

CROSSPOINT FAMILY DEVOTIONS



May-August 2025

Welcome!

Parents,

We are so thankful you have decided to pick up the family devotion guide. We pray it draws you closer to God and to each other. We know that raising children in Christ can feel both rewarding and challenging, but take heart: you're not alone on this path. This guide is designed to support you as you lead your loved ones in exploring God's Word together. Your efforts, however small they may feel at times, are planting seeds of faith that will grow in your children's hearts for years to come. We're cheering you on!

This year, we've crafted a special Bible Reading Plan to guide your family through the Scriptures. Together, we'll read the New Testament once and the Psalms twice, immersing ourselves in the wisdom of God's Word. The Bible reading plan is made available to you on our website, the app, and at the Family Resource Area.

Our reading plan is structured with your busy family in mind: five days of Scripture each week, leaving the weekend—two precious days—for catching up, digging deeper into topics that spark your curiosity, and enjoying the family devotions included here. This rhythm offers both consistency and grace, allowing you to adapt as needed while keeping God's Word at the center of your home.

This family devotion guide is written to accompany the Bible Reading Plan. In it, you will find one family devotion per week. The devotions are designed to align with the reading plan, including a passage you read earlier in the week. However, they can also stand alone for families following a different reading plan this year. Each week, you'll find a devotion along with a simplified option for younger children and special friends. These devotions are crafted to engage families with children and teens.

As you work to disciple your children, please know our church family is walking alongside you. May this time in the Word strengthen your faith, unite your household, and fill your hearts with the joy of knowing Christ more deeply. Let's begin this journey together!

—Your CrossPoint Staff

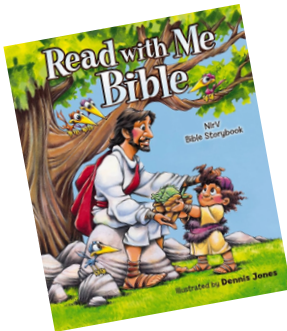
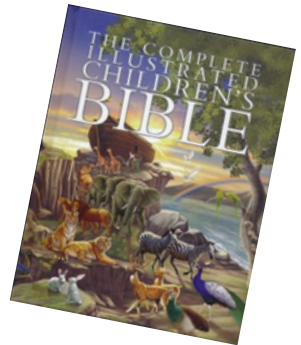
Recommended Bibles

All of the Bibles shown below will accompany any of the "For Younger Kids and Special Friends" section of each week's family devotion.



The Beginner's Bible

The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible



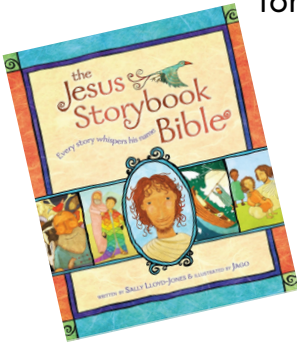
Read with Me Bible

ICB Bible (Full Translation)



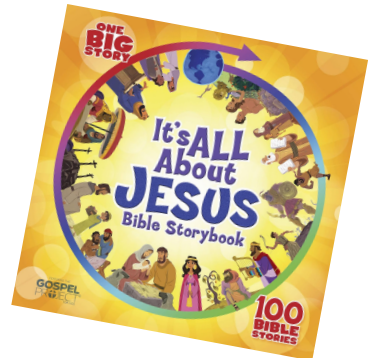
Recommended Bibles

Use the age recommendations to help you choose the best one for your child. These books are good for everyday reading.



Preschool and Early Elementary

Preschool and Early Elementary



Independent Readers



Student Ministry Age



How to Study Your Bible

The SOAP Method is a great way to help your children study God's Word.



SCRIPTURE

Choose a scripture or passage of scripture. Read the verse or verses in your Bible. Write and highlight meaningful words, phrases, or scriptures that stand out or that resonate with you.



OBSERVATION

Take a few moments and observe the passage of scripture you've read. What is the overall message of the passage? What truth can you learn? What do you feel God is showing you through His Word? Did you learn anything new?



APPLICATION

Reflect on how you can apply these scriptures to your daily life. How can you implement what you've read? What habits, attitudes, or changes do you need to make? What lessons can you take away from the reading?



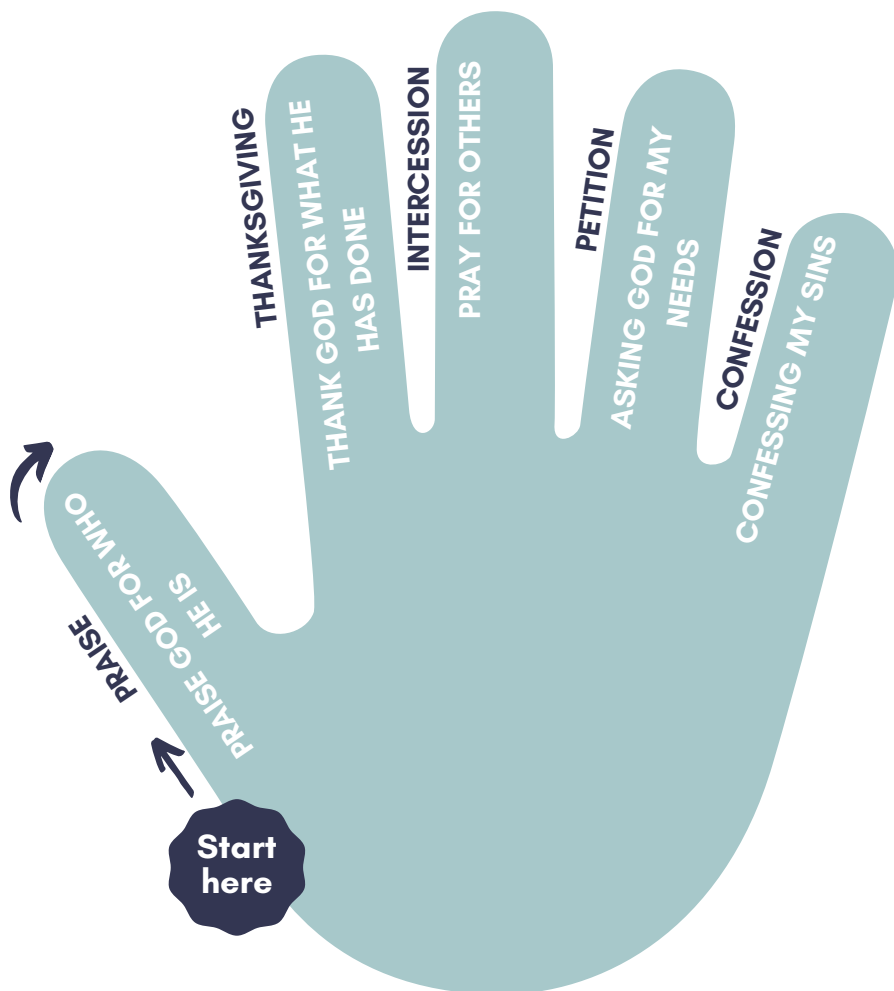
PRAYER

Say a prayer in reference to the passage. In prayer, thank God and ask Him for wisdom and revelation to help you apply these truths to your life. What do you want to tell God as a result of what you've read?

You can use a journal to write out what you read each day.

Five Finger Prayer

You can use this tool to help your family have a richer prayer life.



Scripture Memory Challenge

In 2025, our congregation is reciting Ephesians 3:20-21 for our benediction. We encourage you to memorize this passage together as a family, along with verses 14-19. To help keep it in the forefront of your minds, consider creating a family poster and hanging it in your home.

As a special incentive, every family that memorizes the passage together will receive a treat from us! Let's embrace this opportunity to grow together in faith!

14 FOR THIS REASON I BOW MY KNEES BEFORE THE FATHER, 15 FROM WHOM EVERY FAMILY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH IS NAMED, 16 THAT ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY HE MAY GRANT YOU TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH POWER THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN YOUR INNER BEING, 17 SO THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH—THAT YOU, BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE, 18 MAY HAVE STRENGTH TO COMPREHEND WITH ALL THE SAINTS WHAT IS THE BREADTH AND LENGTH AND HEIGHT AND DEPTH, 19 AND TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST THAT SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE, THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD.

20 NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, ACCORDING TO THE POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, 21 TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

**EMAIL OR TEXT A VIDEO OF YOUR FAMILY RECITING THE
PASSAGE TO:**

JBURKS@CROSSPOINTCHURCH.INFO

BY SEPTEMBER 1ST

Additional Passages

If you would like to challenge your family with more scripture memory, try memorizing the Lord's Prayer together. An easy way to memorize it is to recite it for your dinner prayer.

Matthew 6:9-13

**“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”**

May 3rd-4th

Scripture: Acts 9:1-19

Devotion: Have you ever read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*? Do you recall what happens in the story? The caterpillar eats and eats, growing larger with each bite. Eventually, it builds a cocoon, and when it emerges, it has transformed into a beautiful butterfly.

This week, we read Acts 9, which tells the story of how God transformed a man named Saul. Saul was someone “breathing out threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord.” No believer in God would have wanted to be near him.

But then God stepped in.

God had a grand plan for Saul. While Saul was on the road to Damascus, God stopped him in his tracks, blinding him and asking, “Why are you persecuting me?” Through a man named Ananias, God restored Saul’s sight.

One of the most remarkable parts of Saul’s story comes after his blindness. Once his sight is restored, Saul is baptized and immediately begins proclaiming in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the same man who had been persecuting Jesus’ followers!

God took Saul—a man filled with hatred—and transformed him into someone who boldly shared the good news of Jesus. His life was completely changed. He became a new creation.

God Transforms

Discussion Questions:

- Saul was religious and followed all the rules, yet he was still an enemy of God. What does this teach us about the idea of being “good enough” to come to Jesus?
- After his conversion, Saul immediately began proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God. Why do you think he was so eager to share his faith right away?
- How can we apply Saul’s urgency to share our faith in our own lives?
- When we become Christians, our lives are transformed, just like Saul’s. Pastor Ryan identifies three signs of saving faith:
 - Do you love Jesus?
 - Do you hate your sin?
 - Do you hunger and thirst for God’s righteousness and holiness?

Do you see these signs in your own life? If not, would you like to learn more about what it means to be a Christian? This week, talk with someone who loves the Lord and ask them for guidance.

For younger children and special friends: Read the story of Saul’s conversion from a children’s Bible.

Family Activity:

- Have one family member (or child) play the role of Saul, who is about to walk the road to Damascus.
- Blindfold the person playing Saul to represent his blindness.
- Other family members will take turns guiding “Saul” through a safe, obstacle-filled path.
- As Saul walks, guide them with verbal instructions, similar to how Ananias guided Saul after his conversion. When they reach the end of the “road,” have them remove the blindfold to experience “new sight,” symbolizing Saul’s restored vision.

May 10th-11th

Scripture: Psalm 113



Devotion: Have you ever witnessed a beautiful sunrise or sunset? Where is your favorite place to watch it—maybe the beach or the mountains? Share with your family why that place is your favorite.

Then, take a few minutes to read Psalm 113 together.

Psalm 113:3 says, “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!”

This verse calls us to praise the Lord continuously, from the moment the sun rises until it sets. We’re invited to praise Him all day long, in every moment.

Praise is the act of expressing admiration and approval for someone or something. When we praise someone, we celebrate their greatness and acknowledge what they’ve done. The Lord is worthy of our praise because there is no one like Him (v. 5).

Praise God

Praise is about celebrating WHO God is and WHAT He has done for us. **What does it mean to praise God in our daily lives?** Take a moment to discuss this as a family.

Family activity: Throughout the Old Testament, the Israelites remembered and reflected on all the ways the Lord worked in their lives. Take a few minutes to share your family's story of what the Lord has done for you. You might talk about how you and your spouse met, how the Lord brought your family to CrossPoint, the joy of having children, how the Lord saved you, or other blessings. Take time to praise the Lord for the many ways He has blessed you.

Bonus activity: Have each family member share a praise about one another. Choose one person at a time, and go around the table with everyone sharing something they love or appreciate about that person.

For younger children and special friends: Pick a psalm from a children's Bible that praises God. Suggestions:

- Psalm 113 from the ICB Bible
- "Praise Him with Music" from The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible
- "The Lord Is My Shepherd" from The Beginner's Bible
- "A Praise Psalm" from The Read with Me Bible



May 17th-18th

Scripture: Acts 18:9-10

Devotion: What is a missionary? What do they do?

In simple terms, a missionary is someone sent to share the good news of Jesus with those who don't believe. This week in our Bible reading plan, we've been reading the book of Acts and learning how Paul traveled from city to city to share the gospel with both Jews and Gentiles. Paul truly fits the description of a missionary—he moved from place to place, preaching and teaching about who God is and what He has done for us through Jesus. Throughout chapters 16–20, Paul faces many challenges.

In Acts 18, we find Paul in Corinth and later in Ephesus. While in Corinth, Paul has a vision from the Lord telling him not to be afraid, to keep speaking, and not to be silent. The Lord reassures Paul that He is with him and that no one will harm him, for there are many believers in the city. As a result, Paul stays in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching the Word of God to the people.

Paul's life was completely surrendered to God's will. He wanted to be where God wanted him to be, even if that meant facing harm.

Now, think about this in your own life:

Do you truly want to follow God's will, even if it means your life won't be easy?

Be Set Apart

Many of us live as fans of Jesus—we love the idea of a relationship with Him, enjoy going to church when it's convenient, and appreciate God's people... most of the time. But God doesn't call us to be fans; He calls us to be followers. That means our lives must look different from the rest of the world. We must be set apart.

Discuss as a family what it looks like to be set apart.

Do your values align with the Lord's, or are you living like the rest of the world? Have soccer games taken priority over church? Has rest come before your personal quiet time? Are grades in school more important than knowing God's Word? Is serving God a duty instead of a delight? If so, pray to the Lord today and ask for forgiveness. Make a plan to make God's will your priority. This world will never fulfill us like the Lord can.

Family Activity:

Create a "Set Apart" summer bucket list. Decide how your family will live for the Lord this summer. Ideas might include mission projects like volunteering at a food bank or nursing home, reading a psalm together daily, intentional vacations, family dinners, or trips in nature.

For Younger Children and Special Friends:

Read "The Fiery Furnace" (Daniel 3) from a children's Bible. Talk about how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego lived a life that was different from others. They chose to follow God when no one else would.

May 24th-25th

Scripture: Psalm 119:57-64

Devotion: This week in our Bible reading plan, we've been exploring Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible. Though we don't know who wrote this psalm, its message is clear: it's all about the importance of God's Word and how we can live by it every day. Take a moment to read Psalm 119:57-64:

"You are my portion, Lord; I have promised to obey your words. I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes. I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands. Though the wicked bind me with ropes, I will not forget your law. At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous laws. I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts. The earth is filled with your love, Lord; teach me your decrees."

In this passage, the psalmist declares something powerful: "You are my portion, Lord." In biblical times, a portion was an inheritance—a valuable gift passed down to someone. To say that God is their "portion" means that God is all they need, and the gift of salvation is more than enough. It's easy to think we need toys, money, or popularity, but the truth is, God is our true and complete source of fulfillment. Just like the psalmist, we can say, "God is my portion!"

Throughout the Old Testament, the Israelites often turned away from God, choosing idols and doubting His provision. Yet here, the psalmist boldly claims that God alone is sufficient for every need. This challenges us to examine our own lives and remember that God is enough for us too.

The Lord is My Portion

Then, in verse 59, the psalmist writes, "I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes." This is a beautiful, powerful image. Imagine walking down a path and realizing it's leading you in the wrong direction. Instead of continuing, you turn around and head back toward the right path. That's what the psalmist is doing—reflecting on their choices and intentionally turning to God's ways, trusting that He is all they need.

In life, we face many choices about which direction to take. Sometimes, we might find ourselves on a path that's not good for us—whether it's following the wrong crowd, making poor decisions, or ignoring God's guidance. But like the psalmist, we can stop, reflect on the path we're on, and choose to turn toward God and His Word. Turning our steps toward God means deciding to follow His ways instead of our own or the world's. It's an intentional choice to walk in the direction of His truth.

Family Activity:

Take a hike at Big Canoe Creek Nature Preserve (or another nearby trail). As you follow the arrows along the path, think about how they're similar to following God's path in life. Just as the arrows guide you on the right trail, God's Word guides us in the right direction. While you walk, reflect on how you can choose to follow God's path and trust Him to lead you every step of the way.

For Younger Children and Special Friends:

Read "Daniel in the Lions' Den" (Daniel 6) from a children's Bible. Talk about how Daniel chose to follow God's ways even when no one else did.



May 31st-June 1st

Scripture: Romans 1:16-17

Devotion: Do you enjoy putting puzzles together, or do they tend to frustrate you? Puzzles can be tricky! Some have just a few pieces and are easy to solve, while others have hundreds or even thousands, making them much more challenging. When the pieces don't fit together right away, it takes patience and effort to find where they belong and complete the picture.

Sometimes, life as a Christian can feel like working on a big, complex puzzle. We know God has a plan for us, but understanding how everything fits together can be confusing. Maybe we can see some pieces—like God's love for us, the gift of salvation, or the hope we have in Christ—but it's hard to see how they all connect.

The good news is that God's Word helps us understand how the pieces of the puzzle fit together. Paul wrote Romans to help new Christians in Rome grasp God's big picture of salvation through Jesus Christ. He wanted them to see how Jesus fulfilled the promises God made long ago and how, through Him, anyone—Jew or Gentile—can be saved.

Romans is an important book because it reveals how God's salvation plan works. Just as a puzzle has many pieces that create a full picture, God's salvation plan comes together through faith in Jesus, making sense of all the pieces of our lives.

Read Romans 1:16-17:

"For I am not ashamed of this good news about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This good news tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, 'It is through faith that a righteous person has life.'"

A Clear Picture

In this passage, Paul gives us a clear picture of the “good news”—the gospel of Jesus Christ. The good news is that Jesus came to save everyone who believes in Him, no matter their background. Whether Jew or Gentile, we can be part of God’s family, made right with Him through faith in Jesus. Paul emphasizes that salvation is a gift from God that begins and ends with faith.

This is like working on a puzzle. At first, we might not see how the pieces fit. But as we grow in understanding God’s plan, the picture becomes complete. The missing piece—the most important one—is faith in Jesus Christ. Just as a puzzle needs every piece to form a full image, our lives need faith to make sense of everything we experience.

Family Activity:

Complete a puzzle as a family. As you put it together, talk about what Jesus has done for us and how we can live for Him. Read a few key verses from Romans together to explain the gospel to your children. (Helpful verses: Romans 3:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 6:23, Romans 10:9-10)

This activity reminds us that, like a puzzle, we may not always see the whole picture at first. But through faith, we begin to understand God’s amazing plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Family Discussion:

Spend time letting your children ask questions about God and His Word they might be struggling to understand. Look in the Bible together to find answers. A helpful website for tough questions is gotquestions.org.

For Younger Children and Special Friends:

Read “Jesus Calms the Storm” (Mark 4:35-41) from a children’s Bible. Talk about how the disciples couldn’t see Jesus’ power clearly at first, but He reveals Himself and helps us in our time of need.



June 7th-8th

Scripture: Romans 5:6-11

Devotion: Imagine your sibling did something they shouldn't have. They threw a football in the house and broke a window. Your parents have always made it clear—no throwing things inside. Now your sibling has to face the consequences: they're going to be grounded and pay for the window with their allowance.

But what if you did something surprising? What if, instead of just watching your sibling get in trouble, you stepped in and told your parents you'd pay for the window and take the punishment instead? Does that sound like something you'd do? After all, they broke the window, and they knew the rules. They should be the ones to pay.

Stepping in to take their punishment would be showing them grace. Grace is favor toward someone who doesn't deserve it and can never repay it. Your sibling didn't deserve your help, but you did it anyway. That's grace.

Romans 5:6-11 shows us the ultimate example of grace—and it's about what Jesus did for us. The Bible tells us that Jesus died for the ungodly. Who are the ungodly? That's everyone who has ever sinned—basically, all of us!

The passage goes on to say that maybe, just maybe, we could imagine dying for someone we love who is really good. But even then, it would be hard. Jesus, though, didn't die just for the good people (because there are none)—He died for sinners like you and me. Jesus showed us the greatest act of grace, doing something for us that we can never earn or repay.

Undeserved Grace

So, how should we respond to this amazing gift from God? Verse 11 tells us—we should rejoice! Rejoicing means celebrating with joy because of what Jesus did for us. He showed us love and grace, and that's something worth rejoicing about every day!

Family Discussion:

- Can you think of a time when someone showed you grace, even when you didn't deserve it?
- Is there someone you need to forgive or show grace to right now? What would that look like?
- How can we show grace to others in our family? How can we practice this every day?
- Take a moment to pray and thank the Lord for His grace in your life.

For Younger Children and Special Friends:

Read "The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:11-32) from a children's Bible. Did the son in this story deserve to be treated the way his dad treated him? No! But his dad showed him grace. In the same way, Jesus shows us grace when we don't deserve it.

Activity:

Put a blank piece of paper on the fridge. Every day this week, have each family member write down one thing they're thankful to God for. This is a great way to cultivate a spirit of gratitude in both children and adults.



June 14th-15th

Scripture: Romans 8

Devotion: Romans 8 is a beautiful chapter about the Holy Spirit, God's gift to those who believe. Throughout the Bible, we see the Holy Spirit at work.

We see Him hovering over the waters in Genesis 1. We see the Spirit rest on the elders in Numbers 11:16-17. The Spirit of the Lord empowered Gideon in Judges 6:34. The Spirit rested on Jesus like a dove at His baptism in Luke 3:22. These are just a few examples of the Holy Spirit's presence and power.

Who exactly is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is part of the triune God. God eternally exists as three persons in one—God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are all one God whom we worship, yet each plays a unique role in relating to the world. For example, God the Father sent Jesus to the world. Jesus died and rose again to save us. The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and Son to give us new life.

The Trinity can be confusing to understand. How can three persons exist as one God? The truth is, some things are beyond our full comprehension because we don't have the mind of God! He is far bigger, wiser, and stronger than we can imagine. What matters is that we know He alone is God, and we can trust His Word and His ways.

Since we can't fully grasp this great mystery, let's focus on the Holy Spirit! One of the best things about the Holy Spirit is that God sent Him to dwell in the lives of everyone who follows Jesus. Romans 8 shows us what it means to live a life in the Spirit.

Led by the Spirit

Read Romans 8 together or choose a section of it to read, depending on the age of your children. Identify the roles the Spirit plays in the lives of believers. Here are some ways your family might see the Spirit at work:

- He frees us from the power of sin and death (vv. 1-2)
- He enables us to live according to God's will (vv. 4-5)
- He dwells in us (v. 9)
- He gives life to our bodies (v. 11)
- He gives us power over sin (v. 13)
- He leads us (v. 14)
- He affirms us (vv. 15-16)
- He helps us in our weakness and prays for us when we don't know how to pray (vv. 26-27)

Going Deeper:

Explore these verses to see more ways the Holy Spirit works in our lives:

- Romans 15:13
- Acts 1:8
- Galatians 5:22-23
- John 16:13

For Younger Children and Special Friends:

Read "The Holy Spirit Comes" (Acts 2) from a children's Bible. Talk about how God gave us the Holy Spirit to be our helper.

June 21st-22nd

Scripture: Psalm 143

Devotion: Have you ever found yourself in a situation you couldn't fix? This week, we read Psalm 143 and get a glimpse into David's prayer life. In this psalm, David is struggling and crying out to God for help. He's facing a problem he can't solve on his own. Through his pain, David shows us how to come to the Lord with our struggles. He knows he's unable to help himself and begs God to rescue him. In verses 1-4, David describes to God what's happening and how it's affecting him. But in verse 5, he shifts his focus—he stops looking at his problem and turns toward his mighty Savior.

Have you ever expressed your true feelings to God like David did? God already knows our thoughts, so we can talk honestly with Him. He cares for us and wants us to lean on Him. He loves you so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to save you. What kind of love is that? Perfect love. And just like David, we too are unable to help ourselves. Instead of trying to handle hard times with our own strength, go to the Lord in prayer and rely on His strength.

Here's how:

- First, tell God about your circumstances and how they're affecting you (Ps. 143:6). Talk to the One who knows your every thought and determines your every step.
- Second, remember the wondrous works of God (Ps. 143:5), because nothing is impossible for Him.
- Third, trust Him because He loves you (Ps. 143:8). If you're a born-again Christian, you know the infinite, unfailing love God has for you through the miraculous gift of salvation.
- Fourth, in all things, seek to do His will (Ps. 143:10). God is all-knowing and all-wise. It makes sense to ask for guidance from the One who knows all things—past, present, and future. (Adapted from the NLT Chronological Life Application Study Bible)

Help Comes From God

For Younger Children and Special Friends:

After reading Psalm 143 together, ask, “Was David having a good time or a bad time?” (Bad). That means David went to God even when things weren’t going well. David talked to God when he was happy, sad, scared, or angry—and God wants us to do that too! God loves hearing from us, no matter how we’re feeling. Talking to God is called prayer. Prayer doesn’t have to be just words—it can be drawn or written on paper too. God is always listening and wants us to talk with Him through prayer. Praying helps us grow closer to God. Did you know there’s no right or wrong way to pray? God wants to hear from the real you, so the more honest you are, the better.

Family Activity:

Listen to a Psalm 143 song using the QR code (or find one online). Give each child a blank piece of paper and encourage them to draw or write things that they’d like to talk to God about. Then, have them spend time praying, sharing those things with God.



June 28th-29th

Scripture: Romans 15:1-6

Devotion: Have you ever been to a concert? What is the best concert you've ever been to? What is the worst concert you've been to?

Why was one the best and the other the worst? What makes the difference between a good concert and a bad one? (Parents can share their experience if kids have not yet been to a concert.)

Music is a beautiful gift from God, but the notes must work in unison—or harmony—to sound pleasant. If you've ever heard music that sounded "off," it's likely because someone played a wrong note that clashed with the others. In the same way, the people in the Body of Christ need to live in harmony with one another to be most effective as a whole. Let's look at Romans 15:1-6 to see what God says about living in harmony with others!

"We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, 'The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me.' Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." - Romans 15:1-6

Harmony

- What does this passage say about how we should interact with other believers? (Hint: Look at verses 1-2)
- What does God give us to help us live in harmony with other believers? (Hint: Look at verse 5)
- What does verse 6 say we can do when we're in "complete harmony" with one another?

Think about the harmony in our local church. Do you feel in harmony with the other believers at CrossPoint? What could you do differently to increase the harmony in our body of believers? Pray that God would give you the patience and encouragement you need to live in "complete harmony" with all the believers in our church, so we can worship God together!

Family Activity:

Have each family member share their favorite worship song to hear at church. Ask the oldest family member to write each one on a piece of paper and place them in a bucket or basket. Then, have the youngest family member draw one from the basket. Listen to that song together, paying attention to how all the notes work in perfect harmony to create the music. Explain to young children that people in the church must live in harmony with one another, just like the notes in a song need harmony to sound good.

For Younger Children and Special Friends:

Read "Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall" (Nehemiah 2-6) from a children's Bible. Talk about how Nehemiah and the people worked together to build the wall, showing harmony even when things got tough.

Scripture: Psalm 150

Devotion: Begin by reading Psalm 150 together as a family (or by yourself). Let everyone who can read take turns reading a verse, or read it out loud if you are completing this devotion on your own!

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heaven!

Praise him for his mighty works;

praise his unequalled greatness!

Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn;

praise him with the lyre and harp!

Praise him with the tambourine and dancing;

praise him with strings and flutes!

Praise him with a clash of cymbals;

praise him with loud clanging cymbals.

Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

Reflection Questions:

1. Where does this Psalm say we should praise God?
2. What does this Psalm say we should praise God for?
3. How does this Psalm say we should praise God? Are we supposed to be quiet with our praise?

Praise

Message:

Psalm 150 makes it very clear that we should praise God everywhere we go, all the time, for all that He has done and is doing for us! It also emphasizes that our praises should be loud and frequent, woven into every part of our lives. We were created to praise God!

Today, practice praising Him whenever you notice something beautiful, recognize something good God is doing in your life or in the lives around you, or even when you start to feel anxious, worried, or sorry for yourself. See how praise can turn your day around!

Family Activity Options:

- Have each person (or your family together) write a psalm of praise to God.
- Have a dance party! We suggest "Praise" by Elevation Worship.
- Challenge the family to listen to only praise music for the entire week.
- Invite your friends to PRAISE with you at Camp CrossKids.

For Younger Children and Special Friends:

Read the story of Paul and Silas in prison from Acts 16. Here are options from children's Bibles:

- "Singing in Prison" from the Complete Illustrated Children's Bible
- "Paul and Silas in Prison" from the Read with Me Bible
- "Earthquake in Prison" from The Beginner's Bible

July 12th-13th

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1

Devotion: What does it mean to be “the worst”?

Can you think of a skill, sport, or subject that you feel like you are “the worst” at?

While we may feel that we’re “the worst” sometimes, there’s usually someone who comes along who makes us feel a little better about our skill level because they’re worse than we are. This is true when it comes to our sin, too! We tend to compare our sins to others so that we don’t feel as bad about our own. For example, in our eyes, lying isn’t as bad as murder, so if we lie every once in a while, it’s not that bad because we aren’t killing anyone. However, Paul has a different perspective on being “the worst.” Turn to 1 Timothy 1:15 to see what Paul says about being “the worst”!

1 Timothy 1:15

“This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all.”

Paul says this as if it’s a motto for his life, and he encourages us to accept it, too! Why do you think it’s good to believe that we are the worst of all sinners?

Paul goes on to explain a little more in **verses 16 and 17:**

“But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.”

The Worst

When we realize that our need for a Savior is so great, that's when we can truly accept the gift of eternal life that God has offered us through Jesus Christ. When we are humble and recognize that we have room to grow in every area of life, that's when God can best use us to reach others for His Kingdom.

Family Activity:

Come up with something your whole family isn't great at—a sport, crafting, cooking, singing, whatever it is. Instead of avoiding it because you don't like not being the best, make a plan to do that something together soon. Maybe go bowling and see who can get the worst score! Enjoy the humility of not being the best and just have fun together as a family. Recognizing that we are not perfect and we need a Savior is the beginning of ultimate healing in Christ.

For younger children and special friends:

Read the story of David and Goliath from a children's Bible. Talk about how David was the good guy in the story and Goliath was the bad guy. However, we are all sinners in need of Jesus, even David!

July 19th-20th

Scripture: Psalm 19

Devotion: This week, we read Psalm 19, a beautiful song written by King David. In this psalm, David praises God for everything He has created and for His perfect Word.

In the first part of the psalm (verses 1-6), David reflects on how the world around us points to God's greatness. The sun, the sky, the mountains, and all of nature are reminders of how awesome God is. Every time we look outside, we can see signs of God's amazing work in creation!

Next, David shifts to talk about God's Word (verses 7-8). The Bible is a precious gift from God, and it is perfect. It helps us grow in our relationship with God, teaches us how to live, and fills our hearts with joy and wisdom. Through the Bible, we learn how to live the way God wants us to, and we experience His peace and joy in our lives.

David says that when we spend time with God and read His Word, we become closer to Him. We begin to understand more deeply how much God loves us and how He wants us to live in a way that pleases Him. But sometimes, we make mistakes (called sin), and David asks God to help him avoid wrongdoing. He prays for God to protect him from sin and to help his heart desire God above everything else (verses 12-14).

David ends the psalm with a prayer:

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in Your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

David's greatest desire was to please God—and that should be our desire too!

Pleasing God

Discussion: What does it look like to please God with our hearts and our words? A famous quote comes to mind:

Watch your thoughts,
they become your words;

Watch your words,
they become your actions;

Watch your actions,
they become your habits;

Watch your habits,
they become your character;

Watch your character,
it becomes your destiny.



It all starts with our hearts. The thoughts and feelings that fill our hearts have a powerful impact on us. If we fill our hearts with God, we will naturally live in a way that pleases Him.

Family Activity: How did the biblical authors understand the word "heart"? Watch the video using the QR code to understand its Hebrew context.

For younger children and special friends: Read the story of the paralyzed man from Matthew 9 or from a children's Bible (suggestions below). Discuss how the most important thing is that the man was forgiven of his sins. Our hearts matter most!

- A Man Who Could Not Walk from Read with Me Bible
- A Hole in the Roof from The Beginner's Bible
- Where There's a Will from The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible

July 26th-27th

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Devotion: The book of 2 Timothy is the last letter Paul wrote before his death. In this final letter, Paul offers advice and encouragement to a young pastor named Timothy. Since this would be the last time Paul could speak to Timothy, he focuses his words on encouraging him to remain faithful.

In chapter 3, Paul reminds both Timothy and us that we cannot know how to live a life that pleases God without the guidance of God's Word. The Bible is our guidebook for life, and more than that, it has power.

Paul explains that the Word of God provides "the wisdom to receive salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). This means that the Bible is trustworthy. But how do we know that the Bible truly is the Word of God?

Paul answers this question in verse 16, saying, "All Scripture is inspired by God" (2 Timothy 3:16). This means that, even though many different people wrote the Bible in various languages and contexts, God was in control of the message. Each author wrote in their own style, but the Bible has one clear and consistent message: to repent and believe in Jesus. This unity and consistency is what makes Scripture trustworthy.

But we are not meant to keep this life-changing message to ourselves. We are called to share it with others. This is an important and big responsibility!

There are two main ways we can share the Gospel:

1. Through the message we speak.
2. Through the actions we take.

Every Good Work

One of the most powerful ways to share God's love is by serving others. In verse 17, Paul reminds Timothy that Scripture equips us to do every good work.

The spiritual discipline of service is not just about helping others; it's about pleasing God. When we serve, we are sharing the Gospel with others and reflecting God's love. Serving God through helping others is a key way we can be a light in this world.

Family Activity: This week, encourage ways for your children to help you, each other, and people with obvious needs. For example:

- Make the purpose of household chores the practice of serving one another in your family.
- Buy food at the grocery store for someone in need.
- Tell someone about Jesus.
- Share a treat or toy with someone.
- Stand up for someone who is helpless.
-

For younger children and special friends: Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him about the Bible and Jesus. Because Timothy was taught the Bible when he was very young, he was able to teach others about Jesus.

Now, let's read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NLT). God gave us the Bible to teach us about Himself, which is why it is so important to read and know the Bible and what it says. And when we learn more about the Bible, we know how to be more like Jesus Christ, which prepares us to do His work in the world.

Paul told us in 2 Timothy 3:17 that, "God uses [Scripture] to prepare and equip His people to do every good work." What is a "good work?" (Allow responses.) Good works include any action that is done for the glory of God. In Ephesians 2:10, Paul tells us that, "In Christ Jesus, God made us new people so that we would spend our lives doing the good things He had already planned for us to do" (ERV). When we serve others, we serve the Lord.

August 2nd-3rd

Scripture: Titus 2:1-8

Devotion: Does your life reflect Gospel living? Gospel living means allowing the Gospel to shape and guide all areas of life. Let's read the first eight verses of Titus 2, where Paul explains what is expected of born-again Christians in the church.

As Christians, we are expected to live in a way that clearly shows we are followers of Christ. Does your life reflect that you are a Christian? Paul mentions several character traits that every believer should work toward. Go ahead and rate yourself 1 to 5 for each term below. Be completely honest with yourself. This exercise is meant to be a reflective tool. (Scale: 1 = never, 2 = hardly ever, 3 = sometimes, 4 = regularly, 5 = all the time).

God-Honoring Behaviors:

1. Self-controlled
2. Respectable
3. Good judgment
4. Faithful
5. Loving
6. Patient
7. Integrity

Are there areas where you think you need to improve? Now is the time to ask for God's help. Be prepared, though—when you ask for His help in a certain area, He will provide opportunities for you to grow. Are there areas where you see the Holy Spirit working in and through you? If so, thank God and rejoice!

Gospel Living

In verse 4, Paul instructs older Christians to train the younger ones. Have you ever had someone older than you invest in you spiritually? If not, ask God to send a godly mentor into your life.

If you fall into the “older” category (mature believer), are you training and discipling younger believers? If not, pray that God would send someone for you to mentor. Your knowledge of the Gospel and your experiences are not meant to be kept to yourself—they are meant to be shared for the purpose of building up others.

As a Christian, are you intentionally looking for opportunities to evangelize or disciple others? Gospel living involves more than just believing in and trusting Jesus Christ—it requires actively embodying the Gospel in our daily lives.

For younger children and special friends:

One of the ways that God teaches you is by giving you parents, grandparents, and even Bible study teachers, who show you how to follow God. Read the Ten Commandments in a children's Bible. After reading together, discuss each commandment and what they mean for us today. Then, read Matthew 22:34-40. Ask how all the commandments can be remembered: by loving the Lord and loving others!

**Look ahead to next week.
There is a little prep work!**

August 9th-10th

Scripture: Hebrews 5:11-14

Extra Prep Activity Note: To make your devotion time more fun this weekend, grab some baby bottles, milk, and/or baby food for a game or illustration to kick things off. You could start with a competition to see who in your family can drink milk from a baby bottle the fastest (regular, chocolate, or strawberry milk would all work), OR you could try a blindfolded baby food taste test to see who can guess the different types of baby foods. There are also lots of fun "baby shower games" you could find online for more ideas.

Devotion:

- What does a baby eat?
- What are some foods that elementary kids like to eat?
- What are some favorite meals adults enjoy?
- Do we see adults eating the same foods as babies?

Let's be real: It would be VERY strange to ask a married couple how they celebrated their anniversary, and for them to respond, "I bought my wife's favorite baby food, drank chocolate milk from sippy cups, then went to play at our favorite playground!" Just as our nutritional needs and tastes change as we grow older, our appetite for spiritual things should change too. Let's read Hebrews 5:11-14 together!

Hebrews 5:11-14 (NLT):

11 There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen.

12 You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.

Growing in God

13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right.

14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

In this passage, the author is encouraging God's people to grow spiritually. He's making it clear that they haven't progressed as believers, and it's not okay to stay the same. We've talked about the progression of physical food—so what does that progression look like spiritually? What would "baby food" be, and what would come next?

Take some time to reflect on where each of you is in your "spiritual food journey," and determine where you need to grow. Is there a new "food" (spiritual practice or discipline) you need to try in order to strengthen your walk with Christ? Are you taking in enough spiritual food, or do you need to make more time for it? As a family, make a plan to hold one another accountable for growing in your walk with Christ. Take turns praying for someone else in the family specifically.

For younger children and special friends:

Read Boy Jesus in the Temple from Luke 2:41-52, or from a children's Bible (suggestions below). Discuss how Jesus grew not only physically but spiritually too.

- "My Father's House" from The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible
- "Jesus is Lost!" from The Beginner's Bible
- "The Boy Jesus" at The Temple from Read With Me Bible

August 16th-17th

Scripture: Hebrews 11:6

Devotion: Who are some of your favorite actors, musicians, athletes, or artists who are in a Hall of Fame somewhere?

Why did they get put there?

The people we see listed in Halls of Fame are there because they are really good at whatever it is they do. They have track records to prove that they excel in their field. Did these people get there automatically as soon as they were born into this world?

What did they do in order to get good at the skill that landed them in the Hall of Fame?

They practiced! They probably started young, practicing their skill, and over time, they increased their ability. This led to special opportunities to perform in their particular area, eventually gaining an audience and following that grew to the point they became some of the best in their field.

Did you know that there is a chapter in the Bible often referred to as the "Hall of Faith"? That chapter is Hebrews 11, and within it, the author lists many different people from throughout the Bible who God used to test, grow, and demonstrate their faith. Based on what you know about some of the Bible stories, who do you think might be included in this chapter, known for having great faith?

Let's read verse 6 of Hebrews 11:

6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Hall of Faith

If it is impossible to please God without faith, then we better know what it is so that we can practice it! So, what is faith?

Faith is believing in something you can't see. In the case of the people listed in Hebrews 11, they believed and trusted in God, whom they couldn't see with their eyes. They trusted that He would take care of them in some really difficult situations. They trusted Him enough to obey Him when He told them to do some pretty crazy things. Has God ever led your family to do something that seemed crazy?

Share some memories of your own family or stories of others you know who have had to practice some pretty big faith! Pray and ask God to give you more opportunities to practice faith.

Activity:

Take turns doing trust falls with each other. Then, talk about what it felt like not to be able to see where you were going and just have to trust the family member you were falling on. Relate this back to the faith we need to have in God to lead us where He wants us to go.

For younger children and special friends:

Read The Faith of a Centurion (Matthew 8) from a children's Bible. Tell your children that we can always have faith in Jesus!

Suggested Bibles:

- "The Officer's Servant" from The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible
- "A Captain's Faith" from The Beginner's Bible
- Read With Me Bible does not have this story. "Jesus Feeds the 5,000" would be a good alternative.

August 23rd-24th

Scripture: Psalm 46:10

Activity: Begin your devotion time by playing a game of "Night at the Museum." In this game, one person is the "Security Guard," and everyone else is a statue in the museum. We typically turn off the lights to play. When the security guard is around, the people have to freeze and be still, but if the security guard is not looking, they can move like the statues in the movie Night at the Museum. If the security guard catches someone moving, they are out of the game.

Begin your devotion time with the following discussion:

- What did you have to do in order to stay in the game?
- Was it easy to be still?
- What are some things that make being still difficult in the game?
- What are some situations in life where it is good for us to be still?
- What makes it difficult to be still in those situations?

Being still can be very difficult for many of us for different reasons. When our bodies are still, our minds tend to race with all the thoughts in our heads about what needs to get done, what we feel like people think of us, and all the worries and anxieties that can creep into our minds. To avoid that, we often fill our days with as little stillness as possible. However, the Word of God commands us in Psalm 46:10 to be still. Let's read it and see why!

10 "Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be honored by every nation.
I will be honored throughout the world."

Be Still

What does God tell us to do with the command to “be still”?

God tells us in this passage that we are to be still and know that He is God. If we are focusing on knowing that He is God in our stillness, are our minds racing with all the other stuff?

A lot of times, our busyness gets in the way of our relationship with God. We need to take time to obey God’s command to be still so that we can focus on Him completely. Talk about some ways that your family can take time to “Be Still and Know that He is God” both together and separately, and make a commitment to hold one another accountable.

Private Prayer Prompt Idea: Take the words “Be Still and Know that I am God” to guide your “stillness” time with Him. Sit with the phrase for a minute or so and jot down anything that God brings to your mind. After that, take away a word and sit with, “Be still and know that I am...” and see what God brings to your heart and mind. Keep going until you are just sitting there with the word “Be” and see how God uses this practice to speak to you and reveal Himself to you in your stillness.

For younger children and special friends: Read Jesus Calms the Storm from a children’s Bible. Talk about how God is in control of everything, even the raindrops!

We can trust in God, the creator and keeper of all. We can rest in Him!

August 30th-31st

Scripture: James 5:7-12

Devotion: James gives us great wisdom in this passage. Let's look at what he says:

1. Be Patient Like the Farmer

Do you know the feeling of having to wait for something really exciting? Maybe you remember the feeling of waiting for Christmas or your birthday. Perhaps it's the anticipation of school getting out for the summer or going on vacation. Whatever it is, patience can be hard, especially when we're waiting for something great!

The greatest thing we have to look forward to is the return of Jesus. James tells us that we need to be patient as we wait for the Lord to return, just like a farmer must wait patiently for his crops to grow.

2. Avoid Grumbling

Can you think of people who tend to frustrate you? Maybe it's your family, since you spend so much time together. Maybe it's a teammate who doesn't pull their weight. Or maybe it's a friend who seems to be more interested in themselves than in you.

Verse 9 warns us not to grumble against one another. It's easy to get frustrated with others, especially when we're going through difficult times. But God wants us to show patience and kindness to those around us. When we trust in God's timing and remember His love, it helps us be more patient and forgiving with others.

3. Persevere Like Job

In verse 11, James talks about Job, a man who went through great suffering but never gave up on God. Even though Job lost everything, he stayed faithful, and God blessed him in the end. When we face difficult moments, we can remember Job's example of perseverance and trust that God will help us through.

Patience in the Lord

4. Speak with Honesty

Finally, in verse 12, James tells us not to swear by anything but simply to say “yes” or “no.” This reminds us to be honest in all that we do. God values honesty and integrity, and when we speak the truth, we show that we trust Him.

Family Discussion:

- What are some things you are waiting for or praying about right now? How can you be more patient as you wait for God’s timing?
- Is there someone you tend to get easily irritated with? Commit to praying regularly for that person. It will remind you that they are a child of God and will soften your heart toward them.
- What does it mean to persevere like Job? What can we learn from his story?
- One of God’s attributes is truthfulness. We are supposed to be more like God and be truthful. Do you find yourself saying you will pray for someone and not following through? Do you exaggerate events in your story to make them more exciting? Do you tell white lies to avoid hurt feelings? These things are not honest. If you struggle with truthfulness, ask the Spirit to guide you in your words.

For younger children and special friends: Read the story of “Joseph’s Coat.” Talk about how it’s easy to get caught up in grumbling and jealousy, especially with siblings. Encourage your children to turn to the Lord and remember that He works everything out for the good of those who love Him — just like He did for Joseph!



Make plans to join us for our most favorite week of the year! Camp CrossKids (formerly known as SMASH) will be July 13-16, 2025. This year, our theme is "REWIND" as we look back over the last 10 years of fun we've had at SMASH, and see how Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8)! Register your 4K-5th grader today and sign up to serve to get in on all the fun!





Cherish

6 WEEK CLASS FOR MARRIED COUPLES



When: Wednesday nights 6:00-7:30; August 27 - October 1

Cost: \$35 per couple

Led by: Kaleb and Jen Burks

Description: Couples pledge "to love and to cherish" on their wedding day. Why is there so much talk about love in marriage, but not about what it means to cherish? Learning to cherish each other turns marriage from an obligation to a delight. It lifts marriage from a commitment to a precious priority. During this course, couples will have the opportunity to have a date night every week, complete with their own table for two and dessert. Couples will work through various topics. Some topics include cherishing one another, communicating with each other, and sacrificing for one another.

Additional Information: This class has a limit of 15 couples. If this class fills we will offer it again October 8 - November 12.

Register here: <https://form.123formbuilder.com/6588529/cherish>



Notes



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