

DAY 6

1 John 4:21 NIV

Sometimes it's easier to be kind to the people who don't live with us. Our friends, our teammates, the kids in our small group? We get along just fine with them! But our parents, our foster family, our siblings, the people we share a space with every single day? Not so much! In God's Word, we're reminded that if we love God, we must also love everyone. This means that every person we come into contact with—in our home and family and outside of it—are people we need to love. Will it always be easy? No! But will it be worth it? Absolutely!

Think about how you can start by loving those closest to you. Make a list of all the ways you can love the people in your home. Then, give it a try this week!

DAY 7

John 13:35 NIV

God's Word can be a friend to us. When we feel alone, when we are looking for advice, when we need someone to just be in it with us, the Bible is there to remind us God's Spirit is with us. Even when the people in our lives let us down, we have the friendship of God to turn to and find comfort in within the pages of the Bible.

This week, work to memorize this verse by inviting a friend to do it with you. Remember, friends can be the family we choose, so ask a friend who feels like family to help you out here! Reach out to each other at the same time every day this week to remind one another of the truth in this verse. And when you both have it memorized, celebrate by doing something fun together!

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

STUCK TOGETHER / WEEK 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

Psalms 133:1 NIV

Think about your favorite sports team or band. In order to complete the goal of winning or putting on a good show, each person must work together as one. In other words, they have to have unity. Well the same is true for us. No matter who makes up our family—whether it's the family we're born with or the family we choose—it's important that we work to live in unity, or at peace, with them. Because in order to be truly at peace, we need to be at peace with the people closest to us. According to Scripture, that kind of peace and unity is pleasing to God, and that definitely makes it worth the effort.

This week, talk to your family or those closest to you about how you can choose unity together.

DAY 2

James 1:17 NIV

Who makes up your family? Is it parents and siblings? Grandparents, aunts, or uncles? Foster parents or friends? Maybe even your small group? Whoever it is, think about those people as you read this Scripture today. Think about what each of the people in your family bring to your life. The kindness, the fun, the love—every good thing you have in your family comes from God. God put those people in your life because God loves you. They're a gift from God to make your life with the family you're born with or the family you choose just a little better every day.

This week, take time to thank God for the people who make up your unique family. Then, let those people know what they bring to your life!

DAY 3

1 John 4:19 NIV

When we really think about it, love is pretty interesting, right? You may think love is something that just sort of “happens” between people, but when we think about love in a family, we realize that love is also a choice. There are definitely days when we loving your family doesn’t come easy. That’s when we have to choose it. The good news is, God is there to help us choose love. God loves us so that we can love others. And when we don’t feel like loving our family is easy, God is there to help us choose it, one moment at a time.

Ask God today to remind you of God’s perfect love and to help you show that love to your family.

DAY 4

Ephesians 1:5 NIV

Adoption is an amazing way to make a family! It’s exactly the way God makes our spiritual family: by adopting us into it through Jesus. God chose us to be a part of this forever family. So no matter what our family looks like here on Earth, we can find comfort in knowing we belong to a bigger family of faith. Our belief in Jesus makes us a part of God’s family, and that is something we can celebrate!

Today, thank God for adopting you and giving you a place in a family of faith. Then, talk with your small group (who are part of that family!) about what it means to be part of God’s family together.

DAY 5

1 Peter 4:8 NIRV

Written by Chloe, age 20, from Taylorsville, Georgia, USA

My family and my friends have always been super important to me. Even when I fail or get on their nerves, I know they will always love me. And that’s why it’s important that I show them love too! God wants us to show love to our family and our friends that are like family to us in the same way God showed love to us. God loves us so much that God sent Jesus to die for us. That’s serious love!

Today, think about how you can show love to your family and the friends that feel more like family to you. Maybe that’s telling them how much they mean to you, or doing something kind for them, or just spending quality time together. Then, do it!