

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Family Matters / Week 3

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.

EPHESIANS 1:18A NIV

DAY 1

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 never seems to get better. When things feel hopeless in our homes, remember these words the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. God has called us to hope in Him. No matter how hopeless things can feel, God hasn't given up on us or our family. And that is great news for you and for those around you.

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 doing just that!

When I am afraid, I will put my
trust in you.

PSALM 56:3 NIV

DAY 2

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. 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 Him. You can trust Him when things are good and when things are bad.

When you are hopeful and when you are scared, no matter what is going on, He is worthy of your trust. **This week pray and ask God to remind you of His presence.**

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

MATTHEW 5:16 NLT

DAY 3

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 have the ability to do something just as powerful for the people around us.

This week, 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.

<p>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.</p> <p>2 TIMOTHY 1:9A NIV</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>It can be easy to look at our lives—our circumstances, our relationships, where we live—and think our lives are pretty small. When we think about the people who have big influence, we think of celebrities or people with power and wealth.</p> <p>But God has called all of us, 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 ones God has called you 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. Think of a way today to live out your purpose of love and grace with the people in your family.</p>
<p>Avoid foolish and thoughtless discussions, since you know that they produce conflicts.</p> <p>2 TIMOTHY 2:23 CEB</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>In the apostle Paul’s letter to Timothy, a young man Paul was mentoring, Paul encourages Timothy to avoid foolish and thoughtless conversations. As someone who was older and wiser, Paul was probably giving this advice to Timothy because he had learned this lesson the hard way. It can be easy to participate in every argument or tense conversation we are invited to. But Paul encourages Timothy—and encourages us—to avoid the kind of conversations that will only end in more conflict. Which isn’t always easy. Especially with our families.</p> <p>Today, before getting involved in a conversation that may end badly, choose to walk away and keep the peace.</p>
<p>How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!</p> <p>PSALM 133:1 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>Think back to the last team you were a part of. If you’ve been on a team of any kind, then you probably know that the best teams are made up of people who cooperate and work together as a unit. That’s the way God designed your family to work—as a team. So no matter who is in your family or what your family looks like, God is calling you to live together in unity. To cooperate. To work together as a team, even when it’s difficult. When you do, you’re living out the good plan He has for you and your family.</p> <p>This week, 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.</p>
<p>“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”</p> <p>JOHN13:35 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>A good way to know if you have something memorized is by trying to say it to someone else. As you continue to memorize this verse, try saying it to three people this week.</p>