



***The Ultimate
Family
Summer
Survival
Devotion Kit***



**12 Weekly
Devotions for
families of all ages!**

Greetings!

We pray this Family Devotion Kit will help your family grow in faith together! The included devotions are for all ages and family structures.

Here are some tips for successful family devotions:

- 1. Set a day & time each week. The most important things are scheduled – make this time important & special!**
- 2. If able, alternate between adults who prepares the devotion.**
- 3. When leading the devotion, read it ahead. Each devotion has an activity, some that require set up.**
- 4. Have fun! Keep the tone light, make sure everyone has the chance to succeed at activities. Get in on the fun with your kids & enjoy the time together!**

Microwave Popsicles



FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is Peer Pressure. In the first century A.D., Rome existed as the center of a world characterized by decadence & immorality. It was also home to many Christians. As these Christians lived in a non-Christian society, Paul warned them in Romans 12:1-2 to not be like the people around them, but to be like Jesus. Our world today is not so different from ancient Rome. Family members of all ages are pressured to conform to the world's standards: "Cheat on your homework," "Look out for yourself," "Steal if you really need it," etc. In our world, popularity equals power – but not the power we really need. Use this devotion to show your family how Paul's warning to the Christians in ancient Rome is a warning we need to hear today.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

Popsicles, a microwave, bowls, and a Bible

ACTIVITY:

Tell your family that you are going to give them the **NEWEST** dessert on earth! Take some popsicles out of the freezer and place them, wrappers and all, in the microwave. Cook them until they are good and soggy! Then, hand them out to family members. Encourage them to dig in – but be careful if it's too hot!



MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE

Now point out the obvious: Popsicles aren't meant to be microwaved! They're meant to be frozen! Share with your family how we are often encouraged by friends, t.v. shows, celebrities, and even family members to do things that don't make sense. We do things that God doesn't intend for us to do (sin).

Read Romans 12:1–2 and discuss these questions:

- How did you feel when I handed you the microwaved popsicles?
- What are some of the things the world tries to trick us into doing?
- What should we do when these actions or ideas are against God's plans & designs?

When discussing, make sure to remind your family that God doesn't only give us His plans & ways in the Bible, but He gives us forgiveness when we stumble!

PRAYER:

Lead your family in a prayer like this: "Dear God, help us turn to You when others try to lead us away from Your plans. Give us forgiveness. Lead us to follow the encouragement of Romans 12:1–2 always. In Jesus' name, amen."

Family FUN!

Pass out some non-microwaved popsicles for your family to enjoy!





The Great American Ice Cream Hunt!

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is Treasures in Heaven. Saying the word "treasure" makes a kid's eyes light up! Visions of pirates and ships filled with gold & jewels abound. The thought of riches waiting to be found almost makes our mouths water. But there is a treasure far greater than gold! This treasure is the life given by Jesus! In Matthew 6:19–21, Jesus tells all who will listen, "Don't store up treasures for yourselves on earth, but in Heaven!" Use this devotion to help your family discover the hidden treasure of Jesus' words!

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

A gallon of solidly frozen ice cream, spoons, bowls, and a Bible

ACTIVITY:

Hide the gallon of ice cream somewhere in your house or yard. Again, make sure it is frozen **SOLID!** Let your family know they are on the lookout for a hidden treasure, and play a game of "Hot or Cold" to help them find it. When the treasure is found, hand out spoons & bowls to dish up the treasure!



**MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE**

While everyone is eating, read Matthew 6:19–21 and discuss these questions:

- How did you feel when you were looking for our treasure? How is this like looking for treasures from God?
- What are some treasures we have on earth (you may need to help with this)?
- Will treasures from earth last forever?
- What treasures can we store in heaven?
- What distracts us from searching for God's treasures?
- How is life in service to Jesus a treasure in Heaven AND on earth?

Make sure to emphasize with your family that the greatest treasure of all is the gift of love and forgiveness that Jesus freely gives to us!

PRAYER:

Share with your family that a treasure God gives us is the ability to talk with Him directly (prayer)! Brainstorm some treasures you have in your life. Start a prayer for your family and encourage them to thank God in their heads for treasures He has given them!

Family FUN!
Scoop up some more ice cream & watch a movie together!



Watermelon Wonders

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is growing in faith. In Mark 4:26–29 we see Jesus tell a parable. This parable compares growing in faith to the growth of a seed. We don't actually see a seed's first sprout, but we recognize it is developing & changing and appreciate its beauty or fruit. In the same way, we might not actually see ourselves grow in our faith, but we can recognize the changes in our lives and look forward to being harvested into God's heavenly home.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

An outdoor area (not 100% needed), watermelons, a large knife, plates, and a Bible

ACTIVITY:

Have a picnic or go to a park and try some of the following watermelon activities:

1. See who can spit a seed the farthest
2. See who can pinch a wet watermelon seed and shoot it the farthest
3. Cut wedges of equal size and see who can eat a watermelon the fastest without using their hands
4. Cut the watermelon into circles, and use the rind to play ring-toss



MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE

Once you're done with the games, have everyone wash their hands. Then gather together with your Bible, read Mark 4:26–29, and discuss these questions:

- How much do you think our watermelons weighed?
- Look at a watermelon seed. Does it surprise you that such a big fruit can come from such a small seed?
- Can you actually see a plant grow?
- How do you know a plant is done growing or needs to be harvested?

Share with your family that we are like watermelons. God gives us faith at our baptism (a seed), waters us with His love, Word (Bible), and forgiveness, and will harvest us (take us home to heaven)!

PRAYER:

Write the word "WATERMELON" down the side of a piece of paper. Work as a family to write one word or phrase beginning with each letter of "watermelon" that represents some way we grow in our faith. For example, "W" could be "worship." When you have something for each letter, ask that God help you become more like watermelons – growing in faith together!

Family FUN!
Go swimming and see who does the best "Watermelon Dive" (a cannonball)



Mudslingers

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is taming the tongue. THIS DEVOTION IS GOING TO BE MESSY! Make sure you set aside time to clean up after. In James 3:5–12 tongues are compared to a fire. Just as a small flame can start a forest fire, a few words can cause great pain & damage. Use this devotion to help family members remember the dangers of our words, but also how we can use words to build each other up in the love of Jesus!

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

A bucket of mud – made sure to check for rocks! – a hose, and a Bible

ACTIVITY:

Have your family put their swimsuits on. Go outside near a washable item like a wall or tree. Ask family members to think of 3 put-downs or names they do not like being called by others. As each person shares, have him or her scoop up a handful of mud (or have a different family member do it for them) and put it on themselves. GROSS!

Some family members may not like this, some may love it. Make it as fun, and safe, as possible. Maybe have a mud-fight to get everyone having a good time.

MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE

Once everyone is all muddied up, read James 3:5–12 and discuss these questions:

- How do the words you shared make you feel when others say them to you?
- How are those put-downs like the mud all over us?
- Why do you think we put each other down?
- Why do you think James describes our tongues as a fire?

Share with your family that we often use our words to throw mud at each other. We use our words – our tongues – in sinful ways. Get out a hose & turn it on. Share with your family that God uses His words to give us forgiveness & wash us clean from our sin! Then, hose everyone off & play in the water for a while & encourage family members with your words.

PRAYER:

Once you're done playing, dry off and have each family member ask God for help in controlling their tongues. Close your prayer time by thanking God for His words of forgiveness & ask for His help in using our words to spread His love!

Family FUN!
Have a water balloon or
squirt gun fight!



Flip of the Coin

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is following God's Direction. The Old Testament Prophet Jeremiah sent a letter to his countrymen who had been taken away as slaves to Babylon. In the letter, Jeremiah reveals startling news for them: God had plans for them – plans for good and hope for the future. In a spiritual sense, Christians live as temporary captives in this world. Yet, despite life's uncertainties, God still has plans for us – and those plans are good & full of hope. Use this devotion to comfort your family with the news that God's Plans are not random, like the flip of a coin.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

A coin, a car, and a Bible

ACTIVITY:

Pile into the family car (you could also do this walking). Explain that you will be going on a coin-toss adventure. Every time the car stops at an intersection, have a family member flip the coin. If it lands on "heads," you'll turn right. If the coin lands on "tails," you'll turn left. Make sure everyone has multiple chances to flip the coin. It may be best to flip the coin in advance, so the driver knows where they are turning. You may drive in circles a few times, but eventually you will get somewhere!



MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE

Drive for a half-hour or so and see where you end up. If you are near a park or fast-food, stop and get a milkshake or sweet treat. When sitting together, read Jeremiah 29:11 and discuss these questions (if you're in the middle of nowhere, do this while driving home):

- What was fun or frustrating about our adventure?
- If we made all of our decisions based on a coin-flip, what would like be like? Crazy or planned?
- How does it feel knowing God has plans for you?
- What good things do you hope God has planned for your future?

Share with your family that God has one shared plan for all of us: That we celebrate with Him in heaven!

PRAYER:

Give each family member the opportunity to flip the coin one more time. If it lands "heads," thank God for something. If it lands "tails," ask God for guidance as you move to the future.

Family FUN!

Watch a movie about time-travel together! We suggest Meet the Robinsons!



Fore!

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is the golden rule. First-century Jews were consumed with following every nuance of Old Testament Law. But in their legalistic zeal they missed out on the meaning of the Laws. Families can also become consumed with all the "rules" of Christian living. We may memorize the "dos" and "don'ts," but we miss out on the simple meanings of God's instructions in the Bible.

Jesus summarized the Law in Matthew 22:37–39: Love God and Love Others. Use this devotion to help your family understand the true meaning of God's Law.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

A mini-golf course, paper, pen, a golf ball, and a Bible

ACTIVITY:

Take your family to a mini-golf course. Explain to your family that you are going to play XTREME MINI-GOLF, which has different rules for each hole. At each hole, have a family member come up with a new rule for only that hole. Some fun ones are: "Moo like a cow when you swing," "Pool que hits only."

When you finish the course, tally up all the scores. Subtract the age of the oldest person in your group from the score of the youngest person, and so on. Lowest score is the winner!

MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE

If the course offers a pleasant sitting area, gather there, read Matthew 22:37–39, and discuss these questions (otherwise, do this at home or over ice cream):

- What would you say was the most important rule for mini-golf?
- What was the most fun rule we made? The hardest?
- What are some of God's rules? Are they always fun?
- How does Jesus summarize God's rules? Does that sound so bad?
- How can we better love God?
- How can we better love others?

Share with your family that the biggest, most important rule God has given us is to love Him because He loves us. Remind them of how God shows us His love on the cross!

PRAYER:

While sitting, start a prayer. Then roll a golf ball to each other. When each person gets the ball, ask God for help following His rules. Then close in prayer, asking that God remind you that He loves you!

***Family FUN!
Mini-golfing can be tiring
with the sun beating down
on you. Go get milkshakes
to cool off!***



Family Forts

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is trusting God will protect us. The writer of Psalm 46 is brimming with confidence. "Let the mountains fall in the sea!" "Let the oceans roar & foam!" "God is ALWAYS present in times of trouble!"

We all struggle with having this level of confidence in God in times of trouble. Use this devotion to remind your family that God is our fortress & strength!

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

Sheets, blankets, pillows, chairs, and a Bible

ACTIVITY:

As a family use the sheets & blankets to make the biggest and best fort possible! See if you can make a fort that goes from one room into another! Use furniture, chairs, and ironing boards to help your cause! Make sure there is enough room for everyone to fit inside.

While sitting in the fort, read Psalm 46:1–3 and discuss these questions:

- What is a fortress?
- Is our fortress very protective?
- Can fortresses protect us from everything?
- How is God like a fortress?
- Is it hard to believe that God can and does protect us? Why or why not?



MORE ON THE OTHER SIDE

Read Psalm 46:7 for your family. Share with them that God is indeed our fortress! He DOES protect us! He never fails either! Share with your family that while bad things happen in our world, God is right there with us!

PRAYER:

Lead your family in prayer. Ask that God remind you when you are scared or in danger that He is your fortress!

Family FUN!
Have some fun in your fort! Play a board game together. Or grab a tablet/laptop and watch a movie together!



Starry, Starry Night

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is God is our Creator. Like an artist painting a canvas, God painted the heavens with millions of brilliant lights. The sun, moon, and stars that make up such a vast part of God's creation have not gone unnoticed. The early Hebrews looked to the skies and saw the handiwork of God.

Today, people look to the skies for fortunes and for symbols of deceiving philosophies. The sun, moon, and stars were never meant for that. Use this devotion to help your family see the Son through the brilliance of the lights in the sky!

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

A flashlight, a simple book of constellations, and a Bible.

ACTIVITY:

On a clear night, go outside with your family to look at the stars. If you live in town, you may need to go for a drive to get away from light pollution. The Antigo Flats (near HWY 64 & HWY 52 East) are a great place to see the stars on a clear night. Take some blankets with you and lay under the stars together, pointing out some constellations & looking for comets!



MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE



While star gazing, read Genesis 1:14–19 and Psalm 19:1. Then discuss these questions:

- How do you feel when you look at the stars?
- How powerful does God have to be to have made the stars?
- Why do you think God made the stars? What do stars do?
- What are some other things God created?
- How can we care for and preserve what God has created?

Share with your family that God created all things – including us! Remind them that we sin and distort God's beautiful creation. Share with them that God loves us – and all His creation so much – that He became one of us to redeem us!

PRAYER:

Still looking at the stars, silently pray as individuals. Have family members tell God how much they admire His creation, give thanks for what He has made, and asking for God's help in caring for it.

Family FUN!

See how many constellations you can spot in the night sky before going home!



Household Gladiators

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is Following God. Enemies, natural disasters, sickness, cruelty, and many other obstacles were overcome by the American pioneers as they settled the New World.

Although our families do not need to conquer new territory, we still may face struggles in our daily Christian lives. Friends distract us, the world tires us, and failure shouts at us. Yet, we do not walk alone because Jesus, who defeated sin, death, and the devil, walks with us. Use this devotion to help your family members take heart, because Jesus has overcome the world!

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

Living room furniture, a blindfold, a bowl of popcorn, and a Bible

ACTIVITY:

While family members are in another room or out, rearrange the living room into a big obstacle course of couches, chairs, tables, and more. It may be best to put away anything that can be easily broken or easily break someone.

When everyone is home, the fun begins!

MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE

Blindfold family members and lead them through the obstacle course, one by one, to their reward (popcorn). The only catch is that you will not be leading them by the hand, but by only your voice! See who follows the directions better and who has the more difficult time.

After everyone has gone through, sit down and read John 16:33 together. Then discuss these questions:

- How did you feel going through the obstacle course? What was the hardest part?
- What are some obstacles we have to following God?
- How is this obstacle course like going through every day trying to follow God?
- How can John 16:33 encourage us when we face obstacles in our faith?

Share with your family the blessing we have that Jesus braved the cross – the largest obstacle – for us!

PRAYER:

Have families repeat after you: "Dear God, it's encouraging to know, that You care for us. Help us remember, that You overcame, the largest obstacle, for us! In Jesus' name, amen."

Family FUN!
See who can go through the obstacle course the fastest!



'50s Night

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is God's love is Everlasting. FOR THIS DEVOTION, YOU MAY NEED TO SEND THE KIDS AWAY TO PREPARE THE PARTY.

Jeremiah was a Hebrew prophet who warned his people of God's impending judgment. With tears in his eyes, the Weeping Prophet challenged his country to give up its idols and turn back to God. He reminded the people that no matter the circumstance, God's love for them was everlasting.

God's everlasting love wasn't reserved solely for the ancient Hebrews. It is continued FOREVER! Use this devotion to help your family members learn that God's love lasts forever.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

Clothes, decorations, and food that reflect a 1950's diner (hamburger, fries, and a shake), 1950's music, and a Bible.

ACTIVITY:

Throw your kids a surprise 1950's party! Serve hamburgers, fries, and a shake. Dance along to some of the '50s biggest hits! When you talk to the kids, use slang from the 1950s. Go all out to make it memorable!

MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE

After everyone has eaten, read Jeremiah 31:3 and discuss these questions:

- How are the 1950s different from today?
- How are the 1950s similar to today?
- Why do you think God included this verse in the Bible?
- What would you think if God loved people from the '50s more than today?
- How does God show His love to us even when we don't obey Him?

Share with your family that while God does not like it when we sin, and sometime earthly consequences follow sin, He ultimate loves us forever! He sent Jesus to die on the cross & rise again so that we could spend forever with Him! God's love doesn't run out, go out of style, or disappear!

PRAYER:

Have each family member thank God for a specific way they see His love. This could be a friend, family member, through the Bible, nature, or more!

Family FUN!

***Do more 1950's activities!
Learn the Jutterbug dance,
watch episodes of a '50s show
like "Happy Days," or some
other '50s activity***



Kitchen Theology

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is growing in faith. Imagine what life would be like if no one ever grew up: Diapers & formula stains everywhere, the sound of crying everywhere you went. Not pleasant.

In 1 Peter 2:2–3, Peter tells us to long for the pure & simple teaching of God like a baby longs for milk. Peter is encouraging us to grow in our faith. Use this devotion to do that!

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

A blindfold, a jar or two of baby food, a bowl of soup, a sandwich, and other items for a taste test, a glass of milk for each person, and a Bible.

ACTIVITY:

Conduct a taste test with your family. Have everyone blindfolded, and have them try each of the foods you have selected. Have them guess what they think they are eating each round. At the very end, before you reveal everything they tasted, ask them what they thought was the best tasting item and why. Once everyone has gone, remove the blindfolds and reveal the different types of food they just ate! Who had the most correct guesses?

MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE

Once done with the taste test, read 1 Peter 2:2–3 and discuss these questions:

- What would you think if you saw an adult eating baby food?
- Can we live or grow if we didn't eat?
- What happens to our faith if we ignore God?
- How can we grow strong and mature in our faith?

Share with family members that God pours out His love for us. He also wants us to learn and grow in our faith. We do this many ways, like going to church, praying, reading the Bible, and more.

PRAYER:

Give each person a glass of milk. Explain that just as milk helps our bodies grow, God's Word helps our faith grow. Say the following prayer repeat-after-me style: "Dear God, may this milk we drink, be a symbol of, our desire to, drink the milk, of Your Word. Help us grow, in our faith. Amen."

Family FUN!
Plan another taste test!
See if you can tell the
difference in Pop Tart or
cereal flavors!



No Place to Hide

FOR ADULTS:

The focus of this devotion is God is omnipresent (everywhere). "You can run, but you can't hide!" This phrase may invoke a sense of fear. Truly, only one person can say this and mean it – God! As Psalm 139:1–12 eloquently points out, God is in every part of life. We can run, be we cannot escape God.

We can take great comfort that God will never lose us. God is with us always, in every high and low of life. Use this devotion to remind your family of God's presence.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

A Bible

ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Sardines with your family! If you aren't familiar, Sardines is REVERSE Hide-and-Seek: One person hides, and everyone else tries to find them. When they do find the hider, they stay with them until everyone has found that person. Then you start again.

If you have older kids, it may be more fun to play this game when it is darker out with the lights out at home! Make sure that you know your child's comfortability with the dark before doing this.

MORE ON THE
OTHER SIDE



After several rounds, gather together, read Psalm 139:1–12, and discuss these questions:

- What was the best hiding place in the house?
- Who was the hardest person to find?
- Who was the best at finding others?
- Where can we hide from God?
- Is there anywhere God cannot go?
- Do you ever try to hide from God? Does it work?

Share with your family that there is nowhere we can go that God won't be. God can go wherever He chooses. He is always with us. That might be a little scary to think about, but it also gives us great comfort and joy! When we are scared, God is there to comfort us. When we are happy, God is there to celebrate with us! God is with us and loves us always!

PRAYER:

Tell your family that since God is everywhere, He can always hear our prayers – no matter where we are. Then send your family to different areas of the house to pray on their own. After a few minutes, come together and pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Family FUN!

Play more Sardines or a few rounds of Hide-and-Seek! If your kids are older, try Kick the Can outside!



Looking for more Family Fun?

Check out our Silly
Songs on Peace's
YouTube channel!

We also have Family
Meal Prayers for your
family!