

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FAM / Week 1

"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

DAY 1

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. But in today's verse, Paul reminds us that although being a part of a family can be difficult, it also requires the best from us. What he means is that even when your family frustrates you, you can choose to let go of getting back at others; you can choose forgiveness instead. Doing that will show your family what it looks like to put your faith into action, even when it's hard. Is there someone in your family who frustrates you? Pray that God would help you choose peace and forgiveness with them this week.

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

Colossians 3:13 NLT

DAY 2

There's no such thing as a perfect family. Why? Because, well, families are made up of imperfect people. And that means that even though we may wish they would be, 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! That's why qualities like patience and forgiveness are so important. Being patient with the people we share our homes with or offering forgiveness to our family members when they need it are key ways we can not only bring more peace into our homes, but also ways we can practice our faith in our families. This week, choose to respond with patience or forgiveness when someone in your family needs it.

"Do to others as you would like them to do to you."

Luke 6:31 NLT

DAY 3

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 attack with our words, or we attack with our silence. But what if instead, 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? This verse asks us to do just that: to think about how we want to be treated and offer that same treatment to others. Talk to your Small Group Leader or a family member about how you can better practice this in your home this week.

<p><i>“And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone.”</i></p> <p><i>2 Timothy 2:24a NIV</i></p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Most of us wish we had more freedom to make choices for ourselves, but at this age, we’re under the rule of our parents, guardians, or other adults in our lives. And that’s why it can be frustrating when the adults in our world tell us to do the opposite of what we want! This verse reminds us that one of the best tools we have to use in our families (and in all our relationships!) is kindness. The next time we’re frustrated with the rules or ways of the grownups in our lives, we can respond with kindness. So, this week, ask yourself: What would it look like for me to show the adults in my family a little more kindness?</p>
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<p><i>“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”</i></p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:32 NIV</i></p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>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. He made a way for things that were wrong to now be right. And what’s our best response to that forgiveness? To accept it for ourselves and offer it to others when they need it. Thank God today for His forgiveness in your life. Then, ask for His help in showing that same forgiveness to your friends, family members, and others in your life when they need it.</p>
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<p><i>“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”</i></p> <p><i>James 1:19 NIV</i></p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>Maybe you live in a family where it feels like nobody talks to each another when they’re mad. Or maybe you feel like your family never stops talking in a fight! Either way, part of showing God’s love to your family is choosing to handle conflict in a better way. Here, James gives us this better way. When we’re angry, we can choose to listen first, think before we speak, and not let our anger get the best of us. That will bring more peace instead of conflict in our homes. Try to memorize this verse this week by writing it down and posting it somewhere you can see it. Let it remind you of a better way to handle fights and conflicts with your fam this week.</p>
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<p><i>“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”</i></p> <p><i>John 13:35 NIV</i></p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Sometimes it’s easier to remember God’s promises with the help of others. Memorizing passages of Scripture with friends or family can not only help us stay committed to the practice of memorizing, it can give us a chance to talk about what that truth means to us with those close to us. This week, challenge a member or two of your fam to memorize this verse with you. As you work on committing it to memory, talk about what the verse means in each of your lives.</p>
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