

DAY 6

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
(Psalm 133:1 NIV)

Think about your last group project. You've probably been a part of some before, some of those were great and some probably not so great. The best groups were ones where people worked together, owned their parts, and looked for ways to help one another. That's the way family can work too. See, in your family, unity is something worth working toward. To cooperate. To work together, even when it's difficult. When you do, you're living out something that is a big deal to God: unity!

Today, look for an opportunity to help bring your family together. Play a game, share a conversation, or do an activity together. Whatever it is, look for a chance to create unity in your family as best as possible.

DAY 7

**"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
(John 13:35 NIV)**

A good way to know if you have something memorized is by being able to recall it in a conversation.

Today, talk to your small group leader, a friend, or even your parents about this verse and what it means.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

THICKER THAN WATER / WEEK 3

DAY 1

**I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.
(Ephesians 1:18 NIV)**

Hope. It's a great thing to have, but a difficult thing to keep. It can be easy to become discouraged, especially if our family life seems to consistently struggle. When things feel hopeless in our families, remember today's verse written by the apostle Paul. The good news is that we can always place our hope in God. No matter how hopeless things can feel, God hasn't given up on us or our family. And that is great news for all of us.

This week, make a list of some areas of your life you can choose to have hope in because God is there with you. Then write the names of one or two people in your life who you can encourage and remind that God is with them too, and send them a text with that reminder!

DAY 2

**When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
(Psalm 56:3 NIV)**

We all know our families aren't perfect. We have an idea of what we think our families should be like, and then there's the reality. Maybe we sit and compare them to families of friends or families we see on TikTok. When things at home are hard—for a day, a week, or all the time—let this Psalm be an encouragement to you. You don't have to have it all figured out to trust God. In fact, you don't have to have anything figured out to trust God. You can trust God when things are good and when things are bad.

When you are hopeful and when you are scared, no matter what is going on, God is worthy of your trust.

Today, pray and ask for reminders of God's presence even when you're struggling to see what God is doing.

DAY 3

“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

(Matthew 5:16 NLT)

Have you ever had someone do something unexpectedly kind for you? There’s nothing like that feeling of being appreciated and cared for when you didn’t anticipate it. It’s a powerful thing. In the same way, we can do something just as powerful for the people around us. We can show up in kindness.

Today, take some time to ask yourself this question: What if I looked for and took opportunities to do things for others they might not expect? Write out your answers on a piece of paper. We might be surprised at what we find when we do. We are pointing people to Jesus. But we are also investing in the relationships with the people who matter the most. Today, look for an opportunity to show kindness to someone else.

DAY 4

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. (2 Timothy 1:9a NIV)

Have you ever gotten into a situation where you compared your situation or life to someone famous or influential? Often, when we compare ourselves to others, we minimize our own potential and forget our own purpose and gifts, because we try to live up to someone else’s instead.

God has created all of us with care, and given all of us a purpose, exactly where we are. You can think of your family or the people you live with as the people you can begin to love and serve, right here and right now. Our lives and our purpose are big, right here, right now, because God has put us right here, right now.

Today, reflect on what purpose God has given you in life and how that impacts the people in your family. Then live out the purpose God has given to all of us: to love other people.

DAY 5

“This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” (John 15:12 NLT)

Written by Graham, age 18, from Monroe, Georgia, USA

We hear the phrase “love like Jesus” in our church, small group, or scrolling through Instagram and TikTok. But, how often are we really listening to that phrase and living out that command in our lives?

Loving people unconditionally is something so many of us, especially in today’s world, struggle with daily. A family member, close friend, or acquaintance might be struggling with something we know isn’t best or might be ignoring what God says is best completely. Sometimes, in those situations, we tend to immediately have a judging heart instead of loving them through their hardship. Passing judgement on other people is a big problem in our culture. What if there’s another way?

When we follow what Jesus said in today’s verse, it is rewarding for us and other people. You might be thinking, how is that rewarding? Well, when you stand out from what’s become normal because of the unconditional love you show, people ask questions. These questions can turn into opportunities to share the good news about Jesus with someone else and telling them why you try to live your life loving people instead of automatically judging them. If we choose to apply this verse and concept to our lives we’ll wind up spreading the good news about Jesus and showing Jesus’ love to the world!

Today, choose to live your life intentionally showing love to those around you. When you find yourself moving toward judgement, ask yourself this question: What would it look like to choose to love others instead of judging them?

