

# DAY 6

**Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.**

**(1 Thessalonians 5:15 NIV)**

It's human nature to want to get even with someone else. We want things to be fair, and to us, fair means we all get what we deserve, especially when we're wronged! But we have to remember one very important thing: God's love isn't fair. God showed love by sending Jesus for us. That was something incredibly good we certainly didn't deserve—which is exactly how grace works. It wasn't fair, but love is better than fairness.

So, the next time you're tempted to get even with someone in your family or a person close to you who has hurt you, remember that as Jesus followers, we are called to give grace and love to others. Because of what God did for us, we can offer grace and love to others, even when it doesn't seem fair.

**Today, pray and ask God for help responding in love, even when you face something frustrating with a family member.**

# DAY 7

**"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."**

**(John 13:35 NIV)**

The best way to demonstrate our love for God is by loving other people. This starts with our family! Memorizing a verse like this will help us remember the importance of loving those closest to us as a reflection of the love God has for them and for us.

**Make this verse your lock screen on your phone this week. Every time you come across it on your phone, stop and recite it in your head. Work on memorizing it so that it encourages you to love those around you with the love of God.**

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

THICKER THAN WATER / WEEK 1

## DAY 1

**The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.**  
**(Psalm 34:18 ESV)**

Chances are you already know that no family is perfect. Since we are all part of some kind of a family or another, we experience firsthand how broken families can be. One of the hardest things about living in an imperfect family (which is ALL families) is that they are made up of people who've been through difficult circumstances. And sometimes people who have experienced hurt, hurt one another. Even the closest families encounter challenging seasons and difficulties. These can be complex things like divorce and simple things like someone refusing to let you pick a show to watch.

But God promises that we're not alone during these hard times. God is close to us and present in all things.

**Today, take some time to reflect on your relationship with your family. Do you need to apologize to anyone in your family? Or maybe even forgive someone in your family? Reflect on what it would look like to make the first move and talk to them today.**

## DAY 2

**But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.**  
**(2 Corinthians 4:7 NIV)**

Compared to what God can do for us, we might appear weak and fragile. Yet, we carry with us this ability to connect to Jesus and impact the world around us when we can connect our passions to His purposes. The thing is, we often forget that our families are the same way. We forget that God doesn't only use "well-behaved" or "perfect" people. God uses people like us and people in our family.

By using humans, even in all our imperfections, God's power is more recognizable. God gets all the credit! Remember, as complicated as your family may feel, God wants to use all of us for good things.

**Today, look for God doing something in your family you may have missed, and thank God for working in imperfect people.**

## DAY 3

**He replied, "What is impossible for people is possible with God."  
(Luke 18:27 NLT)**

Can you relate to the frustration that comes from living with your family at times? Sometimes it can feel like there's an argument just waiting to happen. Sometimes living with our families can feel impossible.

Whatever the reason for feeling frustrated with our families, what if this verse applied to our families? What if we started living like getting along—even if it feels impossible—is possible with God? What if we started living like kindness, forgiveness, compassion in our families—even though it may feel impossible at times—is possible with God?

**Today, spend some time praying, asking God to help you see what is possible with Him, even if it feels impossible to you.**

## DAY 4

**"I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."  
(John 13:15 NLT)**

Jesus cleared up any confusion we might have about what God is like when He came to Earth. Up until Jesus, people had wondered about God and made guesses and assumptions, but when Jesus showed up, it all became clear. God was love. And because of Jesus, we have an idea of how we are supposed to live as His followers. Sometimes the most difficult people to show the most love to are the people closest to us, like our family. Even so, Jesus has set an example for us.

Jesus calls us to love other people like He loves us; this definitely applies to our family.

**Today, look for one way to love your family like Jesus has loved you.**

## DAY 5

**Then God blessed them and said,  
"Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."  
(Genesis 1:28 NLT)**

*Written by Miguel, age 20, from Columbia, Illinois, USA*

*At an Easter celebration with my family, we took time to celebrate the good things in our lives. My mom looked at all of her children and said "We are so blessed. Each of our children love God, love us, and love each other." She was really catching on to the good that can be on display in a family, or with people we're close to like family. See, family can be a group of people who express God's love to one another. God's love is on display in our families (or with our closest friends) even in simple activities we might not think that much about. For me, when I'm with my siblings I find we fight the most when we are bored and inactive, but working together for good things really helps.*

Doing activities together won't fix everything but it can be a healthy step toward expressing more love in your family relationships.

**Try and think of something you can do to help your family love God and each other more. It can be something in nature like fishing, gardening, even walks outside to look how beautiful the earth God made is.**

