

# **CROSSPOINT FAMILY DEVOTIONS**

**September - November 2025**







# WELCOME!

Parents,

We are so thankful you've picked up this final volume of our Family Devotion Guide. Whether your family has been walking through the reading plan from the beginning or just recently joined in, we're so glad you're here. Our prayer remains the same—that these weekly devotions will draw you closer to God and to each other.

We know that raising children in Christ is both a joyful privilege and a daily challenge. Take heart: you are not alone. This guide is here to support and encourage you as you point your family toward Jesus. Every effort you make—every conversation, prayer, and verse shared—is planting seeds of faith that will bear fruit in your children's lives for years to come.

This year, we've followed a special Bible Reading Plan that walks through the New Testament once and the Psalms twice. The plan is available on our website, our app, and in the Family Resource Area. It's designed for real families—with just five days of reading per week—giving you space on the weekends to rest, reflect, or catch up.

Each devotion in this guide corresponds with a passage from the reading plan, but they're also designed to stand on their own if your family is using a different rhythm. Every week includes a simplified version for younger children and special friends, and the content is created to engage families with kids and teens alike.

This book will take us right up to the start of Advent. We will mark that sacred season with a special Advent guide filled with fresh devotions to help your family prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ. More details will be shared soon!

As you continue to disciple your children, remember that your church family is cheering you on and walking this road with you. May your time in God's Word deepen your faith, strengthen your family, and fill your home with the hope and joy of Jesus.

Let's finish strong—together!

With love,

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**

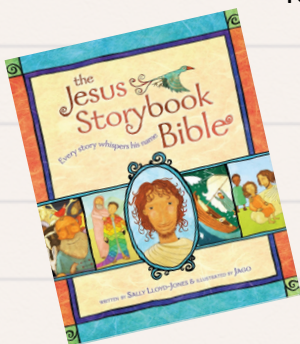
**ICB Bible  
(Full Translation)**





# 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**



# HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

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

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## 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.

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## 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?

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## 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?

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## 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

Our final memory passage for the year is the Beatitudes, which means "supreme blessedness." On Wednesday nights, our CrossKids ministry is also working on memorizing this important teaching from Jesus.

As a special incentive, every family member who memorizes the passage will receive a treat from us! Younger siblings (4K and under) will also be rewarded for their effort and participation.

Let's embrace this opportunity to grow together in faith as a family!

3 "BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

4 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.

5 "BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.

6 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED.

7 "BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL RECEIVE MERCY.

8 "BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.

9 "BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD.

10 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

11 "BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN OTHERS REVILE YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND UTTER ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY ON MY ACCOUNT.

12 REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD IS GREAT IN HEAVEN, FOR SO THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.

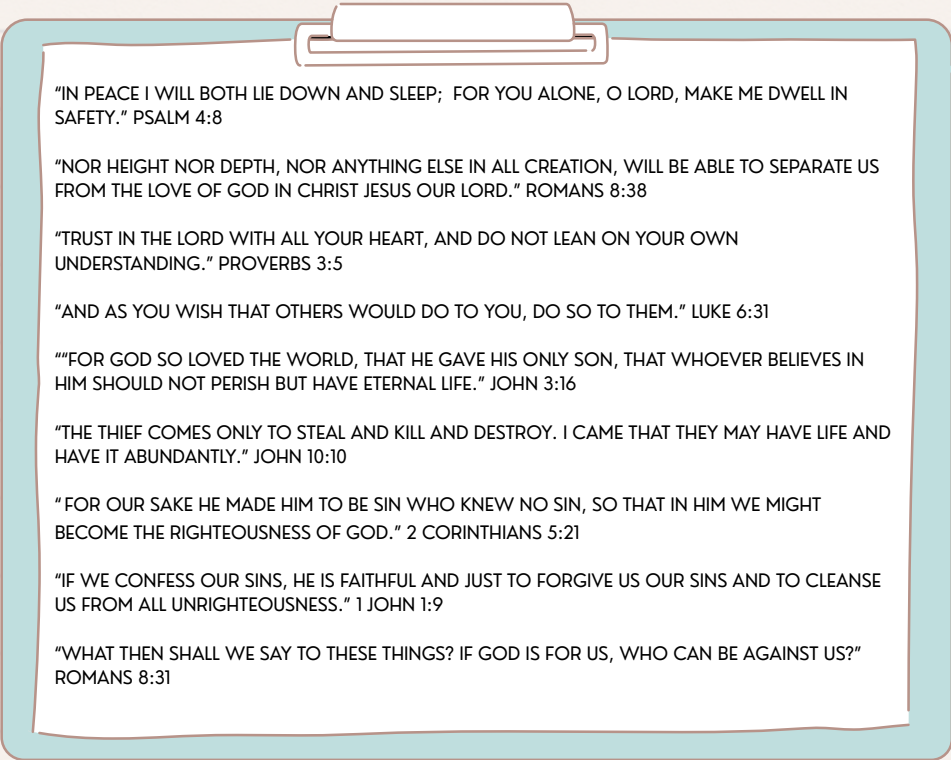
**EMAIL OR TEXT A VIDEO OF YOUR FAMILY RECITING THE  
PASSAGE TO:**

**[JBURKS@CPCT.ORG](mailto:JBURKS@CPCT.ORG)**

**BY DECEMBER 31, 2025**

# ADDITIONAL PASSAGES

If you would like to challenge your family with more scripture memory, here are some passages we recommend.



"IN PEACE I WILL BOTH LIE DOWN AND SLEEP; FOR YOU ALONE, O LORD, MAKE ME DWELL IN SAFETY." PSALM 4:8

"NOR HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD." ROMANS 8:38

"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND DO NOT LEAN ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING." PROVERBS 3:5

"AND AS YOU WISH THAT OTHERS WOULD DO TO YOU, DO SO TO THEM." LUKE 6:31

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE." JOHN 3:16

"THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY. I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY." JOHN 10:10

"FOR OUR SAKE HE MADE HIM TO BE SIN WHO KNEW NO SIN, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD." 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

"IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS." 1 JOHN 1:9

"WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY TO THESE THINGS? IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?" ROMANS 8:31

# SEPTEMBER 6-7

**Scripture Reference:** 2 Peter 1:3-11

**Devotion:** Have you ever watched the Cooking Channel? One of the most exciting shows is Chopped. On the show, chefs are given mystery ingredients and challenged to create a spectacular recipe. What makes the show so fun to watch is seeing the difference between someone who knows about recipes and someone who knows how to actually cook.

There's a big difference between knowing a recipe and being able to prepare a masterpiece.

Today's passage from 2 Peter teaches us something similar:

There's a difference between knowing God and growing in God.

- Knowing God is like having the recipe.
- Growing in godliness is like actually cooking the meal—again and again—learning how to get better over time.

You can memorize a recipe, share it with friends, or even watch videos of someone else making it. But until you start mixing ingredients, turning on the oven, and trying it for yourself, you won't experience the joy of actually tasting the results.

Our faith is the same way.

When we put our faith in Jesus, God gives us everything we need to live a godly life (v. 3). But Peter encourages us to "make every effort" (v. 5) to grow—to take the ingredients of godly character and actively live them out. Peter lists seven ingredients for a life of godliness:

Faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love.

These don't develop all at once—they take time, practice, and daily choices, just like learning to cook well.

**Read:** As a family, read 2 Peter 1:3-11. Identify the seven ingredients of godliness Peter shares.



# SEPTEMBER 6-7

## **Then, discuss as a family:**

- What is the difference between knowing God and growing in God?
- What does verse 9 say happens if we don't grow in these qualities?
- Are any of these spiritual "ingredients" easy for you? Which ones do you need to practice more?

## **Family Activity:** Dessert Pizza Challenge

**Needed Supplies:** Use the items in your pizza box kit. You may need some additional items for the base. You can also add whatever extra items you would like to your dessert pizza creation.

**How to Play:** Create your family's own dessert pizza! As you build your pizza, think about the spiritual ingredients Peter talks about.

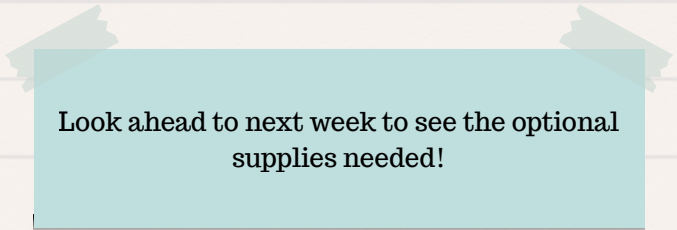
**Snap a Pic & Share:** When your family is done, take a picture with your dessert pizza and post it on social media for your chance to win! You must do the following...

> FOLLOW us on Facebook and/or Instagram

> SHARE a picture of your family with your pizza creation and post it to your stories. Tag our Family Ministry page in your story! You must post by September 12<sup>th</sup>.

One lucky family will win passes for a fun family experience in the Birmingham area!

**For Younger Kids and Special Friends:** Read the account of Jesus as a child in the temple from a children's Bible. Talk about how Jesus grew in wisdom just like we are called to do.



Look ahead to next week to see the optional supplies needed!

# SEPTEMBER 13-14

**Scripture:** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:9

**Devotion:** Have you ever spilled something on your shirt and tried to hide it? Maybe you turned the stain to the back or covered it with your hand. But the stain was still there, wasn't it?

Sin is like that — it makes a mess in our hearts. Sometimes we try to hide it. We pretend it's not there, blame someone else, or keep it a secret. But God sees it, and even more than that — He wants to clean it up.

1 John 1:9 tells us something amazing:

If we confess our sins — that means we admit them honestly to God — He always forgives us.

This is called repentance. It means we:

1. Tell God the truth about what we did wrong.
2. Feel sorrow over our sin — not just that we got caught.
3. Turn away from the sin and choose to go God's way instead.

And here's the best part:

We don't have to wait until bedtime or Sunday to repent. We can go to God first — right when we mess up — and He'll meet us with grace every single time.

## **Discuss as a family:**

- What does it feel like when you do something wrong and try to hide it?
- What do you think God feels when we come to Him and tell the truth?
- Why is it hard sometimes to admit we've done wrong?
- What would it look like for our family to practice going to God first when we mess up?

# SEPTEMBER 13-14

## **Family Science Activity : "The Sin Stain Experiment"**

**Objective:** Help kids visually see how sin stains and how only Jesus can cleanse our hearts.

### **Supplies:**

- Clear glass or bowl
- Water
- Dark colored drink = represents sin
- Bleach (or lemon juice for a gentler version) = represents God's forgiveness
- Optional: Dropper or spoon

### **Instructions:**

1. Fill glass with clean water — explain this represents a clean heart.
2. Add "Sin": Add a few drops of drink to make it dark — talk about how sin stains our hearts.
3. Ask: Can we fix this on our own? What happens if we just ignore it?
4. Add "Forgiveness": Slowly add bleach or lemon juice — watch it become clear again!
5. Talk about how only God can truly make our hearts clean.

**For Younger Kids and Special Friends:** Read the account of Zacchaeus from a children's Bible. Talk about how Jesus has the power to forgive us. We just have to put our trust in Him.



# SEPTEMBER 20-21

**Scripture Reference:** Revelation 1-3

**Do:** Play a fun guessing game! Hide a small toy or object behind your back (like a stuffed animal or a ball). Tell your kids, "I have something special behind my back, and I want to show it to you! Can you guess what it is?" Let each child take a turn guessing. After a few guesses, show them the object and say, "Yay! Now I've revealed it to you!"

**Say:** Today, we're learning about a part of the Bible called Revelation. The word "Revelation" means showing something that was hidden, like when I showed you the object behind my back! God wanted to share something super important with us about what will happen when Jesus comes back one day.

God shared this special message with a man named John. John was like a helper who wrote down everything Jesus told him and the amazing things he saw in visions, which are kind of like dreams.

In the first three chapters of Revelation, God talks about His church—His family of people who love Him. He's watching them to see if they're following Him and doing what's right. John wrote about seven different churches from a long time ago and how they were doing a good job or needed to do better.

So, why do we care about these churches today? Because God wants us to learn from them! At the end of each message, God says, "Listen up! Pay attention to what I'm saying to my people." It's like God saying, "Hey, check your heart and see if you're loving and obeying Me!"

**Talk Together:** Let's learn about the seven churches and what God said to them. You can think about what these mean for us today!

- Ephesus – The church that lost their love for Christ (Revelation 2:1–7).
- Smyrna – The church that would suffer. God told them to stay strong no matter what (Revelation 2:8–11).
- Pergamum – The church that listened to fake teaching about God (Revelation 2:12–17).



# SEPTEMBER 20-21

- Thyatira – The church that allowed people to lead others to sin (Revelation 2:18–29).
- Sardis – The church that looked good on the outside but was really bad on the inside (Revelation 3:1–6).
- Philadelphia – The church that was faithful (Revelation 3:7–13).
- Laodicea – This church wasn't excited about God. They weren't super into following Jesus or totally against Him—they were just "meh." God wants us to be all in for Him (Revelation 3:14–22).

## **Family Discussion Ideas:**

- Ask: "What's something you love doing for God, like praying or helping others? How can we keep our love for Jesus strong, like the church in Philadelphia?"
- Talk about a time someone was brave for Jesus, like the church in Smyrna.
- Ask: "How can we make sure we're really following God, not just pretending like Sardis or being 'meh' like Laodicea?"
- Revelation 3:21 says, "He who wins the victory will sit with me on my throne. It was the same with me. I won the victory and sat down with my Father on his throne." This passage is calling all believers to endure until the end. We should not compromise but remain faithful to Jesus. Are there any areas in your life where you are compromising? Repent and turn away from those things.

**For Younger Kids and Special Friends:** Read the account of Daniel and the Lion's Den from a children's Bible. Talk about how Daniel remained faithful to God even when it was not easy. You can also watch the video using the QR code below to help your children understand Jesus will return!



# SEPTEMBER 27-28

## Scripture Reference: Revelation 4

**Do:** Have everyone draw their own creature. Encourage them to think outside the box—make it wild, colorful, and completely unique! Then, have everyone share their special creature with the group.

**Say:** We are going to learn more about Revelation today. Last time, we talked about the seven churches. But today's passage is about something completely different—the throne room of God!

The throne room gives us a peek into what heaven is like. It's full of beauty, light, and color—like a rainbow made of jewels! There are also some very strange creatures there. They're covered in eyes and have wings. Some have faces like lions, oxen, humans, and eagles. Was that stranger than your special creature?

Even though these creatures sound a little weird, they have a very important job. Day and night, they worship God! They never stop saying, "Holy, holy, holy!" That means God is perfect and set apart—He's more powerful and more loving than we can imagine.

But the most important part of the throne room isn't what it looks like—it's what's happening there. All of creation is focused on worshipping God. Angels, creatures, and elders all bow before Him. Why? Because God is worthy.

Let's read what happens in verses 9–11:

*"And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 'Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'"*

# SEPTEMBER 27-28

Did you catch that? The elders take off their crowns and lay them before God. That means they give up their own greatness to show that God is the greatest of all.

Worship isn't just something that happens in heaven—it's something we're made to do right now, too! We worship when we sing songs to God, when we pray and thank Him, and even when we obey and love others. Worship is about showing God that He is most important in our lives.

When we choose to worship, we're joining in with the celebration that's happening in heaven all the time! That means our voices—even in our homes—can be part of the songs around God's throne.

Worship reminds us that God is on the throne, not us. He is holy. He is powerful. And He loves us so much. Let's live in a way that shows He is worthy of all we have.

**Do:** Have each person write or draw one way they can worship God this week—not just at church, but at school, at home, or with friends. Place your ideas in a "Worship Jar" or on a "Worship Wall" to remind your family to praise God in everyday ways.

**For Younger Kids and Special Friends:** Read the account of the Woman with the Alabaster Jar. Talk about how she gave Jesus all her praise.



# OCTOBER 4-5

**Scripture Reference:** Psalm 79:13

"But we your people, the sheep of your pasture,  
will give thanks to you forever;  
from generation to generation we will recount your praise."

**Say:** Have you ever seen sheep follow a shepherd? Sheep aren't strong or fierce—they're gentle and need someone to care for them. A shepherd leads them to food, protects them from danger, and makes sure they stay together and safe.

In the Bible, we are called God's sheep, and He is our Shepherd. That means we belong to Him. He knows us, cares for us, and watches over us with love—even when we wander or forget to follow Him.

Psalm 79:13 is a response to God's faithful care. It says that because we are His people, we will give thanks to Him forever. That's not just a quick thank-you prayer before dinner. It's a lifelong and even generation-to-generation kind of praise!

That means the story of God's goodness in your life isn't just for you—it's also for your children, and one day their children too. We are part of a big story, and we get to pass down the truth of who God is by sharing our blessings, our struggles, and how God met us in both.

**Ask:**

- Can you think of something God has done for our family that we should never forget?
- What are ways we can show thanks to God as a family?
- Who first told you about God? How can you be that person for someone else?

**Say:** When we give thanks and share our stories, we are doing exactly what Psalm 79:13 talks about—we are recounting God's praise from generation to generation.



# OCTOBER 4-5

Sometimes life is hard, and we forget to look back. But remembering what God has done gives us strength to trust Him with what's ahead. When your family gathers and tells the stories of God's faithfulness—your salvation, your answered prayers, even the small joys—you are building a legacy of praise. You are saying, "We are God's people. We remember. And we give thanks —always."

## **Do:**

As a family, take time to recount the blessings God has given you. You can talk about:

- How God brought your family together
- How He provided in hard times
- Special moments of answered prayer
- The day someone gave their life to Jesus
- Any other "God stories" from your family's journey

Write these into a book or journal titled "[Your Last Name] Family Blessings." Add drawings or photos, too! Keep it in a special place, and come back to it often—especially when life feels hard or busy. Let it be your reminder that God is always at work in your family.

## **Pray Together:**

"God, thank You for being our Shepherd. Thank You for leading us, loving us, and blessing our family in so many ways. Help us to never forget how good You are. Give us thankful hearts, and help us pass on Your truth and love to the next generation. In Jesus' name, Amen."

**For Younger Kids and Special Friends:** Read the account of the Holy Spirit coming from a children's Bible. Talk about how it is our job to tell others the Good News of Jesus.

# OCTOBER 11-12

## Scripture: Psalm 88

**Optional Activity:** Have your family create a fairytale story together. Make it imaginative and fun—but here's the twist: don't share the happy ending. Leave the story unfinished. Then ask your kids, "What did you think of the story without an ending?" Afterward, explain that today's Bible passage is a story that doesn't seem to have a happy ending either.

**Say:** Most Psalms in the Bible end with hope, joy, or praise. But Psalm 88 is different. It was written by someone who was really hurting. He felt completely surrounded by darkness. He was sad, scared, and honest about how hard life was for him.

And what's even more surprising—this Psalm doesn't end with a happy "but God is good!" moment. It just ends... in darkness.

Let's read the last four verses together:

"I have been sick and close to death since my youth.

I stand helpless and desperate before your terrors.

Your fierce anger has overwhelmed me.

Your terrors have paralyzed me.

They swirl around me like floodwaters all day long.

They have engulfed me completely.

You have taken away my companions and loved ones.

Darkness is my closest friend."

—Psalm 88:15–18 (NLT)

That might sound strange. Why would something so sad be in the Bible?

Because sometimes we feel this way too. And God wants us to know it's okay to be completely honest with Him—even when we don't understand what He's doing, or when everything feels dark and heavy. This psalm shows us that we can bring every feeling to God: joy, sadness, fear, anger—even when we feel like there's no hope at all.

But that brings up a good question: What is hope, really?

If your idea of hope is that everything in life will always go perfectly—like the way a fairytale ends—then Psalm 88 doesn't make sense. Life doesn't always have sparkly, happy endings. In fact, the Bible tells us that we will go through hard times. Life won't always go the way we want it to.

# OCTOBER 11-12

But that's not what true hope is.

Hope means trusting that no matter what happens, God still loves us. It means that when we put our faith in Jesus as our Savior, our future is secure—not because everything on earth will be easy, but because we know our true hope is in heaven with Him.

God knows life is hard. He never asks us to pretend everything's okay. Instead, He invites us to come to Him with open hearts—even if all we can say is, "God, I feel lost."

And here's something amazing: Jesus knows how that feels. On the cross, Jesus cried out, "My God, why have You forsaken me?" He experienced the deepest kind of loneliness, pain, and sorrow. Because of this, we are never alone in our pain. We have a Savior who understands and cares.

So when life feels dark, when it seems like the sadness won't go away, when "darkness feels like our closest friend," we can remember: Jesus has been there, too. And He's still with us now.

The good news? God's grace is big enough for even the darkest days. He never stops loving you—even when your world feels upside down.

## **Pray Together:**

"Dear God, Thank You for being with us, even when life is hard or confusing. Thank You for reminding us through Psalm 88 that You hear us when we cry, and that we don't have to hide our sadness from You. When we feel like we're in the dark, help us remember that You are near. Thank You for sending Jesus, who understands our pain and never leaves us alone. Fill our hearts with true hope—hope that isn't based on everything going right, but on the promise that You love us and are making all things new. We trust You, even in the hard moments. In Jesus' name, Amen."

**For Younger Kids and Special Friends:** Read the account of the Crucifixion. Talk about how the story seemed hopeless, but we serve a God of hope. In the end, Jesus won and was raised again three days later.



# OCTOBER 18-19

**Scripture:** Revelation 21

**Optional Activity One:** Build a fort together with blankets, pillows, chairs, etc.

**Say:** "This is fun, but we wouldn't want to live in it forever—it's not a real home! That's like our homes here on earth. They are good, but they're only temporary. God promises us a forever home with Him one day!"

**Optional Activity Two:** Have a contest to see who can upcycle something. Every family member chooses an item and has to bring it back to life, making it into something new!

**Say:** Today we are going to learn about how we will experience something new when Jesus returns.

## **Read Revelation 21:1-7**

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children."

**Say:** Last week, we talked about biblical hope—not a wish or a dream, but the solid truth that God has made a way for us to be with Him forever.

This passage shows us what that hope looks like: a new heaven and new earth, filled with God's glory, with no more sadness or pain.

# OCTOBER 18-19

Right now, we live in a world broken by sin. We experience sickness, death, hurt feelings, and fear. But one day, Jesus will return—and He will make all things new!

That means new bodies, new hearts, and a new home. A place where God lives with us, and there is no more sin. Everything will be whole again.

And here's something amazing: the Bible says God's glory will shine so brightly in this new world, we won't even need the sun or moon! That's how wonderful it will be to live with God forever.

**Pray Together:** God, thank You for the hope You've given us in Jesus. Thank You that one day, You will wipe away every tear and make everything new. We look forward to the day when we'll live with You forever, with no more pain or sadness. Help us to live each day with that hope in our hearts and to share Your love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**For Younger Kids and Special Friends:** Read the account of Revelation 21 from a children's Bible. Talk about how Jesus is coming back for all those who put their trust in Him!



**Next week's  
devotion requires  
a pumpkin,  
tealight, and  
knife/carving kit!**

# OCTOBER 25-26

## THE PUMPKIN GOSPEL PRESENTATION

**Say:** A pumpkin is round and shiny on the outside. Its skin is tough and hard to puncture. It looks perfect and wonderful. Sometimes, we act like that too—we pretend everything is perfect and that we have it all together.

But the truth is, we've all made mistakes. We've all done wrong things. Sometimes, we try to hide those things, thinking no one can see past our tough outsides.

But God sees everything—even what's inside.

Psalms 139:1 – "O Lord, you have searched me and known me!"

**Scoop the Pumpkin:** Take the top off the pumpkin and begin scooping out the inside. Place the "pumpkin guts" in a bowl and pass it around for everyone to touch.

**Say:** God loves each one of us, but our sin—the wrong things we've done—separates us from Him and makes His heart sad.

Romans 3:23 – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

This slimy mess inside the pumpkin reminds me of the sin we try to hide—the lies, mean words, bad attitudes, and selfish choices.

As you touch the slimy pumpkin guts, think about how those wrong choices make us feel on the inside—yucky, messy, and stuck.

(Hold up your hands to show how sticky the mess is.)

No matter how hard we try, we can't clean ourselves up. We can't fix our hearts on our own. Our sin has a tight grip on us.

Romans 6:23 – "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

That verse sounds like bad news at first—we deserve punishment for our sin. But did you hear the good news at the end? God offers us a free gift—eternal life through Jesus!

**Clean the Pumpkin:** As you scrape away the slimy insides, talk about how Jesus cleans out the mess in our hearts when we confess our sins.

**Say:** When we tell God we're sorry for our sins and put our trust in Jesus, He forgives us and makes us clean inside.



# OCTOBER 25-26

1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

How is that possible?

Because God sent His Son, Jesus, to show us His love and to clean our hearts completely. That’s the best news of all!

**Carve the Pumpkin:** Carve a simple smiling face into the pumpkin.

**Say:** Jesus didn’t just talk about God’s love—He proved it. He took the punishment for our sin. He died on the cross in our place.

Romans 5:8 – “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Jesus was buried in a tomb... but three days later, He came back to life!

Matthew 28:6 – “He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.”

If you believe that Jesus is God’s Son, that He died for your sins, and that He rose again, and if you tell Him you’re sorry and want to follow Him—He will forgive you and give you new life.

**Light the Pumpkin:** Place a candle or light inside the pumpkin and dim the lights.

**Say:** When Jesus forgives us, He makes us new—a new creation! His light fills our lives, and we start to live differently.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

When Jesus lives in us, we shine like this pumpkin. We shine with His love, His joy, and His truth. And we want to tell others the Good News!



# NOVEMBER 1-2

**Scripture:** Psalm 103:1-5

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."  
—Psalm 103:1-5

**Say:** As we approach Thanksgiving, it is the perfect time to pause and thank God—not just for the food on our table, but for everything He has done for us.

In Psalm 103, David talks to his own soul, saying, "Bless the Lord, O my soul!" That means he's reminding himself not to forget all of God's blessings. It's easy to forget when life gets busy or hard—but God is always working for our good.

Let's look at just a few things Psalm 103 says God has done for us:

- He forgives our sins.
- He heals our hearts and bodies.
- He rescues us from dark places.
- He surrounds us with love and mercy.
- He gives us good things to enjoy.

That's a lot to be thankful for! And this is just the beginning of the psalm—David goes on to describe God's compassion, His patience, and how He understands us like a loving Father.

When we take time to remember what God has done, it fills our hearts with gratitude—and that gratitude turns into worship.

# NOVEMBER 1-2

## **Family Activity: Gratitude Jar**

**Supplies:** Small jar or basket, paper strips, pens or crayons

### **What to Do:**

- Have each person write down or draw one thing God has done that they are thankful for.
- Put the papers in the jar and collect them all month.
- On Thanksgiving, read the papers around your Thanksgiving meal.

## **Family Discussion Questions:**

- What is one thing you're thankful to God for this year?
- Why do you think David had to remind himself not to forget God's blessings?
- How can we practice being thankful even when life is hard?

## **Family Prayer:**

God, You are so good to us. You forgive us, love us, and fill our lives with blessings. Thank You for always being with us and for giving us so much to be thankful for. Help us never to forget Your goodness, and may our hearts overflow with gratitude—not just on Thanksgiving, but every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**For Younger Kids and Special Friends:** Read Psalm 103 or Psalm 23 from a children's Bible. Talk about how the Lord loves us and cares for us. We have a lot to be thankful for!



# NOVEMBER 8-9

**Scripture:** Matthew 14:13-21

**Optional Family Activity:** Fix dinner plates but put just a tiny amount on each plate. Say, "Could you imagine this being enough food to feed us all? Well tonight we are going to read the story of Jesus feeding over 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish!"

**Read the Passage:** <sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup> Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." <sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup> They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." <sup>18</sup> And he said, "Bring them here to me." <sup>19</sup> Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**Say:** This miracle is amazing—not just because Jesus fed thousands with a tiny amount of food, but because of why he did it. He had compassion on the people. That means his heart was moved when he saw their needs. He didn't just see a big crowd—he saw hurting, hungry people, and he wanted to help.

The disciples looked at what they had—five loaves and two fish—and said, "That's not enough!" But they forgot something really important: they were standing with Jesus, the true source of life. When you're with the Bread of Life, the size of the bread basket doesn't matter!

Jesus didn't need a big supply—He was the supply. The disciples saw the crowd and panicked. Jesus saw the crowd and provided. And He invites us to trust Him the same way today.

# NOVEMBER 8-9

Is there something you need to trust Jesus with today? Maybe something in your life does not make sense and you have been trying to carry the burden alone. Give it over to Jesus, the Bread of Life, and watch what he can do.

**Big Truth:** When we're with Jesus, we're with the true source. He sees our needs, and he cares. He calls us to bring what we have, trust him, and watch what he can do.

## **Discussion Questions:**

- What part of the story stood out to you the most?
- Why do you think the disciples forgot who they were with?
- What's something that feels "not enough" in your life right now?
- How can you bring what you do have to Jesus this week?

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You that You are the Bread of Life and the source of everything we need. We're sorry for the times we look at what we don't have instead of remembering that we have You. Help us bring what we have—our time, our talents, our faith—to You and trust You with the rest. Use our small offerings in big ways for Your glory. Amen.

**For Younger Kids and Special Friends:** Read the account of Jesus feeding the 5,000 and talk about how Jesus meets our needs.

# NOVEMBER 15-16

**Scripture:** Matthew 18:1-5

**Family Discussion:** Let's talk about the G.O.A.T.s—the "Greatest of All Time." Who do you think is the best...

- Basketball player?
- Baseball player?
- Gymnast?
- Actress or actor?
- Disney movie?
- Song?

Have some fun seeing what everyone thinks. You might be surprised by each other's answers!

## Read Matthew 18:1-5

**Say:** One day, Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" They were thinking about fame and power—but Jesus had a completely different answer.

He brought a child in front of them and said something surprising: "Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Wait—what? Did Jesus really say we have to be like kids?

Yes, but He wasn't talking about acting like babies or toddlers who need help with everything. He was talking about the childlike heart—the qualities kids naturally have that God values deeply.

**Discuss:** What do you think Jesus meant when He said we need to become like children? Let your kids share their thoughts, then use the list below to explore some childlike qualities that help us grow closer to Jesus:

## Childlike Qualities Christians We Should Strive For:

1. **Humility:** Children don't chase fame or try to be "the boss." They know they need help and aren't afraid to ask for it.

"Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." – Matthew 18:4

2. **Trust:** Kids trust their parents completely—without worry. God wants us to trust Him the same way, knowing He'll take care of us.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart..." – Proverbs 3:5



# NOVEMBER 15-16

3. **Dependence:** Children know they can't do everything on their own. In the same way, we rely on God for wisdom, strength, and our daily needs.

"Apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:5

4. **Wonder and Faith:** Children are full of curiosity and awe. They believe big things are possible. That's how God wants us to approach Him and His Word.

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for..." – Hebrews 11:1

5. **Forgiveness:** Kids forgive quickly. They don't hold onto anger the way adults sometimes do. God wants us to forgive others like He forgives us.

"Be kind... forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." – Ephesians 4:32

6. **Joy:** Children can find joy in the simplest things. God calls us to be joyful people, no matter what.

"Rejoice in the Lord always..." – Philippians 4:4

7. **Teachable Spirit:** Children are open to learning and growing. God wants us to stay that way—always learning more about Him.

"Make me to know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths." – Psalm 25:4

Jesus wants us to trust Him, depend on Him, and have a heart like a child. When we do, we show the world what it means to live as a child of God.

## Optional Family Activity:

Being a kid is a gift—and it goes by fast. So, let's be kids again! Choose something fun and lighthearted to do as a family:

- Ride bikes
- Watch a favorite animated movie
- Camp out in the backyard
- Play a silly game
- Eat ice cream for dinner (just this once!)

Whatever you choose—enjoy it together!

**Prayer:** Thank You for showing us what it means to be great in Your Kingdom. Help us to be humble and full of trust, just like children. Teach us to depend on You every day and welcome others the way You welcome us. Help us to love You with hearts full of joy and faith. We want to follow You simply, fully, and happily—like a child. In Your name we pray, Amen.

**For Younger Kids and Special Friends:** Read this account in a children's Bible:

- Complete Illustrated Children's Bible – p. 458
- Read with Me Bible – p. 354
- Beginner's Bible – p. 409

Then talk about this question:

What makes being a child of God so special?

# NOVEMBER 22-23

**Scripture:** Psalm 122:1

**Family Discussion:** What are your favorite places to visit? Maybe it's a restaurant, a vacation spot, or a hiking trail. What makes those places special or fun?

**Read the Passage:** Psalm 122:1 – "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

**Say:** Have you ever felt excited to go somewhere special—like a birthday party, a favorite vacation spot, or even just Chick-fil-A? Psalm 122 tells us that King David felt that same kind of excitement—but not for a party or vacation. He was thrilled to go worship God with His people!

When we go to church, we gather with others who love Jesus. Church is not just a building—it's a family of believers. And it's a gift from God! Psalm 122 reminds us that being together to worship, pray, learn, and encourage each other is something we should look forward to.

Going to church isn't something we do just because we "have to"—it's something we get to do!

Hebrews 10:25 tells us: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

**What Does the Church Do?**

Here's what the Bible says the church is meant to do together:

- Love one another – 1 John 4:12
- Encourage each other daily – Hebrews 3:13
- Motivate one another to love and good deeds – Hebrews 10:24
- Serve one another humbly in love – Galatians 5:13
- Instruct one another – Romans 15:14
- Be kind and compassionate to one another – Ephesians 4:32

# NOVEMBER 22-23

When we trust Jesus and follow Him, we become part of His special family called the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). Just like a body needs every part—hands, feet, eyes, and ears—the church needs every person to be involved (1 Corinthians 12:14–20).

Church isn't just a place we go to watch—it's a place we belong!

God gives each of us gifts to serve, love, and grow together (Ephesians 4:11–13). And when we worship, serve, and live in community, we show the world what God is like.

Jesus said: "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

## **Discussion Questions:**

- What do you enjoy most about going to church?
- Why do you think God wants us to worship with others and not just by ourselves?
- What is one way our family can serve or encourage someone at church?
- Why is it important that everyone in the church—not just pastors or leaders—gets involved?

## **Optional Family Activity:**

Write a note of encouragement or draw a picture for someone in your church family who might need a little lift. Then pray for that person together as a family.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank You for the gift of church and the joy of worshipping You together. Help us to remember what a blessing it is to gather with others who love You. Fill our hearts with gladness every time we go to church. Help our family to encourage others and serve joyfully. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**For Younger Children and Special Friends:** Read the account of Acts 2 from a children's Bible. Talk about why you love church and what makes it special to be part of God's family.



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