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My Daily Devotion for
my family's
Spiritual Growth
Issue 2



"We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done." Psalm 78:4

How Does “My Daily Devotion for My Family’s Spiritual Growth” Time Work?

Welcome to My Daily Devotion for My Family’s Spiritual Growth, a weekly devotional designed to help your family reflect on a story from God’s Word, pray together, and connect. These devotions will take you through the Bible. The idea is simple: discover together how God’s Word is relevant to your family each week. We think the spiritual results in your family alone can impact generations to come.

We know your family is busy with work, school, ballgames, and all that life throws you, so the devotion is designed to be flexible and mobile. You can use this at the dinner table, before bed, or in your car. You decide what works best for you.

1. Decide on a time when your family can pull together for a few minutes each day.
2. My Daily Devotion for My Family’s Spiritual Growth is available at Freedom. They are free.
3. Family members can take turns reading the daily verses and devotion.
4. After the devotion talk about prayer requests as a family and spend a few moments praying for each other.
5. At the end of the week, reflect together on the discussion questions.
6. Finally, don’t be intimidated by having spiritual conversations as a family. This could easily be the most important few minutes you have all day.

We hope you enjoy this journey through God’s Word as a family. Our prayer is that it will transform your family spiritually in ways never expected!

In Christ,
Pastor Larry

Week 1

Jesus' Last Week and Last Supper

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Mark 14:1-18

We're going to focus on the Last Supper. Jesus and the disciples gathered in an upper room to celebrate the Passover. Jesus said something to them that was hard to imagine: "*Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.*" The disciples were deeply saddened and began to question who it could be. Jesus already knew that Judas was the one looking for an opportunity to betray Him.

Wednesday

Read Mark 14:18-28

Jesus tore apart a loaf of bread and passed it to His disciples. He told them, "*Take, eat: this is my body.*" Then He picked up the cup and said, "*This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.*" He was showing them that the bread and wine from the Passover represented the Lord Himself and the sacrifice He was about to make. His body would soon be sacrificed on a cross, and His blood would be shed for all humanity.

Read **1 Corinthians 11:23-26** to see what Paul said that the ordinance of the Lord's Supper is to be observed in remembrance of Christ's death until He returns.

Thursday

Read Mark 14:29-40

After they finished eating, Jesus told the disciples that one would, “deny me thrice”. In disbelief all the disciples said they would never disown him – no one more passionately than Peter who denied Jesus three times before the night was over.

Friday

Read Mark 14:41-57

No matter how close we are to Christ, sin can still find a way to lure us away from what is right. All the disciples were going to stumble – the very ones closest to Christ. None of them could foresee a circumstance that would lead to their sinning against Him, but they all did.

It may be difficult to think that you or anyone in our family would go against God’s will but we’re all human. Wrong thoughts, desires, and attitudes can catch us off guard if we’re not careful. As a family, it’s important to talk to each other about what’s happening in your individual lives. God designed our families to be a constant presence of loving support. Because of that, your family should be a constant source of accountability and encouragement to follow Jesus.

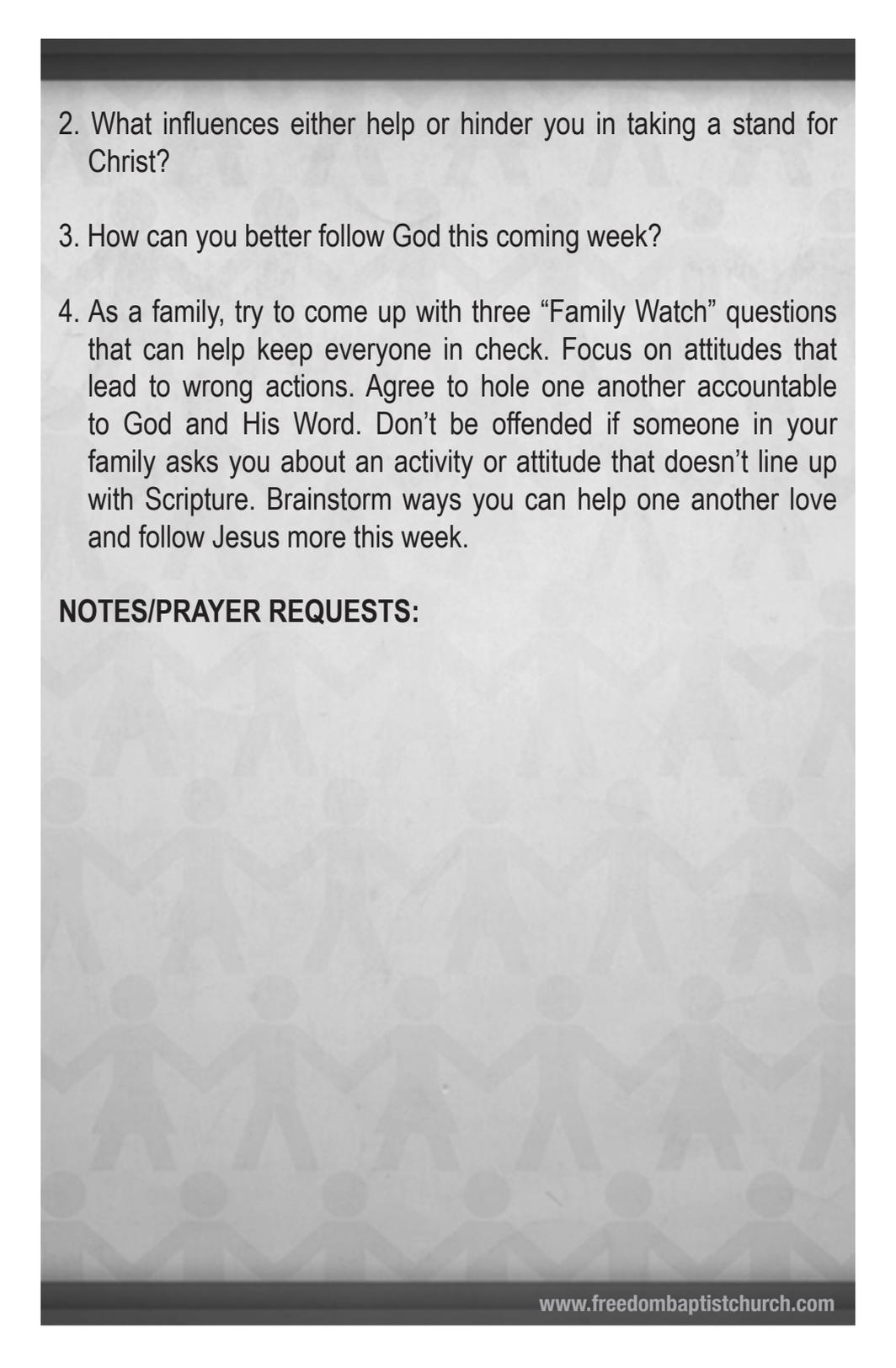
Saturday

Read Mark 14:58-72

Spend a few minutes talking about **Mark 14** that you read this week.

Answer these questions:

1. Why do you think Peter was confident that he would not betray Jesus? Why do you think he failed so soon after pledging his undying loyalty?

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- The background of the page features a repeating pattern of stylized, grey human figures holding hands, arranged in a grid-like fashion. The figures are simple, with circular heads and rectangular bodies, connected by their arms.
2. What influences either help or hinder you in taking a stand for Christ?
 3. How can you better follow God this coming week?
 4. As a family, try to come up with three “Family Watch” questions that can help keep everyone in check. Focus on attitudes that lead to wrong actions. Agree to hold one another accountable to God and His Word. Don’t be offended if someone in your family asks you about an activity or attitude that doesn’t line up with Scripture. Brainstorm ways you can help one another love and follow Jesus more this week.

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week 2

The Death of Christ

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Mark 15:1-10

Jesus has been healing, teaching, and helping people see their need for a Savior. He revealed to the people of Jerusalem and the surrounding areas that He was God, but now Jesus was on trial! Pilate was the Roman ruler of Jerusalem. It was his job to decide whether or not Jesus was guilty of a crime deserving of death, as the Jewish leaders demanded. These leaders, so envious of Jesus' words in order to turn people against Him.

Wednesday

Read Mark 15:11-23

Pilate wanted to please the crowds. So, he brought a murderer named Barabas out of prison to see if the people would decide to release him or Jesus. But the people still wanted to crucify Jesus. He was mocked, beaten, and led to a wooden cross that he carried down the streets of Jerusalem to a place outside of the city. The path became known as the "Via Dolorosa, which means the "Way of Suffering." Jesus and two criminals were hung on crosses for everyone to see.

Thursday

Read Mark 15:24-39

After several hours, Jesus said the words that changed the

world, *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”* You see, forgiveness was God’s plan from the beginning. Shortly after that, Jesus “cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.” Jesus cried out, breathed out His last breath, and died. A centurion overseeing the crucifixion had been observing everything that happened and said, *“Truly this man was the Son of God”*.

Friday

Read Mark 15:40-47

After this terribly sad event came to a close, Joseph and Arimathea and Nicodemus, leaders who had become believers in Jesus, came and took His body to be buried in a new tomb. Could this really have happened? Could Jesus, who is God, really have died? We will soon see – this is all part of God’s plan for us!

Saturday

Jesus is God the Son, and He died for every person who ever lived. No event in the history of the world has had a greater impact on mankind than the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Are you wondering why Jesus would choose to come to earth and die for you? God’s Word gives us the answer: mankind – you and every other person in the world – has a problem called sin. Sin is anything that displeases God. Sin separates us from God and is punishable by death. But God loves us so much that He provided a payment for our sin...that payment is Jesus!

Spend a few minutes talking about **Mark 15**
that you read this week.

Answer these questions:

1. Ask each person, “What is the one thing you’ve done that is sin, deserving God’s punishment?”
2. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus died in your place for that sin?

How can you better follow God this next week?

Have you received God’s gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Have you prayed and asked God to forgive you of your sin? God is not concerned about the exact words of your prayer because He looks at your heart and wants to know that you really mean what you are saying. God wants you to believe what the Scriptures say: that Christ died for your sins, that He was buried, and that He rose again – for you. In your own words, tell God that you know you have sinned, and you believe Jesus died in your place to pay for your sins. Ask for His forgiveness for all the wrong things you have done, and tell Him that you want to receive Jesus as your Savior. It’s the most important decision you will ever make.

Discuss if and when each family member made this decision to become a follower of Christ. Talk about the fact that when you receive Christ, God give you His Holy Spirit to let you know that you are a child of God. The Holy Spirit guides you and helps you understand how to live a life that pleases God.

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week 3

Jesus' Resurrection

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Luke 24:13-18

Two of Jesus' followers were walking from the city of Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. As they were walking, Jesus appeared to them – the same Jesus who died on a cross three days earlier! But God kept these two followers from recognizing that it was really Jesus who walked with them. They thought He was just a stranger.

Wednesday

Read Luke 24:19-20

The two men were talking about everything that had happened to Jesus. As they looked back, they felt sad because their friend and teacher had died. They felt discouraged because they thought Jesus had come to be the Savior of the world, but now He was gone. They were confused because earlier that day they had heard an astonishing report that Jesus' body was missing from the tomb and that He was alive again. They weren't sure what to believe.

Thursday

Read Luke 24:21-27

At that point, the stranger started teaching from the Old Testament and showed them all the things that were written

about Jesus hundreds of years before He was even born. He told them how everything that had just happened was really God's plan from the very beginning. As He redirected their thoughts about Christ's suffering and the glory that would follow, the two followers began to understand why Jesus came to die.

Friday

Read Luke 24:28-34

When they came to Emmaus, the two men invited the stranger to stay for dinner. As they sat down to eat, they recognized that it was Jesus who was with them. Suddenly, Jesus disappeared! In an instant, He was gone. The two followers got up and went back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive!

Saturday

Jesus' resurrection from the dead proves that He is God. That means that His sacrifice on the cross is enough for us to find forgiveness for our sins and all the wrong things we do – the things that separate us from God, who is perfect and without sin. When we place our trust in Him, we can have victory over the power of sin in our lives.

As amazing as that is, there is something else that we can take away from the passage we read this week. When bad things happen in our lives, we often lose sight of the big picture. Like the two followers, we lose hope and forget that God is in control. During hard times, we need to remember that God is always working out a bigger plan, even though we may see only a part of it. Knowing that His plan will be accomplished give us hope to keep going.

Spend a few minutes talking about **Luke 24:13-34** that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

1. How did everything change for the two followers when they recognized Jesus?
2. How was God in control of Jesus's death and resurrection?
3. What bigger picture was God working out?

Talk about hard times you have gone through or may be facing even now. How have you seen part of the bigger picture in one of those times? How does knowing that God is in control help you trust Him for the outcome?

Before you finish, pray together and ask God to show you how He is working in each of your lives. Thank Him for how He has worked out details in the past.

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week 4

Jesus' Ascension

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Acts 1:6-7

After Jesus rose again, He appeared to His followers several times over the course of forty days. He wanted them to know that He was actually alive. During that time, they asked Him if the time had come for Him to free Israel. As a nation, they had lived under the control of other empires for hundreds of years. They knew that Jesus was more powerful than any ruler on the face of the earth. After seeing Him rise from the dead, they knew He could do anything! So they thought that maybe He would defeat Israel's enemies and set Himself up as the King of the whole earth. But Jesus told them not to worry about that right now. Instead, He wanted them to focus on a new mission.

Wednesday

Read Acts 1:8

In **Acts 1:8**, Jesus told His followers that their mission was to tell people about Him. They were to start in Jerusalem and then move outside the city to the surrounding areas. But they were not to stop there. Jesus told them to carry His message to the ends of the earth. Jesus knew that was a big job, so He promised to give them His very Spirit to live inside them. The Holy Spirit would give them the strength and courage to carry

out their mission.

Thursday

Read Acts 1:7-10

Then, while they were standing there watching, Jesus disappeared in the sky. He returned to Heaven to be with His Father.

Friday

Read Acts 1:11

Suddenly, two angels appeared and said, “why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven”. It was as if they were saying, “Don’t stand around staring up into the sky. You have a job to do. Someday Jesus is coming back, and the world needs to hear about Him. So don’t waste time. Get to work!”

Saturday

As Jesus’ followers, we too have a mission. He returned to Heaven so that we could be His witnesses. If Jesus stayed on earth, He could be in only one place at a time. But, through His Spirit, Jesus is with every believer, and through us He can reveal Himself to the whole world. But each of us has to make the choice to share Him with our friends and neighbors. We can’t just stand around and idly wait for Him to return. We have a job to do!

Spend a few minutes talking about **Acts 1:7-10**
that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

1. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus returned to Heaven?

2. How can your family take part in telling others about Christ in your city? In other parts of your country? In other parts of the world?

It's natural to tell others good news. When we get a new game or a new phone or get to go somewhere fun, we can't wait to tell others about it. Well, there is no greater news than Jesus! He has forgiven us and is preparing a place for us in Heaven. He loves us, provides for us, comforts us, and guides us. He has given us everything we need, and we should share Him with others every chance we get. Pray that God will give your family courage to share Jesus with those around you. Who will you share His message with this next week?

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week 5

Birth of the Church

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Acts 2:1-5

Acts 2 describes the way God sent His Spirit to the disciples who were gathered in an upper room. Since the days of the Old Testament prophets, God had promised that He would pour out His Spirit on His people in order to empower them to do the will of God. Well, the day foretold by the prophet Joel had come, and it had a ripple effect among the people in Jerusalem that spread across the region.

Wednesday

Read Acts 1:8

In **Acts 1:8**, Jesus told His followers that their mission was to tell people about Him. They were to start in Jerusalem and then move outside the city to the surrounding areas. But they were not to stop there. Jesus told them to carry His message to the ends of the earth. Jesus knew that was a big job, so He promised to give them His very Spirit to live inside them. The Holy Spirit would give them the strength and courage to carry out their mission.

Thursday

Read Acts 2:36-41

Jesus gave the purpose for the church in **Matthew 28:19-20**, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

Friday

Read Acts 2:42-47

When Jesus told the disciples that He would always be with them, He was talking about the very thing that happened in this passage – the Holy Spirit came to live inside each and every follower of Christ.

Saturday

When we receive Jesus as our Savior, we become part of His church. At that moment, God’s Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us. His Spirit empowers and guides believers, both individually and collectively, as His church. When we obey God and follow the leading of the Spirit, God propels us to do things that we would and could never do with just our own abilities. The church is made up of all believers in Christ, empowered by God through His Holy Spirit.

As part of the church, we have to remember its purpose – to tell others the good news of Jesus Christ. Our mission can be summed up in four words: love God and love people.

Spend a few minutes talking about **Acts 2**
that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

1. From your memory, how did the disciples and the new church fulfill the mission Jesus gave them?
2. How can your family love God and love others by being part of your local church?

God's church is made up of people who love Him. You can belong to something special by choosing to get involved in your local church. What current service project can you participate in with other members of your church? Have you considered serving together on a children's ministry team or taking a mission trip as a family? The possibilities are endless. The church is alive and active when we go out and help others.

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week 6

Saul's Conversion

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Acts 9:1-5

In the early parts of the book, Saul was a very angry man who hated everything that the apostles were doing. He began trying to harm people who followed Christ and wanted to put an end to the church that was growing so quickly. **Acts 8:3**, "As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."

Wednesday

Read Acts 9:6-9

Then one day God changed Saul forever. Saul was on a trip to Damascus to continue spreading the work that Christians would be punished, when a bright light came down from Heaven. Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice from Heaven say, "*Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*" Saul replied, "*Who art thou, Lord?*" It was Jesus talking to Saul! Jesus said, "*Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*"

The experience caused Saul to go blind. He had to be led to Damascus by his friends. It even says in Acts that he did not eat or drink anything for three entire days.

Thursday

Read Acts 9:10-19

Then God sent a man named Ananias to Saul to heal him of his blindness. The Lord made it clear that Saul was going to be a man that God would use to spread the Gospel to everyone! Ananias did as God told him to do, and Saul was healed immediately.

Friday

Read Acts 9:20-31

Right away, Saul started preaching that Jesus is the Son of God. No one could believe that Saul, the man who had persecuted Christians, was now preaching about Jesus. Some people did not like that at all, and they made a plan to kill Saul, but he escaped and went on to Jerusalem. There he kept preaching, and the church became bigger and stronger because of what God was doing in Saul's life.

Saturday

Saul had been against everything that God was for. He dedicated himself to putting an end to Christianity and the church. In spite of that, God chose to use Saul to do incredible things for Him. By changing one man's life, God changed the world. Saul went on to write books of the Bible, witness to people in all parts of the world, and ultimately die for his faith in Jesus.

When people meet Jesus, He changes their lives. No matter how far away from God some people might seem to be. He still cares about them and wants them to know him. No one is too far from God. Jesus came to save all people, no matter

who they are or what they might have done before. Later in Saul's life, he wrote, in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*" Paul's life was a powerful example of how Jesus can change anyone's life.

Spend a few minutes talking about **Acts 9:1-31** that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

1. Imagine that your family lived in Paul's day. What kind of conversation would you have about Paul coming to your town before his conversion? What about afterward?
2. How has your life changed as a result of knowing Christ?

If God could use Saul, the worst of the worst, then he definitely wants to use you, too. Saul's only job was to obey what God told him to do. God has plans for your life just as He did for Saul. Will you tell God, "Yes," when He calls on you? What job has God given you to do? How can you do that job this week? If you are obedient to Him, then there is no limit to what He can do through you!

NOTES/PRAAYER REQUESTS:

Week 7

Peter and Cornelius

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Acts 10:1-8

Cornelius was a Roman centurion in Caesarea who, along with his family, worshiped and served God. One day, an angel came to Cornelius and told him that God was pleased with the way he honored Him and served others. He gave Cornelius instructions to send for Peter, who was in a place called Joppa.

Wednesday

Read Acts. 10:9-16

Meanwhile in Joppa, Peter was praying on a rooftop. He fell into a trance and saw a large sheet coming down from the sky. In the sheet, there were animals of all kinds, including birds and reptiles. Peter heard the voice of the Lord telling him to get up and eat from the animals in the sheet. Because Peter, a Jew, knew that he should eat only the animals that God had called clean, he said that he could not eat any of the unclean animals. God told Peter not to call anything unclean that He had cleaned.

Thursday

Read 10:17-23

While Peter was thinking about the meaning of the vision, Cornelius' men arrived. Peter heard the Holy Spirit telling him to go down and greet the men. Upon hearing what they

had to say, he invited them to go to Cornelius' house.

Friday

Read Acts 10:24-48

A large number of people had gathered to hear Peter speak. He told them that it was against the Jewish law to go into the house of anyone who was not a Jew, but God had told him not to call anything impure or unclean that He had made clean. Peter asked Cornelius why he had sent for him, and Cornelius explained the angel's visit. Peter realized then exactly what God had sent him to say. God accepted people from every nation who wanted to follow Him. Peter explained to them who Jesus was and what He had come to do for them. When Cornelius and the people with him heard this, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to praise God. Peter gave orders for them to be baptized, and then he stayed with them to teach for a few more days.

Saturday

Israel has always been God's chosen people. A dedicated Jew would not associate with Gentiles at all. But God showed Peter that He doesn't love just the Jewish people. God wants all people to come to know His Son, Jesus, no matter who they are, what they look like, or where they are from. This was a totally new way of thinking for Peter. But God opened Peter's mind and heart and used him to open the door for the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus to the Gentiles. God loves everyone, not just people who look or act like us. Like Peter, our job is to tell people about Jesus, no matter who they are?

Spend a few minutes talking about **Acts 10**
that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

1. Peter's message about God's love was probably surprising to the people who gathered in Cornelius' house to hear him speak. Who do you think might be surprised to hear that God loves them?
2. How does your treatment of others show that they are just as important to God as they are to you?

As you go about your usual activities this next week, look at the people around you. Don't think about just your friends and family or people that you like; notice everyone. God loves every person you see just as much as He loves you. Knowing that God loves everyone the same means you should too. Every person you meet needs the salvation that Jesus Christ alone can provide. This next week, challenge yourself to treat them as He would, no matter who they are or where they come from.

NOTES/PRAAYER REQUESTS:

Week 8

Paul's Missions

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Acts 20:1-8

God changed Saul's name to Paul and sent him from town to town sharing the Gospel with people who had not heard about Jesus. He told them that Jesus came to earth to die for every one, not just the Jews. He preached that everyone could be saved if they chose to believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and that He died for their sins. Sometimes another apostle would go with him to help him teach and preach. (**Acts 16:16-40**).

Wednesday

Read Acts 20:9-21

In one town, Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison because their message about Jesus was spreading across the region. They were praying and singing in prison when an earthquake shook the ground so much that all the prison doors opened, and all the chains fell off the prisoners. When the guard saw that no one left, he believed their message about Jesus right there and asked to be baptized. Paul and Saul were released the next day.

Thursday

Read Acts 20:22-31

During his missionary journeys in each town, Paul faced many hardships. He was persecuted, attacked, mocked, and chased away at times. But he kept doing what God asked him to do, no matter what the consequences might be. Paul wrote in **Acts 20:24**, *“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”*

Friday

Read Acts 20:32-38

Paul was absolutely committed to fulfilling God’s tasks for him, and he did not care about what it might cost him. Obedience to Christ was his only goal.

Saturday

Paul went from hating Christians to being one of them most committed and faithful Christians of all time. He knew God had forgiven him of his sins, and he wanted to make his life count for Jesus. He was not afraid of what might happen to him or whether people would like him or not. He shared Jesus with everyone he saw, every place he went.

Like Paul, our only goal should be faithfulness to what God has asked us to do, trusting Him to protect and provide. We cannot worry about what other people might think or what might happen to us if we obey. Ultimately, following Jesus is the only thing that matters.

Spend a few minutes talking about **Acts 20**
that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

1. What do you think was Paul's motivation to tell others about Jesus?
2. How did Paul's actions show that he didn't worry about what other people thought about his belief in Jesus?
3. What would help you to not be scared or nervous to tell someone what Christ has done in your life?

Paul said his only goal was to run the race the God had given him. This next week, God has given you a race to run. He will provide opportunities for you to tell someone else about Him. You will have chances to make decisions that will either honor God or dishonor God. Pray now and ask God to give you the strength and faith to choose obedience to Him, no matter what might happen because of it. Follow Paul's example and make pleasing God your number one goal. Choosing to be obedient to God is always the best choice, no matter what!

Week 9

Acts 15: The Church and Gentiles

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Acts 15:1-5

The church of Antioch was full of new Gentile believers. When men arrived from Judea, teaching that circumcision and following the Law of Moses was necessary to be saved, these new Christians were extremely disturbed. After confronting the Judean preachers, Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to discuss the issue with the apostles.

Wednesday

Read Acts 15:6-24

A council was convened in Jerusalem to hear all sides of the argument. Peter reasoned with the counsel that Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit in the same way the Jewish believers had – by faith in Jesus. Salvation is a gift of grace, so why put an unnecessary burden on new believers? James agreed and the Law of Moses to salvation made following Christ needlessly difficult.

Thursday

Read Acts 15:25-35

Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch, carrying a letter with the council's decision. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the Jerusalem Council asked the Gentiles to focus on three

things as they lived out their new faith: stay away from anything related to idol worship, maintain sexual purity, and honor Jewish dietary customs. The church in Antioch was relieved and reassured by the message.

Friday

Read Acts 15:36-41

The Law of Moses and circumcision had been signs of the covenant God made with Israel, setting them apart from idol worshiping nations around them. It made them aware of sinful behavior that displeased God and taught them that no one could keep the law perfectly. It was intentionally designed to prepare God's people for the Messiah. The Gentile converts in today's passage didn't have a history with the God of Israel; everything about this way of life was new to them. They had become followers of Christ by believing the simple message of the Gospel: Jesus died, was buried, and rose again in payment for their sin.

Saturday

The message of the Jerusalem Council is still encouraging today. God's grace and love aren't based on how well you follow the rules or meet religious expectations. No effort of your own gains favor with God. All believers are saved by grace through faith in Jesus.

Spend a few minutes talking about **Acts 15**
that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

1. Name the three things the Gentile believers were asked to focus

on, then answer the following questions:

2. Has something or someone become an idol, taking a higher place in your heart than Christ? If so, what?
3. What do you need to get rid of in order to live a morally pure life?
4. What should you give up because it offends fellow believers or weakens their faith?

Have you accepted God's free gift of salvation? Before continuing, take a moment and have the followers of Christ in your family take turns telling how they received Jesus as their personal Savior.

Our lives should demonstrate the difference that knowing Jesus makes. Like the church in Antioch, be encouraged that you live in the freedom of grace rather than under the burden of the law. Spend a few minutes together, thanking God for His gift of grace.

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week 10

Paul's Imprisonments

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Acts 28:17-21

Paul traveled constantly, sharing the Good News of Jesus with everyone he met. Paul was on his way back to Jerusalem when someone warned him that if he returned there, he would be imprisoned for his faith. He decided to continue his journey and allow the Lord's will to be done. When Paul finally arrived, he was welcomed by the believers and told that many Jews had believed. One day a mob rose up and tried to kill Paul in the temple, falsely accusing him of preaching against the Jews. He was eventually arrested.

Wednesday

Read Acts 28:22-25

The rest of Acts tells how Paul was mistreated and kept in the custody of the Roman government. Paul's case put him in front of several important people. Each time he shared what God had done in his life. Some people became really angry that nothing was happening with Paul's trial, so they decided that they were going to kill Paul themselves. Rumor of this got back to the government, and a decision was made to get Paul out of town. He was sent to Caesarea where he was left in jail for over two years. After several trials, a decision was made to

send Paul to Rome.

Thursday

Read Acts 28:26-28

On his way to Rome, Paul's ship was met with a fierce storm that left him and the crew shipwrecked on a strange island. On this island a poisonous snake bit Paul, but God did not allow him to die. Paul was able to share his story with the people on the island. About three months after the shipwreck, another ship picked up Paul for the journey to Rome. While there, he did not go to jail but was allowed to live under house arrest with freedom to share the Gospel with all who would listen.

Friday

Read Acts 28:29-30

Throughout Paul's life as a Christian, he was constantly persecuted for his belief in Christ. God enabled him to tell about Jesus in spite of every hardship. In fact, Paul testified about his faith before kings and rulers because he was arrested for following Christ. Today, Christians in all parts of the world are still persecuted for their beliefs. In some countries, the churches have to meet in secret because it's against the law to be a Christian. In America, we have the freedom to worship God and go to the church of our choice. Sometimes that means being made fun of or being thought of as narrow-minded. Like Paul, God will use you in whatever situation you are in today.

Saturday

Spend a few minutes talking about **Acts 28:17-30** that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

1. When has someone treated you differently because of your faith in Christ?
2. Discuss how your family would react if being a follower of Christ and going to church were against the law.

God has blessed us with the freedom to serve Him openly. Take a few moments now to thank God for the freedom to follow Jesus and not be persecuted. Also, pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ. Ask God to keep them strong and enable them to stand firm in their witness for Christ wherever they are.

Will you decide to stand strong and be a faithful witness for Jesus, even if it means that others make fun of you? How do you plan to use your religious freedom this week?

NOTES/PRAAYER REQUESTS:

Week 11

Jesus is Coming Again

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Revelation 1:4

When the Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation, he was in exile on the Isle of Patmos, an island in the Mediterranean Sea that was used to keep criminals away from people on the mainland. John wasn't a criminal, but he was teaching the ways of Jesus, which caused great controversy and sparked riots. So to control the spread of Jesus' teachings, the disciples were often imprisoned or...worse.

Wednesday

Read Revelation 1:5

John wrote what God gave him concerning the coming of Jesus to redeem His kingdom. One day – we don't know when – Jesus will return to bring His kingdom together. The letter that John wrote to the churches is called "Revelation" because it tells us that Jesus will one day reveal Himself to the world again.

Thursday

Read Revelation 1:6-7

Sometimes the Book of Revelation is hard to understand because John wrote about events that would occur in the future, things he didn't understand or hadn't experienced in his lifetime.

Friday

Read Revelation 1:8

A few things from this passage, however, are very clear: Jesus has always existed and He always will. He is eternal. He is God. Jesus died to pay the final price for sin. And one day, Jesus is coming back to take those who follow Him to live with Him in Heaven forever and ever!

Saturday

Knowing that Christ will return for His followers is an incredible promise. But if Jesus is coming again – and we don't know when that might be – what do we need to know and do in order to be ready? First, it's important to understand who Jesus is. The descriptions of Jesus in the Book of Revelation are very different from what we read about Him in the Gospels. When Jesus returns, no one will doubt that He is God because every one will see His power and His glory.

Next, we must know that we've received Jesus as our Savior. Jesus loves you so much that He died in your place to pay the price for your sin. In order to live with Jesus in Heaven, each person must personally make the decision to follow Jesus.

Spend a few minutes talking about **Revelation 1:4-8** that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

1. Does knowing that Jesus could return at any moment excite you? Why or why not?

2. Have you accepted Jesus' payment for your sin? If so, share how you made the decision to start following Christ.
3. Which friends or family members need to know how much Jesus loves them?

Write down the names of the friends and family members who may not know Jesus as their Savior yet. Post the list on your refrigerator, or write the names on separate pieces of paper. As a family, make a commitment to pray for one of those people each day. Brainstorm ways you can show them the love of Christ and tell them about Jesus' payment for their sin.

Spend some time praying together for those on your list. While you are praying as a family, take time to thank God for His desire to save us, and His promise to come again.

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week 12

John Sees Jesus Coming

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Revelation 7:9

This section of the Book of Revelation can be challenging to fully understand. In chapters 6-20, events called the Tribulation judgements begin to happen. God unleashes judgments on the world and on the people who have rejected Him. There are the people who have never let Jesus into their lives to deal with their sin. During this terrible time on the earth, many people will give their lives to Jesus when they realize He is who He says He is – the only solution to their sin problem.

Wednesday

Read Revelation 7:10

In **Revelation 7:9-12**, John sees a vision of a great multitude from every tribe, nation, and people from all over the earth who have given their lives to Jesus. Because God makes salvation available to anyone and everyone, we see people from all over the world – who speak every language and who come from every cultural background – getting to celebrate with God in Heaven.

Thursday

Read Revelation 7:11

Jesus went to the cross for everyone. He wanted people from

every race and every background to know that through Him they can experience love and forgiveness. It's important to treat people the way Jesus would treat them and see them as He sees them. It doesn't matter if they have as much money as we do, or if they look different from us. They need Jesus just as much as we do.

Friday

Read Revelation 7:12

People who are different from others in our society are often treated in a mean or unkind way. If someone is richer or poorer than we are, if someone has a different skin color than we do, or if a person has special needs, we can be quick to treat that person differently from the way we treat the people we care about the most.

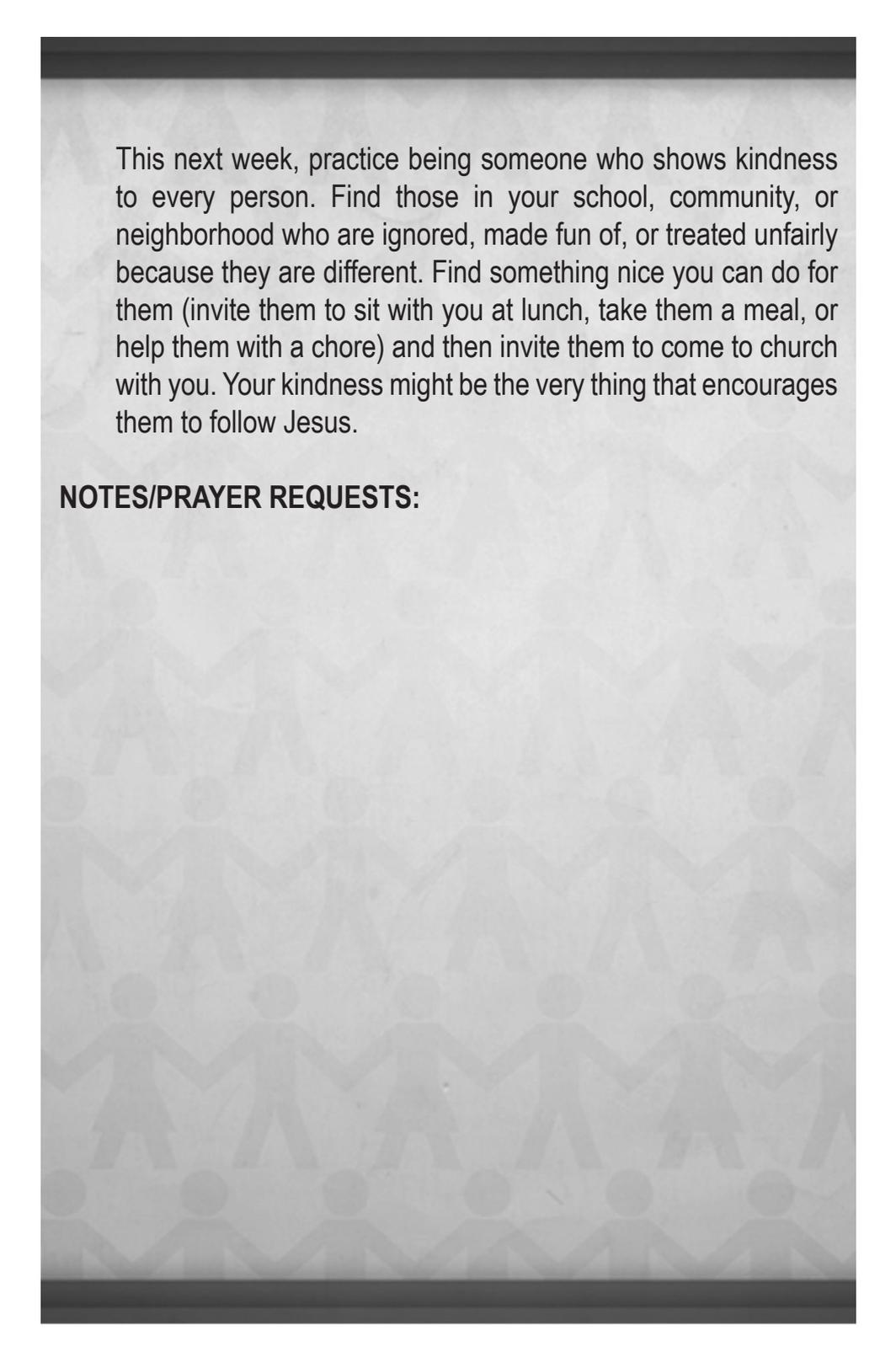
Saturday

Heaven will be filled with all kinds of people from all over the earth. Yet, we have to remember that anyone who doesn't choose to follow Jesus will face His judgement. God has surrounded you with people who need to know God cares about them, that He created them, and wants them to invite Him into their hearts and lives – no matter who they are.

Spend a few minutes talking about **Revelation 7:9-12** that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

1. How have you seen people in your school or neighborhood treated unkindly because they are different? Why do you think that happens?
2. What are some ways you can encourage others as you see them the way Jesus sees them?

The background of the page features a repeating pattern of stylized human figures holding hands, arranged in a grid-like fashion. The figures are simple, with circular heads and rectangular bodies, and are rendered in a light gray color against a slightly darker gray background. This pattern covers the entire page, creating a sense of community and unity.

This next week, practice being someone who shows kindness to every person. Find those in your school, community, or neighborhood who are ignored, made fun of, or treated unfairly because they are different. Find something nice you can do for them (invite them to sit with you at lunch, take them a meal, or help them with a chore) and then invite them to come to church with you. Your kindness might be the very thing that encourages them to follow Jesus.

NOTES/PRAAYER REQUESTS:

Week 13

John Sees the New Kingdom

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Read Revelation 21:1-10

In the last two chapters of the last book of the Bible, we see that the relationship God has always wanted with His people has become a reality. Looking back at the Old Testament books, we remember the incredible Garden of Eden that He prepared for Adam and Eve. We marvel at His closeness with them before sin entered their lives. We are amazed at the details of the construction of the Tabernacle and the Temple where He lived among His people in the Holy of Holies.

Wednesday

Read Revelation 21:11-21

Reading through the Bible we see His Son came to live among – the One who loved us so much that He gave His life for us. John now sees a new Heaven and a new earth and writes about the vision God gave him.

Thursday

Read Revelation 22:1-10

The New Kingdom is the place that God is making for those who choose to follow Him. It won't be like anything presently on earth. There won't be any reason for tears because in the New Kingdom, death, sorrow, and pain won't exist. God Himself will

wipe away every tear from the eyes of His children. But the most wonderful thing about this kingdom will be living in the presence of God every day.

Friday

Read Revelation 22:11-21

At some point, every person – boy or girl, young or old – will think about or ask, “Why am I here on earth? Why do I exist?” Well, the answer is that you were designed to have a relationship with Jesus and to glorify God for all eternity. John’s account of the New Kingdom is a description of what God has designed for us and desires for us to experience. God’s purpose for you has always been to be your God so that you would be able to live with Him. Can you imagine being in the same location as the Creator of the world?

Saturday

The goal of these “My Daily Devotion for My Family’s Spiritual Growth” is to learn about the salvation we can have through Jesus. Every story from Adam to Isaac, Jacob to Moses, Joshua to King David, and Jesus to John is meant to point us to Christ and the price He paid for our sin. Your salvation not only makes life on earth more satisfying, it also means being able to live for all eternity with the Creator and Savior of the world.

Spend a few minutes talking about **Revelation 21-22** that you read together this week.

Answer these questions:

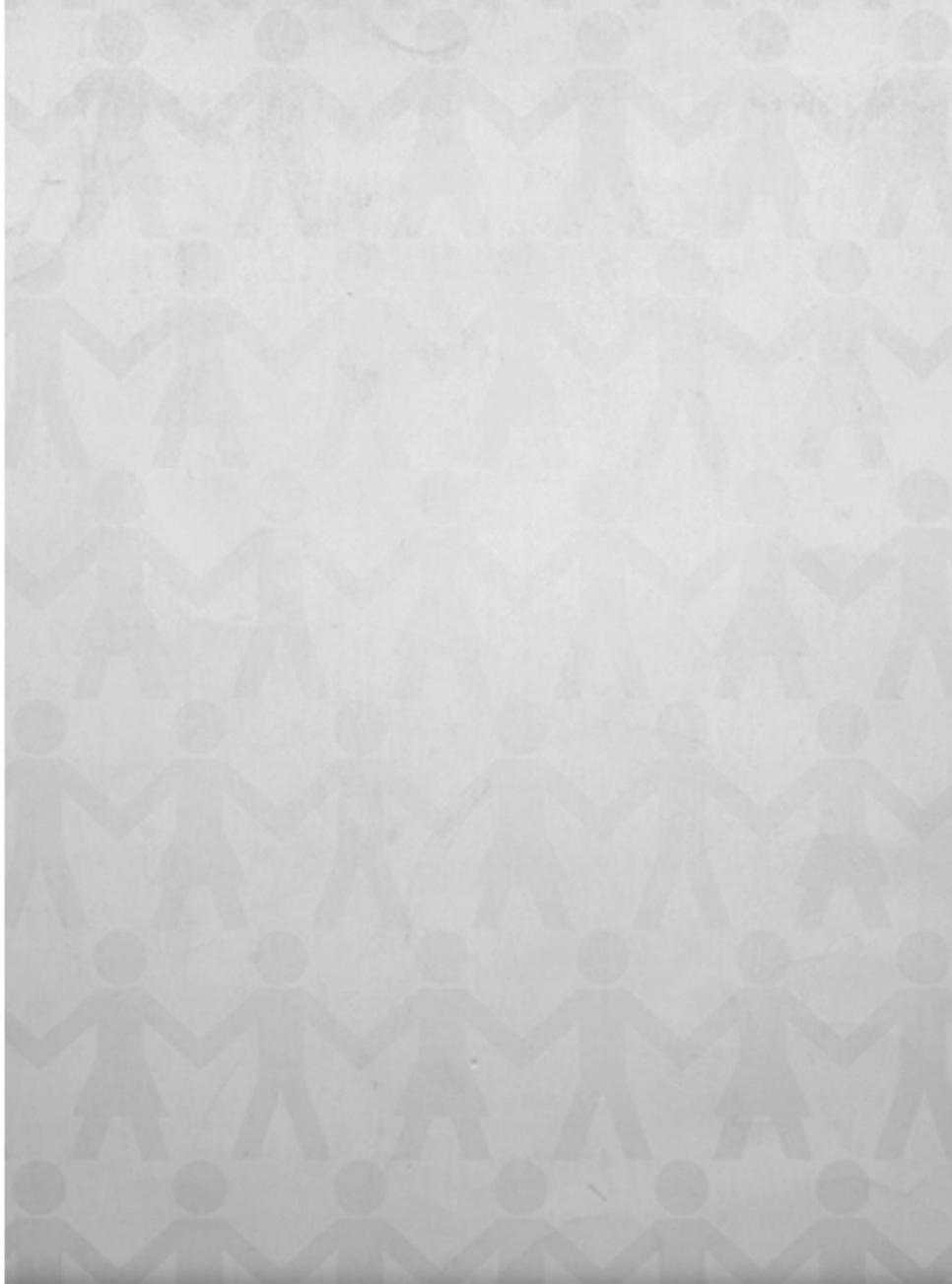
1. How does it make you feel to know that God has created a kingdom in Heaven for you to live with Him for all eternity?
2. What are you looking forward to the most about living in Heaven? the way Jesus sees them?

In order to live with God in Heaven, you must choose to receive His gift of salvation. We all have sinned and that sin must be forgiven. That's why Jesus died for us! Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior? If not, pray a simple prayer from your heart to God. It can be something like this:

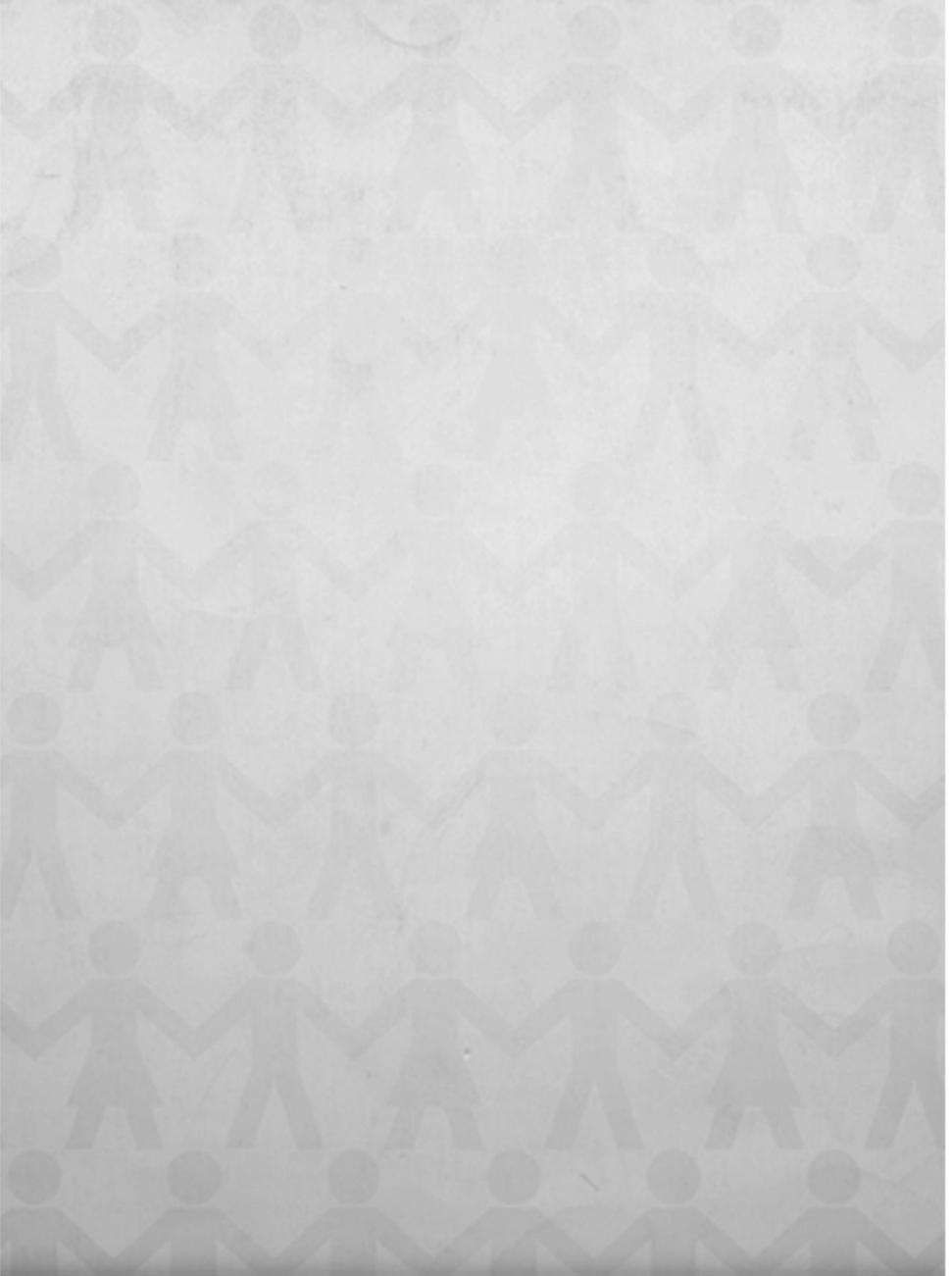
Dear Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. And I believe that You died on the cross for my sin. I know that I am a sinner, and I ask You to forgive me. I know that You were raised from the dead, and I want to live with You in Heaven. Please save me today. Thank You, for saving me. I want to follow You for the rest of my life.”

NOTES/PRAAYER REQUESTS:

Notes/Prayer Journal:



Notes/Prayer Journal:





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Senior Pastor Larry Luffman

Follow Pastor on Twitter @larryluffman