



GODS WORD

FOR FAMILIES

Vol. 1

365

DEVOTIONAL
ACTIVITIES
TO ENGAGE
KIDS IN DAILY
DISCIPLESHIP



God's Word for Families

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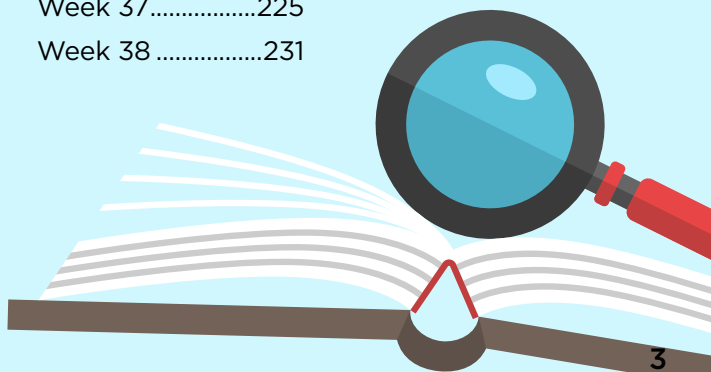
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Family Covenant and Goals

This year, we the _____s (family name) faithfully commit to daily moments of prayer and devotion, connecting as a family through God's Word. Our vow before God is to give our best to Him and believe God will meet with us, even on days or weeks when life's adversity might make it difficult to reach our expectations. We know God is with us and for us, and to receive the full extent of His blessings, we will attempt to follow Him wholeheartedly. As a family, we make a commitment to grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: and thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

—Deuteronomy 6:4-7

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

—Proverbs 22:6



Members of Family

Age

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Date: _____

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

Why do we need *God's Word for Families*?

The Bible teaches us to make disciples of our children. Proverbs 22:6 encourages parents, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This verse establishes the principle and the value of properly planting the seed of God's Word into the hearts of children and trusting God will help them continue to grow, grow, grow in Christ for the rest of their lives and into eternity.

Deuteronomy 6:7 states, "And thou shalt teach them (God's commandments) diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." God wants His children to have their minds on Him from the moment they wake up to the moment they go to sleep. The Sunday school teacher should not be a child's only connection to the Word of God. Clearly, God wants discipleship to penetrate the home.

God's Word for Families is a wholly Apostolic discipleship tool designed to help your entire family grow in relationship to God and each other. By exploring a biblical passage from Sunday to Saturday, daily ten-minute activities use a variety of teaching styles to engage family members to hear God's voice and be transformed by His Spirit. Done faithfully, *God's Word for Families* will bring your entire family closer to God.



Scheduling Times of Family Devotion

For a family devotional to be effective, a family needs to be faithful and intentional. Prioritize God by greeting every day with prayer. Then as a family, determine a time or times during each day when everyone agrees to stop all other activity to come together for prayer and to discuss God's Word. It could be over breakfast, as part of homeschooling, after dinner, or as part of a bedtime ritual. Whatever time(s) your family agrees upon, attempt to be consistent, as faithfulness is a key to discipleship.

How does *God's Word for Families* work?

Each Sunday introduces a biblical passage that is then explored throughout the week. Every person has a preferred method of learning. Each day of this devotional addresses a different type of learner. Some will prefer Thursdays over Mondays or Tuesdays over Fridays. Because all learning styles will eventually be honored, encourage all family members to participate throughout the week, recognizing there will be something for everyone before the week is over.

Sunday: Introducing the Week's Lesson

Sunday provides an age-appropriate version of the week's Bible passage. Read through this story together, drawing special attention to the Truth about God (TAG) revealed by the biblical text. Consider writing this TAG in a prominent location, such as a whiteboard in the kitchen. It will be the guiding principle to be explored throughout the week.

If your church is using *God's Word for Life* for Sunday school, this lesson will match what your family is learning at church. *God's Word for Life* is a whole-church curriculum, so the adult, youth, and children's classes all teach from the same biblical text, though with different age-appropriate applications. *God's Word for Families* can be used as a powerful supplement to magnify what is being taught on Sundays at church.



☐ **Monday:** Why do I need to know this?

Monday's activities are designed to put purpose behind the lesson. Some people won't learn something until they recognize where to apply it. On Mondays, the Truth about God (TAG) is placed front and center, as your family discusses where this TAG is personally relevant. If your child(ren) prefer this learning style, let them talk until they find the contextual point of application.

☐ **Tuesday:** What do I need to know?

Tuesday's activities are designed for the analytic learner who enjoys discovering new things. In addition to the trivia provided by "Fun Facts!" and "Did You Know?," use this day to dig deeper into the text.

Reread Sunday's age-appropriate version of the week's biblical passage. If your child is willing, demonstrate how to use Bible apps like Bible Gateway to explore the passage in different translations. After reading the KJV text, the analytic learner will enjoy discovering how other versions (e.g., the *International Children's Bible* and the *New Living Translation*) translated the same passage.

☐ **Wednesday:** How can my worship reflect the lesson?

Because many families have a midweek service, Wednesday's activities are minimized. A QR code sends you to a featured lyric video and a few more Apostolic songs are suggested.

☐ **Thursday:** Where does this apply?

Thursday's activities are designed for application. How does this biblical truth impact our lives today? Starting with the Life Lesson statement, use the scenario provided to discuss and find common-sense applications.

☐ **Friday and Saturday:** What should I do with this?

As the weekend approaches, start looking for creative ways to apply what you have learned to real-life opportunities. Friday's devotion starts with Talk Time, providing discussion questions aimed at finding practical areas of application. Then Saturday suggests a Family Project that puts the Life Lesson into motion.

To be transformational, God's Word must be applied.

As you share your family's weekend activities on social media, connect with the *God's Word for Families* community by using #GodsWordforFamilies.



Who Made the World?

Read the summary of this week's Bible lesson below, or read Genesis 1-2:7 in your family Bible.

Week

1

☐ Sunday

God created everything. Before, nothing existed except darkness and water. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was! God saw that it was good.

On day two, God formed an atmosphere, separating the water above from the water beneath.

On day three, God said, "Let dry land appear called Earth, and let there be grass and trees." God said it was good.

Next, God made the sun to shine during the day, and the moon to shine at night. Then He created stars. As He finished day four, God said everything was good.

On day five, God filled the sky with birds and the water with sea creatures. Again, He said it was good.

On day six, God made land animals and insects. He designed an amazing world, full of unique creatures, and said it was good.

God saw that everything He had made was good, but He still wanted to create two more special things. That's when God made the first humans in His image—a male and a female. God put them in charge, because He wanted them to enjoy the good things He had made. God didn't just say this was good; He said it was very good.

On day seven, God saw His work was finished, so He rested, blessing this seventh day as holy. Yes, God created everything, including us, and thought it was very good.

TRUTH ABOUT GOD: God created everything in the world, including me, and said it was good.

Pray together for God to help you this week in following Him.

Read or review Genesis 1-2:7 as a family.
This week we are learning about the creation of the world and everything in it.

OPENING DISCUSSION

- God could have made anything He wanted. Why do you think He created us?
- Why do you think that God created things in the order He did?
- Do you think it is important for us to know that we are created in His image?

TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God created everything in the world, including me, and said it was good.

As we read through this passage in Genesis, several times God said, “It was good.” God was very intentional about making His creation. He knew exactly what He wanted. He made thousands of varieties of fish, birds, and beasts. He put spots on the leopard and stripes on the zebra. He gave owls the ability to see in the dark and the hammerhead shark the ability to see 360 degrees. No detail was overlooked.

Knowing this, consider that God created one man and one woman, ordered them to be fruitful and multiply, and put them in charge over all of creation. We are truly special. From the beginning, God knew that one day you and your family would be reading His Word, and He wanted you to know something particularly important. On the sixth day, after completing His creation, He thought about all of us and said, “It was very good.”

FINAL REFLECTIONS

- What are some things that are good about God’s creation?
- How can we help others know they were created in His image and are good?

PRAYER:

Focus on being thankful for God’s creation, including people.

This Week's
Life Lesson

I will enjoy being with
God in His wonderful
creation.

Fun Facts!

- The blue whale is so loud that it can be heard almost 500 miles away.
- Horses and cows sleep standing up.
- Sheep have four stomachs.
- Hummingbirds can fly backwards.
- Giant Arctic jellyfish have tentacles up to 118 feet.
- Orcas (a.k.a. killer whales) are a type of dolphin.
- The average elephant drinks 55 gallons of water a day.
- Do you know any other fun facts about the animals God created?

☐ Tuesday

Read or review Genesis 1-2:7 as a family. Find and highlight the instances where God stopped to acknowledge what He created.

Did You Know?

The Bible explains clearly that all things were made through the Word (John 1:1-4). It shows us that God made the Earth by His power and wisdom (Jeremiah 10:12). It also tells us that God used things that can't be seen to create things that are seen (Hebrews 11:3).



Do you know any songs about creation? Write your own song about God creating the world.



Create animals and people out of clay or play dough. Can your family guess what animal you made?



Journal about the many things that you enjoy about God's creation, or draw one of the days of creation.



☐ Wednesday

Reflect on how these additional songs relate to Genesis 1–2:7.

- “God of Wonder”
by Urshan College
- “God Is Love” by Bryan Pound
- “Life” by Indiana Bible College

Featured Song

“Thank You, Jesus (Genesis)”
by PPH Kids Music



PRAYER:

One at a time, pray for God to help us understand He created the world. Ask for wisdom to share the story of creation with others.

BONUS ACTIVITY:

See who can point out the most animals while traveling to church. How many birds did you see? What about cats? dogs?

☐ Thursday

Read the story below and discuss how the Life Lesson applies to you.

Life Lesson: *I will enjoy being with God in His wonderful creation.*

It was time for the family trip to the park that Timmy’s parents had put on the calendar last week. “Put down that game, and come outside with us,” said his mom.

“If I have to,” groaned Timmy as he tossed down his game in frustration. All he wanted to do was play games . . . indoors.

When they got to the park, Timmy felt the warm sun on his face and noticed the aroma of flowers and fresh cut grass. His dad pointed out a family of deer, including a small fawn that couldn’t have been more than a few weeks old. Then his mom drew his attention to a large anthill and pointed out the teamwork between the ants. Timmy was amazed.

“Isn’t God’s creation pretty wonderful?” his dad asked.

Timmy replied, “Yeah, Dad. It really is beautiful. This is way better than that game I was playing. Thanks for bringing me.”

DISCUSSION TIME

How will you make time to enjoy being with God in His wonderful creation this week?

☐ Friday

Talk Time

ASK YOUR PARENT:
Have you ever made something and thought that it was good? What was it?

ASK YOUR CHILD:
For what purpose do you think God created you?

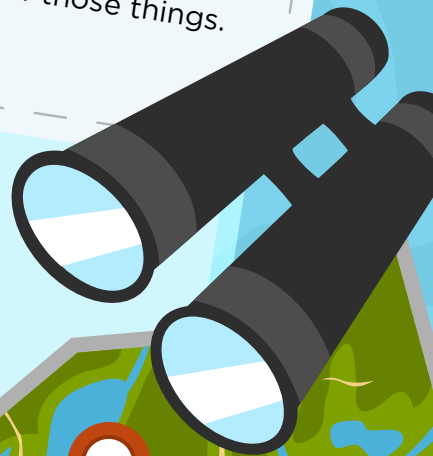
PRAYER:
Kids and parents, what parts of His creation has God put you in charge of? Pray for wisdom in tending to and taking care of those things.

TIP FOR TOMORROW

Tomorrow's project is a creation scavenger hunt. Preview the project on the next page, and begin planning for it in the family schedule.

BONUS ACTIVITY:

Kids, retell this week's Bible story in your own words.





□ Saturday

Family Project

Gather everyone together, and get ready to search! On the third day God created trees and plants. On the fifth day God created animals that swim and fly. On the sixth day God created land animals and people. As a family, can you find at least five different things that God created on days 3, 5 and 6? Make a list! Discuss God's amazing creation when you are done.

Hint: A trip to the pet store or zoo could help!

The Big Picture: Discipleship

As a parent, it is our responsibility to make sure our children understand that God created everything, especially them, and they are good. We do this by speaking words of life in the morning as we wake them up for the day, and during our family prayer and devotion time.

As a reminder of this week's lesson, consider buying a goldfish or a plant that you can care for as a family. Be intentional about acknowledging God's creation as you feed or water it. Draw a parallel between the way that God cares for us and the way your family will care for the fish or plant.