

DAY 6

Ephesians 4:32 NIV

The reason we can forgive others is because of the ultimate example we have of God's forgiveness. By sending Jesus to die for our sins, God offered us the ultimate forgiveness. Jesus' death and resurrection made a way for things that were wrong to now be right. That's pretty amazing! So, what do we do because of that kind of forgiveness? We can accept it for ourselves and offer it to others when they need it. In other words, because of Jesus, we're forgiven and able to forgive those who have hurt or disappointed us (including those in our families!).

Thank God today for that forgiveness in your life. Then, ask for God's help in showing that same forgiveness to your friends, family members, and others in your life when they need it.

DAY 7

John 13:35 NIV

A great way to grow closer to our families or the people we live with is to read God's Word together. Sure, it may be a little strange or awkward at first, but the more you turn to Scripture together, the stronger your faith will grow, both as individuals and as a family!

This week, ask your family members or the people you live with to memorize this verse together. Post it on the fridge, talk about it over a meal, or text it to one another throughout the week. Do whatever works best for you and your family to memorize it together!

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

STUCK TOGETHER / WEEK 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

1 Thessalonians 5:15 NIV

Being part of a family can be hard. Whether it's fighting with your sibling or arguing with your parents, it can be easy to hold grudges or be angry with those closest to you. That's why the encouragement from Scripture is so important! It reminds us that, while being a part of a family can be difficult, it can actually challenge us to become better versions of ourselves. When your family frustrates or disappoints you, you can choose how you respond. You can choose what is good, not just for you but for everyone in your family. That's just one way you can put your faith in action to love your family well!

This week, pray that God would help you choose what is good for everyone when it comes to your family.

DAY 2

Colossians 3:13 NLT

There's no such thing as a perfect family. Why? Because families are made up of imperfect people! That means we can't expect our family members not to make mistakes. And they can't expect us not to mess up along the way either! Because of this, qualities like patience and forgiveness are so important. Being patient with the people we live with or offering forgiveness to our family members when they need it are ways we can bring more peace into our families. They're also ways we can allow our faith to grow as we respond to our family members' mistakes with the love and forgiveness Jesus responds to us with every day.

This week, when someone in your family makes a mistake, remember this verse. Then, choose to respond with patience or forgiveness instead.

DAY 3

Luke 6:31 NLT

It can be tough to know how to respond when someone in our family hurts our feelings. Most of us go between wanting to scream at the person or choosing to ignore them completely. We choose to fight back with our words, or we choose to be silent. But what if we chose a different option? What if we thought about how we wanted to be treated? Would we want to be yelled at or ignored? Or would we want to be talked to, comforted, or forgiven? In our interactions with others (family included), Scripture encourages us to think about how we want to be treated and to treat others that same way, too.

Let's give this a try! Today, practice responding to your family members the way you'd want to be treated. If you need help with this, talk to your small group leader or a trusted adult about how you can do this well.

DAY 4

2 Timothy 2:24a NIV

Have you ever wanted to do something you weren't allowed to do yet? We've all been there! Most of us wish we had more freedom to do what we want to do. That's why it can be frustrating when the adults in our family tell us to do the opposite of what we want! The next time you find yourself frustrated that you aren't allowed to do something or you don't agree with a rule in your family, remember that kind is what God calls us to be. Kindness is part of putting our faith in action, both in our families and beyond.

This week, ask yourself: What's one way you can be kind toward the people in your family, even when it's difficult to do?

DAY 5

1 John 4:11-12 MSG

Have you ever considered what it means to show God's love to your family? Most of us don't really think about it! Sure, we try to be kind to our parents, get along with our siblings, and be patient with the people we live with. But do we really take the time to be intentional about showing love to the people in our homes? If we're honest, the answer is probably no! Scripture reminds us that God shows us the way here. When we remember the unconditional, intentional, constant love God has for us, we can be motivated to show the same to our families. And the best part? God is right there with us to encourage us and help us when we need help to show a little more love at home!

So, ask yourself: What's one way I can choose to show God's love to the people I live with this week?