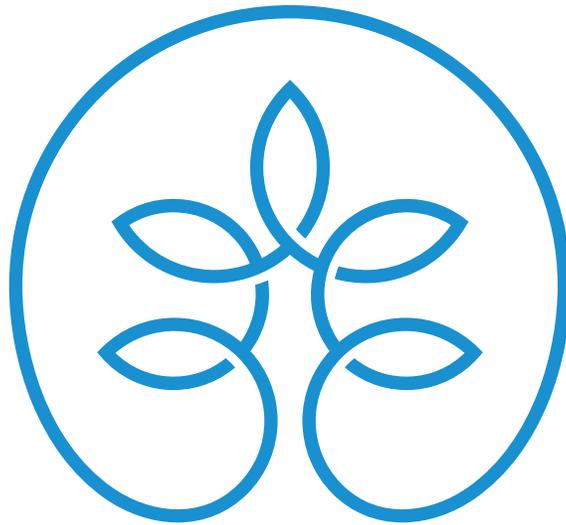


YOU ARE
LOVED



FIVE DAY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

vineyarddigital®



Welcome to Five Day Family Devotionals!

The idea behind Five Day Family Devotionals is to maximize dinner time and other family moments during the 5 day work and school week.

Many families have consistent rhythms during the school week that differ from weekend time.

Five Day Family Devotionals were created to integrate with your family's weekday rhythm. Our beta testers experienced good results in a dinner table setting with a parent or older child facilitating each day.

Others may enjoy a living room experience or other atmosphere. Do whatever works for YOU!

Each devotional has a progressive theme that builds on the previous day's discussion. We encourage you to set a time frame and discussion format that works best for your family context.

These devotionals were made for PRINTING or viewing on a larger device, so you'll want to do that before using the set.

Blessings to you and your family as you connect with God each day!



DAY 1: GOD IS LOVE

Scripture

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. (1 John 4:16, NLT)

Devotional

God IS love. What does this mean? It means you can't separate God from Love. In the same way the sun is light, and water is wet, and your mom is your mom – God is love. It's who He is, through and through. All week we will be considering this truth the Bible tells us.

Let's start here: If God is love, then everything He does is motivated by love.

If God is love, and He never changes, then He can never stop loving.

If God is love, and He is everywhere, then His love is everywhere.

If God is love, and He has all authority, then His love can't lose.

Think about the biggest thing that ever existed. (What might that be?) Imagine this huge thing in your mind. Now imagine God walking up to it, placing it in the palm of His hand, and rolling it around like a marble. That's how big God is. That's how big His love is, too.

Equally as astonishing is the truth that God's love fits inside our house, and inside each one of our hearts. He invites us to live inside His love. Jesus explained living with God's love as "abiding." "Make yourselves at home in My love," He said. (John 15:9, *The Message*).

A Prayer

God, You are amazing. Your love reaches up to the farthest solar system, down to the bottom of the deepest ocean, around the world to every person, and right here in our house tonight. Thank you for holding the world together with Your love. During the day tomorrow, help us notice Your love, even if at first we can't feel it. We place our confidence in the faithfulness of Your love. Would you teach us how to make ourselves at home in Your love?

Amen.

Questions

1. When you were little, did you have a "lovey" or "blankie" or favorite toy? Did you want to take it everywhere with you? What did you like about it?
2. What do you like about being home? What's your favorite place in your house? Why is it your favorite?
3. What do you think Jesus means when He says, "Make yourselves at home in My love?" How might you do that tonight?



DAY 2: GOD CREATED YOU

Scripture

You formed my innermost being, shaping my delicate inside and my intricate outside, and wove them all together in my mother's womb... How thoroughly you know me, Lord! You even formed every bone in my body when you created me in the secret place, carefully, skillfully shaping me from nothing to something. You saw who you created me to be before I became me! (Psalm 139:13-16, TPT)

Devotional

God created you. Remember how He never stops loving? That means He was loving you the whole time you were growing inside your mother's belly. When your heart first began to beat, and your toes popped out of your feet, and your brain began to think, God was right there, creating you with love and care.

Parent(s), pause here to tell each child something unique about their time in the womb.

It's remarkable how hints of personality show up even before birth! God must really enjoy making each person so uniquely. We are like God's artwork spread all across the world! No matter what age we are, it's good to read Psalm 139 and remember that God was carefully involved in our creation. He knows every detail about you and me, and He made us the way we are on purpose, and He loves us, and He is pleased with us!

Maybe you've thought to yourself, *I wonder **why** God loves me... is it because I'm good? Is it because I'm smart? Is it because of the way I look? Is it because I make a big difference in this world?*

Hear this truth: God loves you because He made you.

A Prayer

Dear God, Thank You for always loving me, even before I was born. It's amazing to think about how perfectly my body works. The truth is, when You made me, You did a good job. Thank You for making me just the way You did. Help me celebrate Your intricate, specific design for me, and help me believe You love me. Thank you, God, for joining us as a family so we can grow up together.

Amen.

Questions

1. Children, ask your Mom or Dad, "What was it like when you saw me for the first time?"
2. Ask each other, "What is something you love about me?"
3. Ask God, "What were You thinking about when You made me?" Parents can help answer.
4. Ask God, "How much do you love our family?"



DAY 3: GOD TAKES CARE OF YOU

Scripture

“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you.” (Matthew 6:28-30)

Devotional

When we love something, we want to take care of it, right? God loves us, so He takes care of us no matter what. After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, the Lord Himself made Adam and Eve’s first clothes (Genesis 3:21). And He’s been looking out for his children ever since! The clothes we wear, and the food we eat, and the place we live... while the money for these things comes through parents’ hard work, the true beginning of these provisions is God.

Sometimes being a parent is overwhelming, because we want to take good care of our kids. It’s comforting to remember that God is ultimately the one taking care of *all* of us – parents *and* kids. Adam and Eve didn’t have parents to make clothes for them, so God did.

God doesn’t want us to worry. He knows it’s not good for our bodies or our hearts. When we are worried about something, we usually can’t feel God’s love. The next time you start to worry, choose instead to focus on God’s love and care. Remember He’s been clothing the whole earth – even every wildflower – since He first created it.

A Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for paying attention to the details of our lives, and for loving us. You know all the clothes in our closets, and all the food in our kitchen, and all the dollars in our bank accounts. Please forgive us for letting worry separate us from Your love. We trust you to provide everything we need. We admit that everything we have is because of You.

Questions

1. What is your favorite article of clothing right now?
2. What do you think Adam and Eve’s first outfits looked like? Use your imagination to picture God making an outfit just for you, and the look on His face when you try it on.
3. Is there something you’re worried about? After each person shares, take a minute to connect to God’s provision for his or her worry.



DAY 4: GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU NEVER CHANGES

Scripture

The moment Jesus rose up out of the water... a voice spoke from heaven, saying: "You are my Son, my cherished one, and my greatest delight is in you!" (Mark 1:11, NLT)

Devotional

God spoke these words to His son Jesus when He was baptized in the river. This shows us something significant about God's love that also applies to us, since we are also God's children. Before Jesus healed anyone, before He died on the cross and rose from the dead, His Father told Him: I am delighted in you! You please me so much! I am so proud of you!

God is our Father, too, and He feels the same way about us, even when we haven't done anything awesome. It's natural to believe God loves you more when you do good things, and less when you do bad things. But that's actually not true.

God's love depends on His nature, not our behavior.

There is nothing you can do to make God love you more.

And there is nothing you can do to make God love you less.

He will always love you the same!

When God looks at you, He sees through you like x-ray vision. He looks past your skin (what you look like on the outside, how you behave, what you accomplish) and sees the real person on the inside. God looks at your heart, and says the same thing He said to Jesus: "You are my daughter; you are my son; my cherished one, and my greatest delight is in you!"

A Prayer

Father God, how amazing it is that your love never changes. It's something we can always depend on. Please help us understand your unconditional love. As parents, we ask You to help us love our children the way You do. Please forgive us for the times we haven't.

Questions

1. Have you ever had an x-ray? What do you think your heart looks like beating inside your chest?
2. What's another way to say "I love you"?
3. Have you ever tried to make God love you more? What would it be like to not have to do that any more?



DAY 5: GOD'S LOVE TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE OTHERS

Scripture

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God... If God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. (1 John 4:7,11)

Devotional

Let's review what we've discussed about God's love: 1) God Himself is love. 2) He loves you because He created you. 3) He takes good care of His children. 4) God's love for us doesn't change based on our behavior.

Today we hear from "the disciple Jesus loved" that when we receive all this love from God, our hearts begin to get filled up with love until it overflows to others.

Have you ever been to a water park with a huge bucket above a water playground? The bucket is as big as a small car! A large water pipe pumps water into the bucket until it fills to the top and begins to tip over, until suddenly a bell rings and all the water dumps out in a massive splash, dousing everyone below! Then it starts all over again, because the water is always pouring into the bucket.

Think about the bucket. Did it make its own water supply? No. It was being filled by the water pipe above it. Now think about your heart as the bucket, and God's love as the water. This is a picture of how we can be filled up with God's love until it spills out onto the people around us.

It's a relief that we don't have to create our own love. We love because God loved us FIRST. His love never runs out.

A Prayer

Dear God, I admit, sometimes it's hard to love people. But You love them very much, don't you? I want my heart to be more like the bucket, always open to receive more of Your love and filling me full until I show love to others. Thank you for loving all of us so much. I'm honored to help spread Your love to the world.

Questions

1. Share about a time you were amazed at the way water works.
2. Think about someone you know who is hard to love. Is it hard for God to love him or her? How could God love that person through you (as the bucket)?
3. What are some qualities of God's love, and how do they compare to the love we try to create from our own hearts?