Jesus this week!





WE DID THIS ONE. LED BY .....

## TIME TO CELEBRATE!

With your family, read and do the "Time to Celebrate!" activity found near **REVELATION 21** (page 1269). Using a sheet of poster board and markers or paint, have one person begin illustrating what he or she thinks it will be like when Jesus comes back. Set a timer for three minutes. At the end of three minutes, give the paper and art supplies to the next person to continue the illustration for another three minutes. Keep illustrating until every person has had a chance to draw or until the picture is complete. Then answer these questions:



**How does knowing that God has such wonderful plans for his children make you feel?**



**How can we as a family prepare for Jesus' return?**



**How can our family help others get ready for Jesus' return?**

Pray together, thanking God for the gift of Jesus and for the amazing things he has in store for us. Hang your poster somewhere in your house where you (and your guests!) can see it every day. Remember that Jesus is coming back! Hooray!

