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My Daily Devotion for
my family's
Spiritual Growth
Issue 4



"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

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 1 – In the Beginning...God made it all.

As a family read Genesis 1 together.

Wednesday

Read Genesis 1:24-26, 29-30

After God made day and night, He made the sky. Then He formed the oceans and land. But He didn't stop there...God went on to fill the beautiful earth with all kinds of plants and trees that make seeds and fruit. God made day and night. He made all the living creatures in the sky, the seas, and on land. He made animals that would be wild, and He made animals for man to care for. Yes, God even made the bugs and the creepy crawlies.

Thursday

Read Genesis 1:26-28

God made all that by just speaking it into existence, and God said His creation was "good." But then God did something even better, He made a very special creation out of the dust of the ground. God created a person, two people to be exact, named Adam and Eve. He did something with Adam and Eve that made them special compared to every other created thing – He breathed into them life and made them in His own image.

When He was all done, God said His creation was "very good!"

Friday

Why is Genesis 1 important to us today?

Isn't it amazing to think that God made everything out of nothing? He created the birds, trees, oceans, and sky. All you have to do is look around each day to see the beautiful world God made. But even more incredible than that, God made you and your family. He loves His entire creation and thinks it's "very good" and that includes you! Since God is your Creator, shouldn't you love Him and follow Him in everything you do?

Spend a few minutes talking about what you read in Genesis 1 by answering these questions together:

1. What does learning about God's act of creation tell us about Him?
2. What do you think was the best part of God creating the world?

Saturday

This coming week, think about the cool things God created and thank Him for them. He made your favorite foods, the beach, and the mountains. He even created humor so you could laugh. Remember, God also made your family, as unique as it might be! God designed you to love and cherish each other.

Also, look for things and think of the people that you are thankful for. When you think about these things, thank God for making them and be in awe of the power that God must have to be able to create the world! Take a few minutes now as a family to thank God for everything He created.

Week 2

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 3 – The fall of man.

As a family read Genesis 3 together.

Wednesday

Read Genesis 2:8-17

It says that God created a garden – an absolutely beautiful garden. There were rivers and gold all throughout the garden. God places Adam and Eve in the garden to work and take care of it. But God said, “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

In Chapter 3, Satan tried his very best to destroy what God had created by tempting Eve to disobey God. In verse 1, he started causing Eve to doubt God’s instructions by asking, “Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” Satan continued to distract both Adam and Eve from the truth. Eve fell to Satan’s incessant persuading, and “she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened” (Genesis 3:6-7). Adam and Eve listened to Satan, believed his lies, and chose to disobey God’s command.

Thursday

Why is Genesis 2-3 important to us today?

Everything was perfect. Man and woman were created to have an eternal relationship with God. The world was pure...innocent of any

and all of sin...and then Adam and Even sinned. The result of their disobedience to God changed not only their lives, but the entire human race forever. Every person ever born would be a sinner whose relationship with God would have to be restored.

You were created to have a relationship with God. When you disobey God, it hurts the closeness you have with Him. Choosing to sin is not only selfish, it breaks God's heart. The same is true even in your family. When children lie or disobey their parents, it causes the relationship to be strained. To make things right, the child had to genuinely apologize and ask for forgiveness. Likewise, we need to ask God for forgiveness when we disobey Him.

Friday

Spend a few minutes talking about what you just read by answering these questions together:

1. What are ways that you sometimes disobey God?
2. What would help you obey God more?

Saturday

This coming week practice a couple of things together:

1. Confess your sin to God as soon as you're aware of it and tell Him you're sorry. He promises to always forgive. Practice asking for forgiveness in your family. Don't let another day go by without apologizing (Ephesians 4:26). Ask God to give you strength to follow Him.
2. Celebrate God sending His Son, Jesus into the world to die for your sin on the cross. He has an incredible plan and purpose for your life. Have you accepted Jesus' payment for your sins? If not, will you become a follower of Christ today?

Week 3

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 4 – Cain and Abel's sibling rivalry.

As a family read Genesis 4 together.

Wednesday

Cain and Abel were brothers and were the first kids of Adam and Eve. Cain was a farmer who grew fruits and vegetables, while Abel was a shepherd. "And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:" (Genesis 4:3-4). The book of Hebrews tells us that by faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did (Hebrews 11:4). God was pleased with Abel's sacrifice, but not with Cain's.

What was supposed to be an opportunity to worship God turned into a battle of sibling rivalry. Cain put his desire to be better than his brother in front of the opportunity he had to worship and serve God. Cain became very jealous and angry toward Abel. He saw this and encouraged Cain to do what was right, but Cain didn't listen to God. By allowing jealousy into his heart, Cain began to hate his brother.

Thursday

Why is Genesis 4 important to us today?

Abel approached His worship to the Lord with the right heart, but Cain did not. Abel focused only on his desire to please God and

do what was right. Cain, however, focused on pleasing himself and turned his energy toward anger with God and his brother. Because God loved Cain, He challenged him to correct his attitude and make things right. Rather than repent, Cain unwisely gave in to jealousy and anger.

What makes you angry or jealous? You can't always avoid having these feelings, but God wants to help you correct them. Why? Because wrong attitudes and thoughts lead to sinful actions.

Friday

Spend a few minutes talking about what you just read by answering these questions together:

1. What were the differences between Cain and Abel?
2. What should Cain have done differently?
3. Discuss ways you can each give your best, as Abel did.

Saturday

How can we better follow God this week?

We, too, have the choice to either love God and give Him our best or selfishly focus on what we want. After learning about Cain, what should you do when jealousy creeps into your heart? In what ways does God try to get your attention when your attitude is wrong? Stop now and ask God to help you see and hear how He wants to correct your attitude this coming week.

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week 4

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 6-9 – The flood.

As a family read Genesis 6-9 together.

Wednesday

In Genesis, we read that there were lots of people on the earth, but these people thought evil things and did not follow God. God's creation had chosen to get so far away from His intended purpose that God decided to send a flood that would wipe everything away and provide a new start. God found one man He was pleased with, and this man's name was Noah.

Noah was a godly man who was faithful and followed God's commands even when no one else did. God told Noah that He was going to send a flood that would cover the whole earth. So, He gave Noah instructions on how to build an ark (a big boat) that could hold him, his family, and lots of animals. The ark would keep them safe from the flood. Noah immediately went to work on the ark, doing exactly what God asked him to do. All the people around Noah's family laughed at them and thought they were crazy!

Thursday

When Noah finished building the ark, God gave him further instructions. Noah was to bring two of every kind of animal into the ark. God said the rain would last for forty days and forty nights without stopping. Noah did as God instructed, and the animals came to him

to get on the ark. “And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation” (Genesis 7:1). Once everything was loaded, God shut the door, and it started to rain.

The rains came down, the oceans opened up, and the earth was flooded. In fact, for 150 days, the earth was completely covered with water. When Noah and his family were finally about to leave the ark, he made an altar to God and made sacrifices to Him. God was pleased with Noah, and He blessed him and his family. God then made a promise to Noah: He would never destroy the earth with a flood again. He then told Noah that a rainbow in the sky would be a sign of that promise.

Friday

You may have heard the story of Noah and the ark several times. But stop to think about some of the lessons from this story. First, as God looked over the earth, He saw two types of people: those who loved and followed Him (Noah and his family) and those who rejected His love and did only what they wanted. Noah and his family loved what was good and right; everyone else loved what was wrong and evil.

Next, Noah followed and obeyed God even when it was unpopular and others criticized him. It took 120 years to build the ark. Year after year, he worked without seeing a single drop of rain. Noah was able to be faithful to what God asked him to do because he trusted what God said.

We can see from Noah’s story that God takes sin very seriously. Sin is doing something that displeases God. Sin harms our relationship with God; it harms others; and it even harms us. God desires that we follow Him and that we do what pleases Him.

Saturday

Spend a few minutes talking about what you learned this week by answering these questions together:

1. After learning about Noah, how do you still see two types of people in the world today: those who love what is good and those who love what is bad?
2. Why is it better to follow what God says is right?

Think about this...we deserve to be punished for our sins just as the people on earth were in the flood. Sin is serious! But then remember, God provided Jesus as a sacrifice for our sin. He died as the payment for our sin.

When you are tempted to sin this coming week, stop and think about how seriously God takes your sin. Remember what He did by sending His Son to take the punishment for your sins. Ask God to help you live to please and honor Him, as Noah did.

NOTES/PRAAYER REQUESTS:

Week 5

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 11 – The tower of Babel.

As a family read Genesis 11 together.

Wednesday

At one time, a group of people settled in a plain in the land of Babylonia. They decided to build a city with a tower that reached high into the sky. They thought it would make them famous and keep them from being scattered all over the world. Back then, all the people of the world spoke the same language. So they could easily talk, and make plans for baking bricks and other things they needed to build their great home.

But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. He knew that as long as they were together, they would encourage one another to rebel against Him. So, He decided to go down and confuse the people with different languages. Since they couldn't understand each other, they couldn't build their city or their tower. Eventually, people who spoke the same language found one other and settled in new areas together.

Thursday

The people of Babylonia wanted to build their city with a massive tower that would reach to the heavens. It would be a monument to their own greatness, showing the world what they could accomplish. The people were only concerned with making a name for themselves,

not honoring the name of the Lord.

God was not pleased with them. He was disappointed in their pride, and He feared that they would continue to depend on their own skills and talents rather than depend on Him. So God stopped their plan with a very interesting solution – He confused the language (which prevented them from communication), and He scattered them across the world (which prevented them from cooperating and working together).

Friday

Although the people had the wrong motivation for building this tower, this story shows us something very important: there is incredible power when we communicate and work together. In other words, when we talk regularly and make it a point to cooperate, we can accomplish a lot! It displeases God, however, when people work together to make themselves look good rather than showing how great He is.

Spend a few minutes talking about what you just read by answering these questions together:

1. In your own word, why do you think it was wrong for the people to build this tower?
2. Talk about God's solution to this problem – how did the two things He did (confused their language and scatter them) affect the world?

Saturday

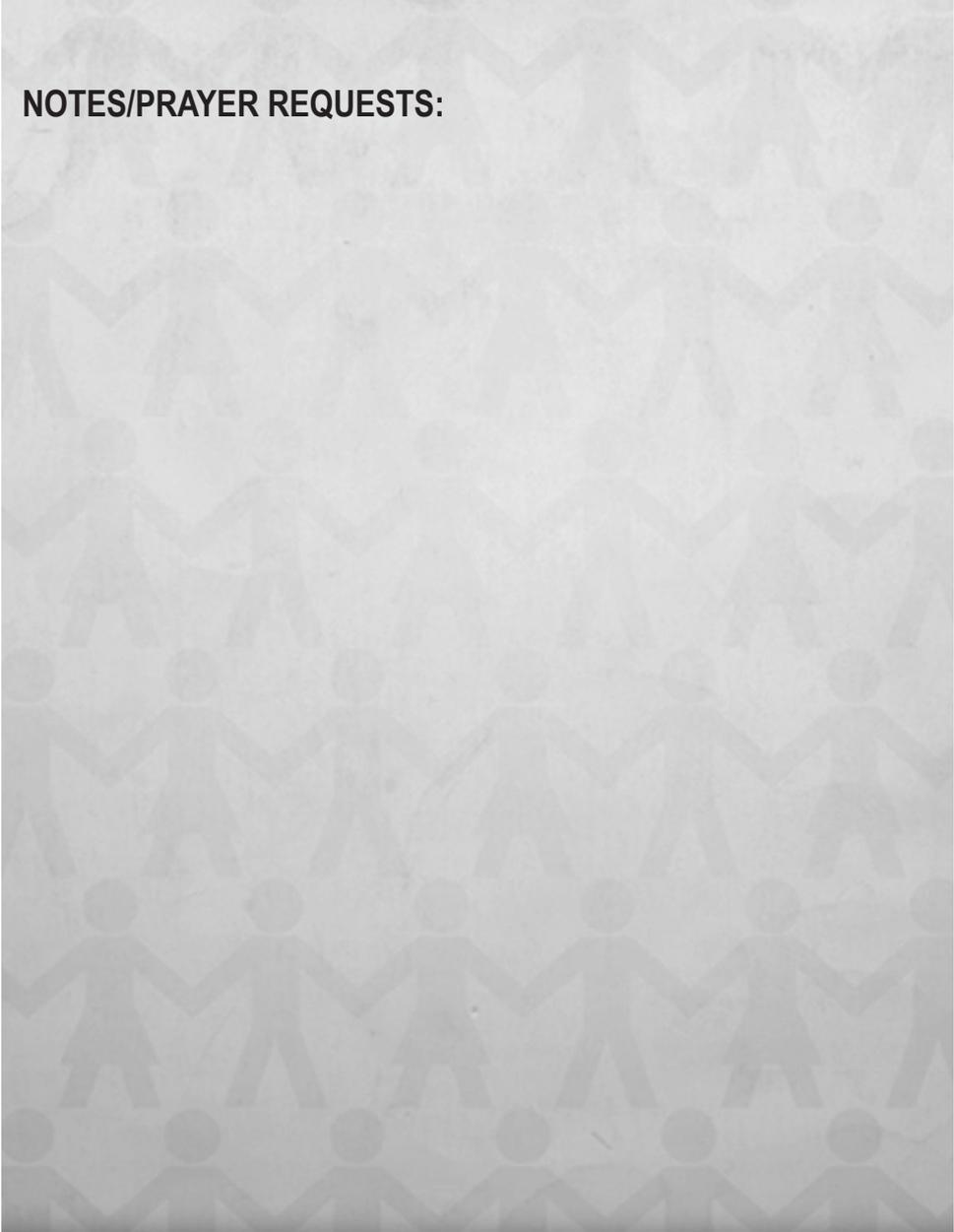
How can we better follow God this week?

How can your family work together to serve and glorify God? What personal or group accomplishments cause you to be prideful? How can you use that accomplishment to honor God?

Take a few minutes now to thank God for bringing you together as

a family. Pray that you will make communication and cooperation a priority in your home and that, unlike the people of Babel, you will take part in things that are good and pleasing to God!

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:



Week 6

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 12-15 – God’s call on Abram.

As a family read Genesis 12-15 together.

Wednesday

Abram didn’t know why God was selecting him or for what purpose, but the Lord did have a purpose. (Later in Genesis God told Abram that purpose and changed his name to Abraham, but that’s a story for another week). God come to Abram and told him to pack up his family and everything he owned and go too...” unto a land that I will shew thee.” Abram wasn’t sure where God was telling him to go, but he was sure that he needed to follow what God told him to do. So Abram set out with all his livestock (he owned a lot of animals), his wife, Sarai, all of their servants, and his nephew, Lot.

Thursday

The journey doesn’t stop there. During this time, Abram and Sarai wanted to have kids. In fact, in Genesis 15, God told Abram that his descendants would be like the number of stars in the night sky. Abram had prayed and Sarai had prayed, but they still had no children in their old age.

Abram finally made it to the land God had been leading them to. There, God made a covenant with Abram that He would use his family and this land to make a great nation. That nation would bring glory to God’s kingdom.

To find out more about God's promise to Abram, read Genesis 15.

Friday

God asked Abram to follow Him even when it didn't make sense, and the journey became difficult. From the beginning, they didn't know exactly where God was taking them. But Abram was faithful and trusted that God was in control. Abram learned that where God guides, God provides. Abram chose to place his faith in God, and God took responsibility for making sure he and his family were taken care of. Abram believed God when He said, "Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you" (Genesis 15:1).

Like Abram, we may not know the outcome of everything God asks us to do, but we can trust the One Who asks us to do it.

Spend a few minutes talking about what you learned this week by answering these questions together:

1. What parts of Abram's journey were most interesting and exciting?
2. How was Abram faithful to God, even when it was scary and confusing?

Saturday

How can we better follow God this week?

What has God directed your family to do that requires complete faith in Him? What exciting or scary things have happened on your "journey of faith"? How can you still be faithful to God, even when it is scary?

Remember that where God guides, God provides. As Abraham found, what God asks for, God provides for. God will take responsibility for what we need; we just need to follow Him.

Week 7

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 13 – Abram and Lot separate.

As a family read Genesis 13 together.

Wednesday

Abram and his nephew, Lot were both very wealthy. They had flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents. Unfortunately, the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all of their flocks and herds living so close together, so fights began to break out between workers.

Finally, Abram suggested to Lot that they separate so that there would not be conflict between their workers. Abram gave Lot the opportunity to choose which part of the land he wanted, and then Abram would leave and settle in the other part. Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east, and Abram settled in Canaan.

Thursday

The journey doesn't stop there. During this time, Abram and Sarai wanted to have kids. In fact, in Genesis 15, God told Abram that his descendants would be like the number of stars in the night sky. Abram had prayed and Sarai had prayed, but they still had no children in their old age.

Abram finally made it to the land God had been leading them to. There, God made a covenant with Abram that He would use his family and this land to make a great nation. That nation would bring

glory to God's kingdom.

To find out more about God's promise to Abram, read Genesis 15.

Friday

After fights broke out between Abram and Lot's workers, Abram recognized that a real conflict was beginning to develop, so he took the initiative in solving the dispute. He gave Lot the first choice, even though Abram, being older and probably wealthier, had the right to choose first. It was a real risk for Abram because Lot could have cheated him or left him with a part of the land that would not support flocks and herds. But that didn't matter to Abram. What mattered most to him was a family that loved and cared for one another. He didn't want to fight with his family.

Family peace was so important to Abram that he took the initiative in resolving the conflict. He unselfishly gave Lot first choice – even if it meant not getting what he wanted or what seemed like the best. That's not easy to do, but when we act unselfishly and trust God for the outcome, conflicts can be avoided and we can have peace in our home.

Spend a few minutes talking about what you learned this week by answering these questions together:

1. As a family, talk about why you think fights were breaking out among Abram's and Lot's workers.
2. What was Abram's response to the conflict?
3. How did his response show faith in God?

Saturday

How can we better follow God this week?

Conflict is a reality in life. There is no avoiding it. Sometimes conflicts happen inside our home and among our families. That is why it is so important that we learn how to work it out when a conflict begins

to develop.

With whom are you having conflict? How can you act unselfishly in the situation? Take a few minutes to pray together that family peace will be a priority in your home. Pray that each of you will learn how to work it out when conflicts arise.

NOTES/PRAAYER REQUESTS:

Week 8

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 22 – God always provides.

As a family read Genesis 22 together.

Wednesday

Abraham had waited for a very long time for Sarah, his wife, to have a child. The Lord did what He had promised and gave them a son, Isaac. God also promised that through Isaac He would build a great nation, His chosen people.

God came to Abraham to test him. He told Abraham to sacrifice his Isaac on an altar. So early the next morning after cutting the wood for the burnt offering, Abraham and Isaac set out for Mount Moriah, the place God told him to go. While on the journey, Abraham said, “My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering” (Genesis 22:8).

Abraham had faith that God would intervene in order to keep His promise of making a great nation from Isaac’s descendants, even if it meant raising Isaac from the dead. God sent an angel to stop Abraham. Just when they saw a ram stuck in the bushes close to where they were standing. God provided the sacrifice, so Abraham and Isaac could worship Him together. God saw that Abraham was willing to obey Him and not hold anything back, not even Isaac.

Thursday

God never intended for Isaac to die. He wanted Abraham to prove

that he loved God more than he loved his son – a son that Abraham had waited for and on whom all the promises of God rested. Simply put, God was testing Isaac.

The purpose of God's testing is always to strengthen our character and deepen our commitment to Him. Abraham strengthened his commitment to God through this extremely difficult situation. He proved that his faith was genuine, not just something he talked about.

Friday

We can talk about our faith and how we're ready to trust God and obey His commands, but sooner or later we're going to have to put some action behind our words. How would you respond if God told you to do something that just didn't make sense? Would you look to Him for strength to get through the situation or would you take matters into your own hands?

Spend a few minutes talking about what you learned this week by answering these questions together:

1. How did Abraham's actions display truth and faith in God?
2. How had Abraham's previous experiences with God prepared him for this test?

Saturday

How can we better follow God this week?

The Bible says in Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." God never promised that the Christian life would be easy, but He did promise that He is always there for you. He will never leave you. No matter how old or young you are, God wants you to trust Him for EVERYTHING. Spend a few minutes discussing how God is strengthening your faith and trust in Him.

Week 9

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 25 & 27 – Jacob and Esau.

As a family read Genesis 25 & 27 together.

Wednesday

Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys, Esau and Jacob. Before they were born, God told Rebekah that one would be stronger than the other and that the older one would serve the younger. When the boys arrived, the first one to come out was red and his body was like a hairy cloak. He was named Esau. After Esau was born, his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so he was called Jacob. As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, and Jacob was more of a quiet man who served his family at home. Isaac loved Esau because of his ability to hunt, but Rebekah favored Jacob. One day Esau came in from the field, exhausted from all his work, while Jacob was cooking stew. Esau was so hungry that he demanded food from Jacob. Jacob made Esau swear to sell his birthright to him. Now, a birthright in those days was a big deal. Because Esau couldn't control his appetite, he gave away his birthright to Jacob.

Thursday

However, the boys didn't have the last say in the birthright; their father had to give a blessing to the son who would receive it. When Isaac was old and ready to give Esau the blessing, Rebekah helped Jacob deceive him. Rebekah knew Isaac's eyesight was very bad

and the Jacob was not like his brother. She took Esau's nicest garment and some goat hair and put them on Jacob so that the father would think that Jacob was Esau. After all of the preparation, Jacob took some food to his father. Isaac asked Jacob who he was, and Jacob said that he was his firstborn. Isaac called him over, felt his arms, and smelled him. He was confused because he sounded like Jacob but felt and smelled like Esau. Isaac gave Jacob Esau's blessings. Jacob left and Esau came in with some dinner for his father. He then asked for his blessing, but Isaac had already given it to Jacob.

Friday

Although the people in his story loved God, they acted in ways that displeased Him and harmed their family. Isaac and Rebekah each showed favoritism to a different son. Isaac favored Esau, and Rebekah favored Jacob. When parents make children feel as if one is loved more than the others, it created intense sibling rivalry. Jacob wasn't willing to share his stew when his brother was hungry, and Esau was willing to give up the most important thing he had – his birthright – for a bowl of soup. He satisfied a temporary need without thinking about the long-term consequences. Then, Jacob and his mother were deceitful in how they tricked Isaac.

Favoritism, sibling rivalry, and untruthfulness can harm your family just as much as it did in Isaac's family. Honesty is an important rule in any home. Lying breaks trust and harms your relationships. Sometimes we think deceiving isn't lying, and it's okay if we don't get caught. But a half truth is always a whole lie.

Spend a few minutes talking about what you learned this week by answering these questions together:

1. What should Jacob and Esau each have done differently regarding the stew?

2. How did each person, including the parents, act in ways that harmed their relationships?
3. How did their action displease the Lord?

Saturday

How can we better follow God this week?

Moms and Dads, this is a great time to let your children know that you love them completely...just the way they are! The same should be true of brothers and sisters. Just like Esau and Jacob, you are probably very different from your siblings. God made you each unique. For the next few minutes, take turns pointing out the talents and positive character traits of each person in your family.

When everyone in a family knows they are loved and each wants the best for the others, it creates a strong and happy home. Finish your time together with prayer, thanking God for each person in your family.

NOTES/PRAAYER REQUESTS:

Week 10

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 32 – Jacob wrestles God.

As a family read Genesis 32 together.

Wednesday

After Jacob had sent his family and all his possessions across the stream, he found himself all alone. Out of nowhere, a man came and wrestled with him till daybreak. Neither one could get the best of the other all night. Just before daybreak, the man caused Jacob's hip to go out of joint and told Jacob to let him go. But, Jacob knew that his was no ordinary man and refused to release him until the man blessed him.

The man then told Jacob that from that moment forward, his name wouldn't be Jacob, but Israel. Why? Because he had made it through a wrestling match with God! Jacob asked, "What is thy name?" (Genesis 32:27). But he already knew that he was face to face with God, which is why Jacob named that spot, Peniel (God's face). He had seen and touched God and lived to tell the story. The man blessed Jacob and left. As the sun came up, Jacob walked to meet his family and Esau. But Jacob's hip was still out of joint and it caused him to limp.

Thursday

Jacob wrestled with God? That is nothing short of amazing! He is crossing the river to see his brother, Esau, for the first time since stealing his birthright twenty years earlier. But before Jacob could

move forward in God's plan, he had to put the old Jacob behind him. God changed his name from Jacob (which means "deceiver") to Israel ("one who has power with God"). The lamp was a permanent reminder that he was no longer the same man who fled Esau – he now lived for God's purpose, not his own.

This story can be hard for us to understand because we have never wrestled with God physically. However, most of us wrestle with God on decisions that we make in our lives. Think about a time God lead you to do something, but you said, "No." Did God continue to wrestle with your heart about it? When God places something on your heart, He does not let it go easily. When you say, "Yes" and decide to live completely for God's purpose, your life will be changed and others will take notice.

Friday

Spend a few minutes talking about what you learned this week by answering these questions together:

1. What do you know about Jacob from earlier in Genesis?
2. What do you know about him after God changed his name to Israel?
3. What are the differences between the old Jacob and the new?

Saturday

How can we better follow God this week?

Tell your family about something you have been wrestling with God about. This could be anything from giving your tithe to going on a missions trip. In order to receive the blessing that God wants to give us we have to be willing to give up what we want and give in to what He wants for us. How can you better live for God's purpose this coming week? Spend a few minutes praying for each other. Ask God to help you surrender to Him the things you've discussed.

Week 11

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 37 & 39 – Joseph in prison.

As a family read Genesis 37 & 39 together.

Wednesday

Jacob had many sons; but all of his sons, Joseph was his favorite. Joseph's brothers were very jealous and planned to get back at Joseph. They even came up with a plan to kill Joseph while out in the field with their sheep. When Joseph arrived at the field, his brothers shoved him into a well. Instead of letting him die in the well, the brothers decided to sell Joseph to a group of travelers who were headed for Egypt. The brothers returned to their father Jacob and told him that a wild animal had eaten Joseph.

When Joseph got to Egypt, he was sold again to Potiphar, a high-ranking official in Egypt. Potiphar saw that God was with Joseph and gave him a very special job. Joseph was put in charge of everything in Potiphar's house, and God blessed that household greatly. God was with Joseph the entire time.

Thursday

Joseph went through a lot in his life. Can you imagine your own brothers selling you as a slave, getting a really awesome job, and losing it unfairly only to be thrown in prison? The Bible is very clear that God was with Joseph the entire time. From the bottom of a well, all the way to Egypt, God was there. From the ruler's house to the

prison cell, God was still there. He was right beside him, and He helped Joseph to be successful at whatever he did. Also, the Bible never mentions that Joseph did anything wrong. He wasn't perfect, but he made a habit of obeying God and making decisions that would please God.

Friday

The Bible promises us that God will never leave us alone. Even when you go through difficult situations, God is always right there beside you. When you recognize that you're not alone, it's easier to make decisions that please and honor God.

Spend a few minutes talking about what you learned this week by answering these questions together:

1. What decisions did Joseph make that were pleasing to God?
2. How was God faithful to help Joseph?
3. How has God been faithful to you and your family?

Saturday

How can we better follow God this week?

This coming week, pay attention to the different ways God is there and faithful to you. Maybe even talk with your family about some favorite Bible verses that remind us that God is always with us everywhere we go.

What decisions will you make this week? How can you better obey God and honor Him with wise choices? As you pray together, thank God for his goodness, and ask Him to help you be obedient in return.

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week 12

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Genesis 41-45 Joseph and his brothers.

As a family read Genesis 41-45 together.

Wednesday

We learned last week that Joseph had been unfairly thrown into prison. While there, he remained faithful to God and showed that God's favor was on him by interpreting dreams. Sometime later, Pharaoh had two dreams that he could not understand, nor could his smartest and wisest advisors. Pharaoh's cupbearer, who was in prison with Joseph, told Pharaoh that his dreams had been interpreted by Joseph and that he could do the same for Pharaoh. Pharaoh sent for Joseph; and as the cupbearer had said, Joseph was able to tell Pharaoh what his dreams meant. God told Joseph; there would be seven years with lots of food, followed by seven years of severe famine. Pharaoh was so impressed with how God spoke to Joseph that he made him second-in-command of all of Egypt!

Joseph organized the land to prepare for the seven years of famine by saving the extra grain. The amount of grain they were able to save was so large that Joseph stopped counting because it was too big! But, just as God had told him, the years of famine came right after. The land of Egypt had more than enough food because of Joseph's planning, and they had so much that people from other countries came to buy grain from them.

Thursday

Back in Canaan, Joseph's family felt the effects of the famine and traveled to Egypt to buy food. They were sent to Joseph and bowed before him, not recognizing him as their own brother. Joseph, however, recognized them, but did not reveal who he was. He sent his brothers back and forth several times from their homeland without revealing his identity.

Eventually, Joseph brought his brothers to him and told them how he was. God helped Joseph to forgive his brothers. He told them that God had allowed everything that happened to him so that they could live through the famine and have food. After Joseph told Pharaoh that his family had come, Pharaoh provided land for them and their herds.

Friday

Joseph had endured terrible treatment because of his brothers, including years of slavery and imprisonment. However, because he stayed faithful to what God wanted him to do, God blessed him. Because of his position and authority, he was able to save his family and many others.

God made good things happen from the bad things in Joseph's life. He can do the same in our lives. We all have times when we don't understand how anything good can come from something that has happened. We can be tempted to blame God or try to fix it ourselves. Joseph gives us a better example, though. His story reminds us to follow God even in the bad times and trust that He will use it for something good.

Spend a few minutes talking about what you learned this week by answering these questions together:

1. Take a few minutes to talk about the difficult times that you've gone through as a family.

2. How did you respond to God?
3. How have you seen God make something good happen from a bad situation?

Saturday

How can we better follow God this week?

Maybe you're going through a hard time right now; maybe you've just come out of one. Maybe you can already see how a bad time has ultimately worked out to help you. Wherever you may be, follow Joseph's example and choose to obey God, even when it feels as if life is unfair. What difficult or unfair situations are you family members facing? Stop now and pray for each other to honor God with your words and actions. Thank God that He is going to do (or already has done) something good even with times that have been rough.

NOTES/PRAAYER REQUESTS:

Week 13

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Exodus 1-2 Moses rescue.

As a family read Exodus 1-2 together.

Wednesday

God's people, the Israelites, lived in Egypt where God provided everything they needed. The Egyptian king, called Pharaoh, became afraid of the Israelites because they had grown into lots of families with many, many people. Pharaoh decided to do two cruel things to keep the Israelites from growing any larger. First, he made God's people his slaves. Then he ordered the Egyptians to kill all the baby boys born to the Israelites.

Moses was born to Hebrew slaves name Amram and Jochebed. Hebrew is another name for God' people, the Israelites. While Moses was very small, his mother was able to hide him so he was protected. But after he was three months old she couldn't hide Moses any longer. Jochebed put Moses in a waterproof basket and placed it in the tall reeds that grew at the edge of the river.

Pharaoh's daughter found Moses and felt sorry for the little baby. When she heard him crying, she wanted to help him. Moses' sister offered to get a Hebrew nurse to help take care of the baby. Who do you think she brought back? Moses' own mother, Jochebed! The outcome was even better than they had hoped. Moses was alive, and Pharaoh's daughter paid his family to take care of him. When

Moses was older, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him. Moses went from being the child of slaves to being a prince in the palace of Egypt and Israel's delivered from slavery.

Thursday

The Israelites were living under the rule of an evil king who didn't know or love their God. But God was with them and kept His promise to grow them into a great nation. Pharaoh's wicked commands couldn't stop God's plan.

Amram and Jochebed had grown up hearing the wonderful stories of how God had used Joseph to save their people. They had faith in God and trusted him to take care of their family. Even when she was scared, Jochebed trusted that God had a plan when she put Moses in the basket (Hebrews 11:23). Was it luck or coincidence that Pharaoh's daughter found Moses? Of course not, it was part of God's plan for His people and for Moses. God was faithful and proved that He could be trusted.

Friday

Does it surprise you that nothing ever surprises God? He cares about everything that happens to you, big or small. Even before you were born, God had a plan for you (Jeremiah 29:11). Things that seem like trouble to us can be part of God's plan. God is faithful, even when we don't know what's going to happen. He is trustworthy. Nothing can stop God's plans!

Spend a few minutes talking about what you learned this week by answering these questions together:

1. What special purpose could God have for each member of your family?
2. What situation currently frightens you because you're not sure what is going to happen?

3. How does the story of Moses and his parents help you when you think about that situation?

Saturday

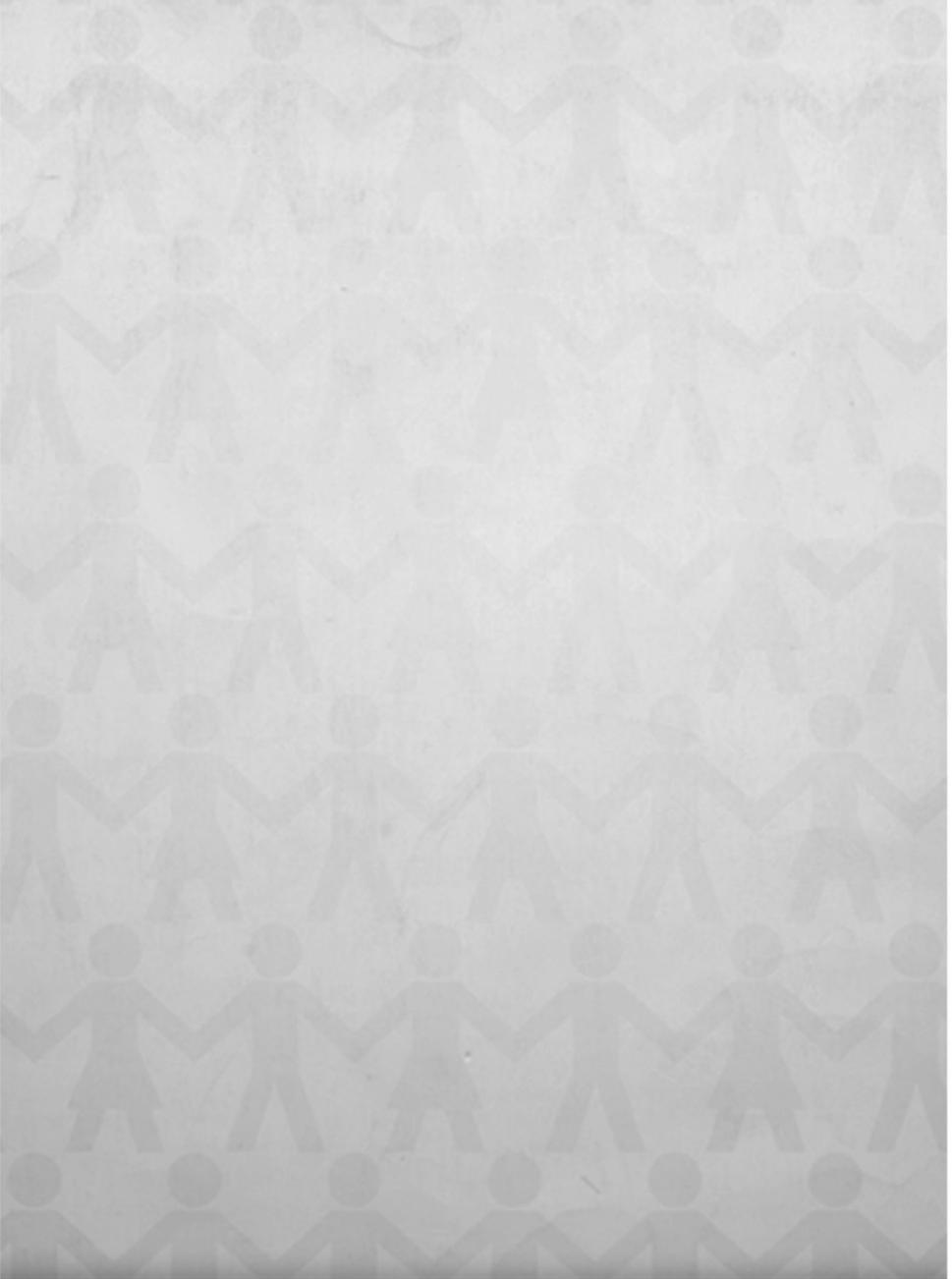
How can we better follow God this week?

Discuss with your family what difficult things happened to you this week. How do you think God can use it to influence new people or build godly character?

His plan is what we would choose if we could see how it turns out. He wants you to trust Him with your daily problems because God knows how each situation fits into His plan for your life. As you go through this week, spend time in prayer, praising God for being faithful and trustworthy. Thank God for the family He gave you. Ask God for the courage to trust Him with every part of your life.

NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS:

Notes/Prayer Journal:





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