



GENEROSITY



FIVE DAY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

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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: WHAT IS GENEROSITY? / GOD IS GENEROUS WITH US

Scripture

*Lord, how wonderful you are!
You have stored up so many good things for us,
like a treasure chest heaped up and spilling over with blessings—
all for those who honor and worship you! (Psalm 31:19, TPT)*

Devotional

What does the word “generosity” mean? It’s the act of giving; an attitude of being happy to give. A generous person is really good at sharing. Being generous is the opposite of being mean, small-minded, selfish, or hoarding.

For example, a double scoop of ice cream is a *generous* portion. Let’s complete these statements together: Someone is generous when they _____. The time I gave my _____ to _____, I was being generous.

Sharing is easy to talk about but hard to do, isn’t it? It helps to think of specific ways to be generous. The next few devotions will hopefully give us some ideas. Let’s begin by looking to God.

In the same way God’s love teaches us how to love, God’s generosity teaches us how to be generous. And oh how God is generous with us. He loves to give His kids good gifts. In fact, the Bible tells us that God is the source of every good gift that exists (James 1:17)! Why do you think He likes being generous with us? (Pause for answers if you’d like.)

Consider this: does God worry about having enough? “*Like a treasure chest heaped up and spilling over with blessings...*” This is a picture of how rich God is.

Oftentimes we hesitate to give something away because we worry about having enough for ourselves. As we receive good gifts from God, something inside us changes. We aren’t so afraid to give because we know there is enough. And it becomes more natural for us to give joyfully just like He does.

Prayer

Dear God, Sometimes I worry there’s not enough, and sometimes I just don’t want to share. Thanks for letting me be honest with You about that. Please help me remember all the ways you have been generous to me. I ask you to give me a heart that wants to give, even when it’s difficult. Thank you for never holding back from me. Amen.

Questions

1. Who is the most generous person you know?
2. One poet describes God’s wealth as “the cattle on a thousand hills.” Think of your own analogy of God’s riches.
3. What is one good gift God has given you?



DAY 2: GENEROUS WITH YOUR TABLE

Scripture

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts.... (Acts 2:46, ESV)

Devotional

The dinner table is an important time and place, isn't it? Eating together as a family helps keep us connected to each other. While some meals are kept just for our family, we can also invite people into this special time. Have you ever thought of eating dinner together as a gift that can be given?

In Jesus' time they called it "breaking bread together," since bread was their main food. The gospels tell of many times when Jesus ate dinner with people – all different kinds of people. If Jesus was eating dinner with us tonight, what would you talk to Him about? What would be his favorite food?

After Jesus went back to heaven, the early church spent a lot of time eating dinner in each other's homes. They shared the sacred practice of "breaking bread together." They remembered Jesus. They encouraged each other, and laughed together, and gave to anyone who had a need. They were like one big family.

Church looks different now, but eating together in each other's homes is just as sacred. A nice tidy house and fancy food is not as important as sharing friendship, food, laughter, stories, time, and attention. In all these ways we can show someone we care about them.

When we have guests, we all learn to be good hosts. Whether it's opening the door and voicing a welcome, being aware of table manners, thinking of a good question to ask, or helping cook and clean, we all have important roles. In this way, the whole family can practice generosity.

Prayer

Jesus, we want you to know that you are always welcome at our table. We can't thank you enough for the food we eat, and this special time together. We want to be generous and share it with others. The Psalmist says, "You set the lonely in families." Lord, help us notice the lonely. Who do we know that would feel loved at our table?

Questions

1. Who would you like to invite over for dinner? (Or breakfast, or lunch?)
2. What job can each person do? What food should we make?
3. Share a favorite memory of a past dinner guest.
4. Read and discuss an account of The Last Supper (Luke 22).



DAY 3: GENEROUS WITH YOUR POSSESSIONS

Scripture

*You take care of the earth and water it,
making it rich and fertile.
The river of God has plenty of water;
it provides a bountiful harvest of grain,
for you have ordered it so. (Psalm 65:9, NLT)*

Devotional

“It’s more blessed to give than to receive” is a familiar saying. We usually think about money and possessions when we hear it. Have you ever given money or things? (Parents take a moment to tell children about any people and places you give toward financially. Children can also share about donations they have made.)

An old Jewish Rabbinic saying goes like this: “Live like a river, not like a lake.” Let’s think about this for a minute. What’s the difference between a river and a lake? (Discuss.) What happens when you throw a stick into a lake? And what happens when you throw a stick into a river?

This is a metaphor (an example that explains a deeper idea) for being generous. When you give away your money and belongings, they are gone just like the stick goes downstream; you won’t ever see them again. Someone else will be blessed by receiving those things. If you are okay with that, it’s proof that God is giving you a more generous heart. And if you’re not okay with that, you can keep practicing, and ask God to give you the desire to be generous.

Live like a river, not like a lake. Don’t keep things for yourself; enjoy the gifts God has given you and let them keep flowing into the world. As you give, God will show you the way. You can trust God because He knows what you need, just as He knows what others need.

Prayer

Father God, Thank you for being like a river with plenty of water that provides for everyone. We want to be a part of this flow! We confess we sometimes resist being generous with our possessions. We ask that you would give us the desire to be generous, and the courage to give when You are asking us to give. Amen.

Questions

1. If you had a million dollars to give away, who would you give it to?
2. What is something you currently have that you could give away?
3. Who could you give it to? Ask God to help bring someone specific to mind, and commit to giving.



DAY 4: GENEROUS WITH YOUR GIFTS

Scripture

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)

Devotional

Here's some great news: our money is just *one* way we can be generous! We can also give our time, our compassion, our listening ears, our energy, our... (what else?) In addition to these, God has created each one of us with gifts and talents; with things we are naturally good at. We can be generous with these gifts, too.

*"...A gift can never stop being a gift – it is always meant to be given."**

It could be your smile, your work ethic, your quietness, your athleticism, something you make with your hands, your imagination, your voice, your ideas... you have so many special things inside you!

These things are a part of who you are. You might notice that you are most happy when you are doing them. God gave us these gifts to enjoy for ourselves AND to give to others. He was also thinking about your place in the family of God, and how your contributions can make the Body of Christ stronger, healthier, more effective, and more beautiful.

For example, you might be naturally good at teaching someone else how to do something. Perhaps you usually know whether or not someone is telling the truth. Maybe it seems easy to you to pray for someone to be healed. Or you like thinking big-picture and have a desire to lead people the right way. Are you good at organizing things, or helping others? These could be spiritual gifts God has given you to help the church.

As you grow and mature in community with other people, you'll notice your gifts more and more. Keep giving them away!

Prayer

Dear Jesus, It seems like everywhere we turn, we find more ways that You give to us. Thank you! We ask You to help us see what we're good at – individually and as a family unit. We want to be good givers, just like You. It's our desire to give with excellence. We purpose to grow the gifts you've given us, so that we can give even more to your kingdom. Amen.

Questions

1. Ask each other, *What's one thing you're good at?*
2. How can you be generous with this gift?
3. How can you work to get even better at it?

* Ann Voskamp, *One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are*



DAY 5: GENEROUS WITH YOUR DIFFERENCES

Scripture

How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along! (Psalm 133:1)

Devotional

In this Psalm, David celebrates that people can get along with each other even when they have different opinions. Since it's not easy to do, the wonder and beauty of it really stands out!

You can probably think of disagreements you've had with a co-worker, classmate, friend, or neighbor. And if you have a brother or sister, it's REALLY easy to come up with a list of times you didn't get along with each other.

David had six older brothers and two sisters. He had some experience with conflict, don't you think? Imagine what it would be like to have six big brothers! (Discuss.)

Maybe David was thinking about his own brothers and sisters when he wrote this song. It seems he was mostly thinking about people in the "church family" who had different opinions about what's right.

Today there are many different views among our church "brothers and sisters." (Parent(s), name a few if you'd like.) God's desire is that we would all be able to get along, even when we believe differently. In the same way a mom doesn't expect her children to look alike, act alike, or think alike, God doesn't expect all His children to look, act, and think exactly the same. He created us with differences and free will on purpose. But He does want us to find a way to dwell together and work together under Jesus' leadership.

Getting along with people of different opinions requires **generosity** from everyone. How so? (Take a moment to discuss.)

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for the training ground of having siblings. Thank you for the people in my life with whom I disagree. It's really difficult to get along with others sometimes. But you said the best way the world will recognize your children is the way we love each other. I want the world to see your love through the way I treat my brothers and sisters, especially my brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.

Questions

1. Use this time as you see fit to talk through recent conflicts among siblings or friends, recognize personality differences, make amends, and consider ways to be more generous with each other.
2. Is there a person or church group you have been unwilling to get along with? Ask God to help you identify and soften the posture of your heart.