



FAMILY DEVOTIONS



FAMILY DEVOTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS

For each week we will upload three devotions that build upon and link to our Kids Alive message on Sunday. Three devotions means:

- Those who already do devotions can continue these the other half of the week;
- Those for whom devotions are possible at most every second night of the week can also be included.

The devotions will follow this format:

INTRO

A short introductory activity or discussion

RECAP

A recap of the previous devotion

READ

A short passage will be printed. This makes it less time-consuming and also excludes the need to find a bible.

EXPLORE

Some simple comprehension questions that direct our understanding of the passage

APPLY

Something we can learn from the passage and apply to our own lives

PRAY

Suggested prayer points that come from the passage

MEMORY VERSE

This is only suggested if time permits as it may be a slightly longer activity. You may design something to remember the verse or do some fun games or activities to aid in remembering the verses.

WEEK 1: Oct 15-21

DAY 1

INTRO:

Share with your family ways that you have grown this last year (whether in your knowledge or skills, in your walk with the Lord, or even in your waistline!).

RECAP:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

READ 2 PETER 1:12-15

¹²I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

EXPLORE:

What were Peter's readers firmly established in? (*The truth about Jesus*)

What did Peter still see as his job? (*To remind them about such things*)

For how long would he keep reminding them about these things? (*Until he went to be with the Lord*)

APPLY:

Peter had just written to believers about growing in knowledge and godliness (2 Peter 1:1-11). Even though they had grown he wanted to encourage them to continue to do so while he could.

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father for the ways that you have grown during this year. Pray that your family members will continue to grow in knowledge and godliness during our Vision Series.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it. 2 Peter 1:19

Design a bible-shaped poster and write on it this week's verse. Put the poster up somewhere that will help you pay attention to the verse and thus remember it.

WEEK 1: Oct 15-21

DAY 2

INTRO:

Think of a job (e.g. teacher, window cleaner) and get the members of your family to think of what experiences or skills they might need to have in order to get that job.

RECAP:

What did Peter want to remind his readers?

READ 2 PETER 1:16-18

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

EXPLORE:

What hadn't Peter done when he told his readers about the coming of the Lord Jesus? (*He hadn't made up stories*)

What had Peter witnessed firsthand? (*Jesus' power and majesty when he was transfigured (Matt 17:5)*)

What did Peter hear at that time? (*A voice from heaven saying 'Jesus is God's beloved Son'*)

APPLY:

As was seen in the previous devotion Peter wrote his letter because he wanted his readers to keep growing spiritually. He desired this because false teachers were entering the church (2 Peter 2:1, 3:3). Peter showed that he was the right person for the job of encouraging his readers by speaking of his experiences; he wasn't a false teacher but, as an eyewitness of Jesus' power, he was uniquely qualified to urge them on in the faith.

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that we have been given clear witnesses of Jesus' majesty and power. Pray that the testimony of these witnesses will make us wise so that we might discern false teaching from that which is true.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it. 2 Peter 1:19

Use the tune of the marching cadence "I don't know but I've been told" with this week's verse to continue to commit it to memory.

WEEK 1: Oct 15-21

DAY 3

INTRO:

Set up an obstacle course and get your family members to try to walk through it in the dark. Then give them a torch to navigate their way through. Discuss the experience.

RECAP:

What had Peter seen that qualified him to urge his readers on to godliness?

READ 2 PETER 1:19-21

¹⁹We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

EXPLORE:

What did Peter say we have that is completely reliable? (*The prophetic word = the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus*)

Why are these completely reliable? (*Because they didn't make things up but spoke by the Holy Spirit*)

How does Peter say we should treat these prophecies then? (*Like a light guiding us through a dark place*)

APPLY:

Peter points out to his readers that, just as he hadn't made up stories about Jesus, either had the Old Testament prophets. He says that unlike the prophecies of the false teachers who had crept into the church these stories should guide us while we wait for the day of Christ's return.

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that his word is like a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. Pray that we will pay attention to his word all the more as we wait for Christ to return.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it. 2 Peter 1:19

Make a small projector by writing this week's verse in small writing on Gladwrap or baking paper and then fixing it on a torch.

WEEK 2: Oct 22-28

DAY 1

INTRO:

Discuss with your family how they would feel about moving to live in another country.

RECAP:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

READ COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

¹³The Father has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

EXPLORE:

From where has the Father rescued us? (*From the dominion of darkness*)

To where did he bring us? (*Into the kingdom of his beloved Son*)

How did he do this? (*By redeeming us and forgiving our sins in Jesus*)

APPLY:

Paul wanted the Colossians to consider themselves a new people (Col 1:12). They now qualified as holy people because God had delivered them from under the rule of darkness. They had moved to a new spiritual address: they were now in Christ's kingdom because he had purchased them for himself. While we may or may not get excited by the idea of moving house we should be excited that God has moved us into his kingdom!

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has bought us in Jesus so that we now belong to his family. Pray that we might be excited enough by this to share this good news with others.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him and through him to reconcile to himself all things. Colossians 1:19-20

Create bible verse word art for this week's verse by using something like <https://wordart.com>.

WEEK 2: Oct 22-28

DAY 2

INTRO:

Discuss with your family what each person thinks is the most important thing in their life at present.

RECAP:

Where has God the Father brought us through Jesus Christ?

READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

EXPLORE:

Why is Jesus called 'the firstborn over all creation'? (*All things were created through and for him*)

Of what else is Jesus the head? (*The church*)

Why does Paul want the Colossians to know this? (*Because Jesus is the head he is supreme in all things*)

APPLY:

Paul wanted the Colossians to remember that Jesus was number one in power and authority. He needed to remind them of this because they were tempted to think that through Jesus we come to know God but then we move on to worship other more important beings (like angels). Jesus needed to be most important in their lives as he does in ours.

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that we have been created for Jesus and that through him we have the hope of resurrection. Pray that we will make Jesus number one in our lives and encourage others to do the same.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him and through him to reconcile to himself all things. Colossians 1:19-20

Come up with actions to help you remember this week's verse.

WEEK 2: Oct 22-28

DAY 3

INTRO:

Get each family member to think of the last fight or argument they had with someone. How did they make up with the person? What did they say or do to mend the relationship?

RECAP:

In what areas is Jesus number one?

READ COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

¹⁹God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross. ²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

EXPLORE:

How did Jesus reconcile us to the Father? (*By making peace through his blood shed on the cross*)

What used to be our relationship with God? (*We were enemies as shown by our evil behaviour*)

What is our relationship with God like now? (*We have been reconciled to him so that we will be holy*)

APPLY:

Our sins show we are God's enemies, for we do the very things that we know make him angry. However Jesus mended our relationship by taking away our sins. This brought us peace with God so that we can be reconciled to him.

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that Jesus has taken away our sins so that we can be reconciled to him as our Father. Pray that we will strive to be holy each day by continuing to trust him and that we will not move from the hope we have that is held out in the gospel.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him and through him to reconcile to himself all things. Colossians 1:19-20

Write this week's verse onto some paper and rip it into pieces. Stick the pieces back together again to show how Christ has restored our relationship to God our Father.

WEEK 3: Oct 29-Nov 4

DAY 1

INTRO:

How many churches in our local area can you name? Work together as a family to see!

RECAP:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

READ ROMANS 1:8-10

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. ⁹God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you ¹⁰in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

EXPLORE:

Why did Paul thank God for the church in Rome? (*There were reports of their faith all over the world*)

How often did Paul pray for the Roman church? (*Constantly; they were in his prayers at all times*)

What particularly had Paul been praying for this church? (*That God's will would be for him to visit them*)

APPLY:

It is striking how regularly in the New Testament epistles Paul reports praying for other churches, even those which he has never visited! How do we go in this area? How often do you praise God for the local churches around us? How often do you uphold them in prayer?

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father for the number of local churches in our area. Spend some time praying for each one, either by using specific points about things you know about these churches or by adopting prayers from Paul's other letters to pray for them more generally.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation.

Romans 1:16

Come up with some actions to help you remember this week's verse.

WEEK 3: Oct 29-Nov 4

DAY 2

INTRO:

What are some obligations that you have? Get each family member to share those things that they must do every day.

RECAP:

What did Paul pray for the church in Rome?

READ ROMANS 1:11-15

¹¹I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— ¹²that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. ¹³I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. ¹⁴I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

EXPLORE:

Why did Paul long to visit the Roman church? *(So that they might both be encouraged; so that he might have a harvest among them when he preached the gospel)*

Why hadn't he visited them? *(So far he had been prevented from doing so)*

What did Paul say his obligations were? *(To preach the gospel to Greeks and non-Greeks)*

APPLY:

Often we resent those things that we feel we have to do. However they need not feel like a chore! Paul states that not only must he preach the gospel to the Romans (for Jesus himself had commanded him to do so!) but that he longs to do so!

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that Paul found joy in something that he had to do. Pray that we might have the same attitude when it comes to the things of the Lord: that we might find joy in serving God and others and in living his way.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation.

Romans 1:16

Practise this week's verse by saying it loud and proud!

WEEK 3: Oct 29-Nov 4

DAY 3

INTRO:

Have you ever felt ashamed of someone or something? Share the story with your family.

RECAP:

How did Paul feel about doing the things Jesus had commanded?

READ ROMANS 1:16-17

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

EXPLORE:

What was Paul not ashamed of? (*The gospel*)

Why wasn't he ashamed of it? (*Because the gospel is used powerfully by God to save everyone who believes it*)

How does the gospel save those who believe it? (*It reveals God's righteousness: that is, that God will punish sin and that he gives us his Son's righteousness so that we need not fear*)

APPLY:

Paul could easily have been ashamed of the message he preached about Jesus. Elsewhere Paul writes that people thought it foolishness and weak (1 Corinthians 1). We might be tempted to think the same: there are people we know who think what we believe is foolish and weak and so we might start to change the gospel, or not to talk about it at all. Do you ever feel this way? When was the last time you invited someone to church or spoke about Jesus?

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he can and does save people through the gospel. Pray that we will not be ashamed of what we believe but instead use every opportunity to speak about Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation.

Romans 1:16

Find something lasting (like a nice stone or large, flat piece of wood) and write on it this week's verse. Keep this at your front door to remind you that God does save all those who believe his gospel and so we need to tell others about Jesus!

WEEK 4: Nov 5-11

DAY 1

INTRO:

Discuss with your children: have they noticed any differences between their friends who know the Lord Jesus and those who don't? What are these?

RECAP:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

READ EPHESIANS 2:1-3

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

EXPLORE:

Why did the Ephesians used to be dead? *(They were dead because they used to live in sin)*

Why did they live in sin? *(They followed the ways of this world and Satan [the ruler of the kingdom of the air])*

What two things used to characterise their life? *(They followed the desires of their sinful bodies and thus God was naturally angry at them)*

APPLY:

Often there might not seem to be much difference between those who follow Jesus and those who do not. However Paul reminded the Ephesians, and therefore us, that there is actually a huge difference! Those who haven't been saved by Jesus do whatever they want and thus are actually under the rule of the evil one. They cannot save themselves from sin and so deserve God's punishment.

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has saved us from all these things through his Son. Pray that we will be different from those around us by no longer following the desires of our sinful nature.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Ephesians 2:10

Give your children a chance to create their own handiwork by telling them this week's verse and leaving them to create or decorate it as they see fit.

WEEK 4: Nov 5-11

DAY 2

INTRO:

Give your family members an opportunity to share something that they have recently seen or experienced that was unfair.

RECAP:

What were the Ephesians like before they heard about Jesus?

READ EPHESIANS 2:4-7

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

EXPLORE:

What did God do for us while we were dead in sin? (*He brought us to new life through his Son by saving us from our sins*)

Why did God do this? (*Because of his great love for us*)

What is the end result of God raising us to new life? (*He will show the incomparable riches of his grace and kindness*)

APPLY:

The previous devotion showed a very depressing picture: because of sin we are dead, under the rule of Satan and due to experience God's wrath. But because of his mercy, love and kindness God has given us what we deserve: he has removed our sin, given us life and he will seat us with his Son in heaven! We sometimes forget how unfair this is; grace is something we simply don't deserve!

PRAY:

Spend some time praising our Heavenly Father for his love, mercy, grace and kindness. Pray that we will extend these things to others now that we have experienced them from God.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Ephesians 2:10

Come up with a handclap or beat to help you remember this week's verse.

WEEK 4: Nov 5-11

DAY 3

INTRO:

Share with your family something you have made or done this week of which you are proud.

RECAP:

How has God shown us his love and mercy?

READ EPHESIANS 2:8-10

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

EXPLORE:

What is God's gift to us? (*Salvation through faith*)

Why did God choose to save us apart from our works? (*So that no one can boast*)

What has God prepared for us to do now we are saved? (*Good works*)

APPLY:

The word 'works' runs throughout this passage. While our good works don't save us we are saved to do good works for our Heavenly Father. This is because we are his handiwork: God has carefully and lovingly crafted us so that we can lovingly and carefully do good things for the praise of his wonderful grace. How do you feel you are going with this? Are you using your salvation to do good things for God or do you generally live each day without thinking much of what God would have you do for him?

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that we have been saved not because of anything we have done but simply because of his great love for us. Pray that we will live to do good things for God and not just live for ourselves each day.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Ephesians 2:10

Create a card or craft with this week's verse on and give it to someone to remind them to live for God in the week ahead.

WEEK 5: Nov 12-18

DAY 1

INTRO:

As a family talk about weddings: have your kids ever been to one? What did they like about it? How many groomsmen or bridesmaids do they think they would have?

RECAP:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

READ REVELATION 21:1-2

¹Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

EXPLORE:

What did God create in this passage? (*A new heaven and earth*)

What came out of heaven to dwell on the new earth? (*The holy city, the new Jerusalem*)

What did this city look like? (*A bride beautifully dressed for her husband*)

APPLY:

In the bible God's people are regularly described as a beautiful bride chosen by God himself to marry his Son. It's an amazing picture of how close we will be to Jesus forever! However it is also a challenging picture: God wants us to be holy, pure and spotless so that we are a fitting match for his Son. How are you going with this? What sins must you deal with now?

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he will prepare us to be holy for Jesus. Pray that we will prayerfully seek to be holy now and in the year to come by confessing our sin daily.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

I will be their God and they will be my children. Revelation 21:7

Draw a picture of today's passage and add to it this week's verse.

WEEK 5: Nov 12-18

DAY 2

INTRO:

If you could live anywhere where would you choose to live?

RECAP:

How are God's people pictured when God will create a new heaven and earth?

READ REVELATION 21:3-4

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

EXPLORE:

Where will God dwell in the new heaven and earth? (*With and among his people*)

What will not be present when we live so closely with God? (*Tears, mourning, death or pain*)

Why won't we experience these things anymore? (*Because they belong to the old order of things (the world that has passed away)*)

APPLY:

In the Old Testament God lived amongst his people in a special tent called a tabernacle. The same word is used to describe Jesus living or tabernacling among the Jews (John 1:14) and it is used again here to show how close to God we will be one day (v3): God will care for us as a father cares for his children as he removes the curse of death and personally wipes away our tears.

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he loves us enough to dwell with us and make us, a sinful people, his own. Pray that we will experience his closeness to us through the Holy Spirit and know the comfort of dwelling with him each day.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

I will be their God and they will be my children. Revelation 21:7

Come up with actions to this week's verse.

WEEK 5: Nov 12-18

DAY 3

INTRO:

Share with your family: what have you finished lately? Is there anything big you have been working on that you've recently completed?

RECAP:

Where will God live in the new heaven and earth?

READ REVELATION 21:5-7

⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

EXPLORE:

Why was John told to write this down? (*The things said were trustworthy and true*)

How did the voice from the heavenly throne describe himself? (*As the Alpha & Omega (which means A-Z), as the Beginning and the End*)

What did this voice say he would do? (*Give the water of life to those who were thirsty, let the victorious inherit the new heaven and earth and be the God of his children*)

APPLY:

These verses are a fulfilment of Ezekiel 37:15-28 where God promised his people he would cleanse them from sin to make them holy. He promised this so that he could then gather his people to dwell with him in the promised land under the reign of his Son forever. The words "it is done" in v8 are the same words Jesus said on the cross; God's work of cleansing us from sin so that we can live with him forever has been finished!

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has made us holy by taking away our sin. Thank God that this means we are now clean to live with God forever in the new promised land!

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

I will be their God and they will be my children. Revelation 21:7

Work together as a family to say this week's verse by getting the parents to call out the first half of the verse as the children respond with the second.

WEEK 6: Nov 19-25

DAY 1

INTRO:

Discuss what the different members of your family pray for the most. What type of prayers or things to pray for seem to come up most often?

RECAP:

What did your children learn about at church on Sunday?

READ EPHESIANS 3:14-17

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

EXPLORE:

Who did Paul pray to? (*The Father*)

What did he pray for? (*That out of his glorious riches he would strengthen the Ephesians*)

Why did Paul ultimately pray this? (*So that Christ would dwell in the hearts of the Ephesians*)

APPLY:

It's likely Paul's prayers are very different to our own! In Ephesians 3:12 Paul says that in Jesus we have freedom and confidence to approach God in prayer. We are free to confidently ask God for all sorts of things, but Paul regularly uses this freedom to pray for others.

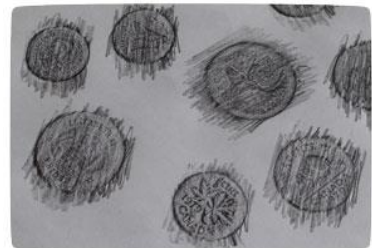
PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that we have freedom and confidence to approach him through Jesus. Use this freedom to confidently pray Paul's prayer for people you know.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit.
Ephesians 3:16

Get some chocolate coins or play money. Alternatively rub a coin under paper as in the picture. Write the words of this week's verse on little bits of paper and attach it to the coins. Then assemble the verse in its correct order so that you can start to learn it!



WEEK 6: Nov 19-25

DAY 2

INTRO:

If you had power what would you use it to do?

RECAP:

What did Paul pray for the Ephesians?

READ EPHESIANS 3:17-19

¹⁷I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

EXPLORE:

What did Paul pray the Ephesians might have? (*Power*)

What did he want this power to help them do? (*Understand the love of Christ*)

Why did he ultimately want this? (*So that they might be filled with godliness*)

APPLY:

There are two surprising things about these verses. The first is that Paul wants the Ephesians to know the love of Christ and then he says is beyond knowing! This is why he prays the second surprising thing: that the Ephesians might receive power from the Holy Spirit to know the love of Jesus. We might think we understand Jesus' love for us, but Paul reminds us this love is so huge we cannot grasp it without the Spirit's help.

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that we need the power of his Spirit to understand how much he loves us in his Son. Pray that we will come to understand his love more and more so that we might be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit.
Ephesians 3:16

Do some strength activities (like lifting and carrying things in a relay race) while you repeat this week's verse.

WEEK 6: Nov 19-25

DAY 3

INTRO:

What have your family members been most encouraged or challenged by in our Vision series? What things will you each do as a result?

RECAP:

Why did Paul want the Ephesians to have power?

READ EPHESIANS 3:20-21

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

EXPLORE:

What is God able to do according to this passage? (*Immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine*)

How can he do this? (*Because the power of his Spirit is at work within us*)

What should we give to God as a result? (*Glory forever*)

APPLY:

Even if we don't remember everything we learnt or were challenged by in this series it is of great comfort to know that God can exceed our expectations in prayer! With this in mind...

PRAY:

Thank our Heavenly Father that he has power to achieve his purposes and will in us. Pray that he will do more in us and our church than we can possibly ask or imagine!

MEMORY VERSE: (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY TIME PERMITTING)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit.
Ephesians 3:16

Turn this week's verse into a poster or card and either give it to someone else in your family or send it to someone at our church to encourage them.

