

Arrows Family Devotional Guide: Week One

Aim Your Unique Arrows

Family Memory Verse for the Week

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD

-Joshua 24:15

Devotional

Aiming

Start with the end in mind. According to Stephen Covey, knowing the desired outcomes of your event or future is the second habit of highly successful people. Starting with the end in mind is having a clear image of who you want to be or outcomes you desire to see at the end of a certain time period or event. The main reason to start with the end in mind, however, is to affect your immediate future. The clearer the picture of who you want to be or your outcomes, the better you can work on those goals in the present. The principle of starting with the end in mind also reminds us that we are all aiming at some sort of target. You may have a clearly defined target, you may have let someone else define your target, or you may be unclear of what your target is, but wherever you find yourself, you are aimed at a target.

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus says that we should seek first the kingdom of God. Jesus proclaims that the kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:15) and that declaration is made possible by the presence of Jesus. As Jesus lives his life, dies on the cross, and is resurrected, the kingdom of God has broken through and now made accessible to us. Therefore, when we read Jesus' words and about his actions in the Bible, we get a glimpse of what it looks like to be a part of the kingdom of God. When we read that we should seek first the kingdom of God in Matthew 6:33, that becomes our target. When we start with the end in mind, we start with the picture of the kingdom of God. Our present is guided by the end of the kingdom of God, it is determined by Jesus.

After the Israelites settled in the Promised Land, Joshua called the people together to renew their covenant with God. Towards the end of Joshua's speech he gives the people their two options. The Israelites could serve God or they could serve a different set of gods. They could aim their life at God or they would be aiming their life at a different target. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua declares that "as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." You and your household are aimed at a target. You have a response to the statement as for me and my household, we will serve _____. Who or what is your household serving?

Family Activities

Babies

As you are rocking your baby, pray over your sweet bundle. Pray as you get to know them and thank God for making them unique! God designed your child perfectly; thank the Lord for your little one.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
Psalm 139: 14

Sing- Jesus loves me

Preschool

Craft:

Supplies: Paper with arrow (you can draw one on before you give them the paper or print one off), crayons, markers

Gather your preschool kids around the table. Give them a piece of paper and let them color an arrow however they want to! They can use bright colors, stickers, paint and let them show you their finished arrow. When they are done, encourage them and let them know God made them unique just like the arrow they created. God has a beautiful plan for each of your children. As they talk about their arrow, share with them qualities you see in them.

Activity:

Target Practice

Use supplies you have around the house. Make a target out of paper, a box, anything you have! Let the kids get balled up socks and try to hit the target. You can move the target back or forward to make it easy or harder. Talk to your family about how we all aim toward Jesus in all we do.

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15

Early Elementary

Activities:

You know your children, some will thrive doing crafts and others by games. Choose a few based on what is best for your family!

Gather your kids around the table or in the living room. You are going to talk about how God made each of your children unique. Let them start by sharing their favorite hobbies, food, color, ect. Most of these you know but let them tell you and why they like it. Make sure you focus on each child and listen to the why behind the answer. Ask questions if needed to have them explain why they chose what they did.

Then spend time encouraging one another. Parents share with your kids qualities and spiritual gifts you see in them. Talk about how God perfectly designed each of them!

Arrow Craft:

Let your child design their own arrow that reflects who they are. Use anything you have around the house. They can use markers, crayons, stickers, pipe cleaners, anything you have in your art supplies. You can also use blocks, legos, recycled materials (cereal boxes, paper towel tubes...) Now my children would love a game so I would set a 20 minute timer and let them all run around the house and then come back and show us their design. I know other kids will do so much better at a table sitting with their family designing together. Remind your child how much you love them for how God made them. He made us all unique and we are

Target Practice:

Use supplies you have around the house. Make a target out of paper, a box, anything you have! Let the kids make a ball of tape rolled with the sticky side out and try to hit the target. You can move the target back or forward to make it easy or harder. Talk to your family about how we all aim toward Jesus in all we do. *But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.* Joshua 24:15

Youth

Game:

Use supplies you have around the house. Make a target out of paper, a box, anything you have! You could even use a basket and make the target a hoop. Let the kids make a ball of tape rolled with the sticky side out and try to hit the target. If you use the hoop, you could make a ball out of anything around the house (socks, paper, or just use a real ball). You can move the target back or forward to make it easy or harder. Play a game of horse with your hoop. Talk to your family about how we all aim toward Jesus in all we do. *But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.* Joshua 24:15

-Gather around a table or your living room. Ask your youth what they think the target is for your family? What do they think your (as their parents) target is for them (as their child)? Take their responses seriously. If necessary, talk together to see if you can create any ways that you can better define the target as Jesus.

--Ask your youth what their goals are for the school year or in their sport/band/theatre for the upcoming season. Talk about how their future goals are shaping what they are doing right now. Transition the conversation to talking about that while goals for their academics and other activities are great, the big target for our life should be Jesus and should encompass our other goals.

Adults

-Gather around a table or your living room with your spouse, a roommate, or a friend. Ask them what they think your target is based upon your actions and interactions with them? What do they think your target is for yourself? Take their responses seriously. If necessary, talk together to see if you can create any ways that you can better define the target as Jesus.