



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

5 STEPS TO CREATE A RHYTHM OF DISCIPLESHIP IN THE HOME



5 STEPS



Start your day with Jesus and the Word! This time of year is the perfect time to start a rhythm of a daily family devotion time. It doesn't have to be very long, or even super spiritual most days! Taking even 5 to 10 minutes each day will create and establish a rhythm of placing Christ as the center of the home! In other words, it is a simple way to begin practicing discipleship with your family and model for your kids what daily time with the Lord looks like! So on the following cards you will find 5 steps to creating a family devotion time!

1. Don't overshoot. Start with a manageable time frame. Think 10-20 minutes, tops. Most of us are aware that kids have a short attention span. The idea is to create a time that is something they look forward to, not dread. Pull everyone together as a start to the school day. I let my kids snuggle up on the couch, but you can also sit at the dining room table or wherever they will do school.
2. Set the tone for the day. You have the power to set the tone by expressing a positive attitude and expectation and by laying out the structure of the day. Tell your children that Jesus made today and you are grateful to have this time with them to talk and pray and learn together.



3. Pick one or two of the following strategies each day:

- Weekly Media - Bible Story Video, 2 worship songs (find links on our app & website)
- Use the Secret Sauce Cards each week - They will provide you with a daily dose of scripture and thought provoking questions that coincide with that week's Bible story.
- Word - Use Secret Sauce cards each week to read the word! Enjoy answering questions from scripture. Take time to discuss what the scripture is saying, what can be learned from it and decide on any action steps to be taken. Let everyone participate. Kids can learn to look up verses. Kids benefit from dissecting a sentence and really contemplating what each word or concept means.
- Memorize scripture - You can pick your own or use the one provided at the bottom of the card each week. Be creative and make memorization fun.
- Devotional - Mom or Dad, prepare a devotional to share with the kids. Periodically challenge each child to come up with their own devotional to share. You will treasure these rich times.
- Gratefulness - Take turns saying things you are grateful for. Fun twist, take turns saying things you are grateful for about the person to your right or left and go around the circle!
- Mission - Prayerfully consider how your family can tangibly meet a need and then take steps to follow through. The serving bug is contagious and kids can catch it from YOU!
- Worship together - Lead a few songs or let your musically inclined kids lead. You can also worship with the spoken word by writing out a psalm to Jesus and then sharing it aloud. Read scripture out loud to declare God's attributes and character.



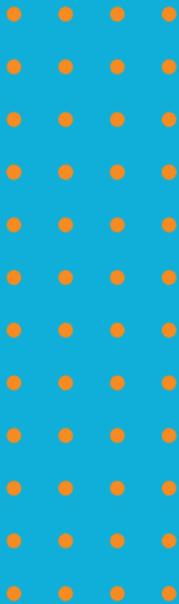
5 STEPS



4. Bless your kids - remind them how much you enjoy being their mom or dad, how important this time together is, how special and unique they are, how much you believe in their abilities to work hard and understand fractions and work together, how this day has the potential to be the best day. End with a blessing from scripture like Numbers 6:24-26.
5. End your time with a prayer - Thank God for who he is, let your kids hear you ask God to help you with the task of parenting and teaching, and ask the Lord to help your kids in the tasks set before them. Keep a prayer journal of requests and answered prayer! This is a fun activity and will help keep track of the ways God has been faithful and answered your family's prayers.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER





Life App: GRATITUDE – Letting others know you see how they've helped you.

Weekly focus: Give thanks no matter what happens. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 | Bottom Line: You always have something to be grateful for.

MON: Read 1 Chronicles 16:34. As a family start a gratitude list for the month. This could be done on a chalkboard, journal or the fridge! Get creative and have fun with it! Pray together thanking God for the things on your list today!

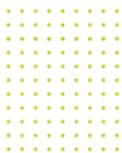
TUES: Write the verse of the month in a spot where everyone will see it. As a family, memorize the verse and live it out by building on your gratitude list daily!

WED: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Our verse today reminds us that you ALWAYS have something to be grateful for. Tear off a piece of tape, about six to eight inches long, and fold it so the sticky sides are together. Write the words, Give thanks no matter what. Then fit it around your wrist to create a bracelet. Every time you look at your bracelet this week, remember you always have something to be grateful for.

THUR: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

FRI: Read 2 Corinthians 4:14-15. To help you practice gratitude, write the words "Thank You, Jesus, for . . ." on a sticky note and stick it on your bathroom mirror. Every time you wash your hands or brush your teeth, read those words and fill in the blank as a way to say, "Thank you."

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, BECAUSE HE IS GOOD. HIS FAITHFUL LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER." PSALM 136:1, NIRV



Life App: GRATITUDE – Letting others know you see how they’ve helped you.

Weekly Focus: David Dances | 2 Samuel 6:12b-22a | Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done.

MON: Read Psalm 9:1. Today, celebrate Him by telling others some of the things He has done. Pick at least one of the following ideas to tell others some of the great things God has done! When you bless your meal as a family at dinner, thank God out loud for all the ways He has provided for your family. Tell a friend how thankful you are that God brought you into each other’s lives. Write a poem or song or prayer of gratitude and share it with others.

TUES: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

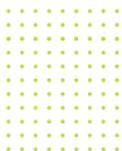
WED: Read 2 Samuel 6:12-21. As you read 2 Samuel 6:12-21, circle all of the words and phrases that have to do with celebration and gratitude. Look at the words you’ve underlined. You should see words like joy, dancing, and leaping. Go back and circle the words and phrases that are ways you might be able to celebrate God. Pick one today that you haven’t done before and celebrate God in a creative way.

THUR: Read Psalm 106:1-2. Grab your “Gratitude List” from last week and write down five things you want to thank God for. You can list things you love about God or thank Him for five things He’s done. And if you come up with more than five, even better!

FRI: Read Colossians 3:15 together. Dig to the bottom of your toy bin or the back of that closet. Pull out five things and spend some time being grateful for each one. Try to remember when you received it and who gave it to you. And if it’s something you’ve outgrown, consider donating it to someone that will use and enjoy it. Spend some time asking God to help you focus on being grateful.

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Life App: GRATITUDE - Letting others know you see how they've helped you.
Weekly Focus: Jesus Heals | 10 Men Luke 17:11-19 | Bottom Line: Say thank you.

- MON:** Read Luke 17:15-16. Grab your “Gratitude List” for this month and write down three people who have done something to help you in the last few days. Have you said, thank you, to them? If not, take the time this week to go back to the three people on your list and say thank you!
- TUES:** Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.
- WED:** Read 1 Thes 5:17 together. Spend some time as a family talking about the importance of prayer. Pray a prayer of thankfulness now— thanking God for who He is and what He’s done, and expressing thankfulness for the people He has put in your life. Try to have every sentence in your prayer to start out with the words, “Thank You.” Even if you have specific needs to pray about, start that sentence by thanking God.
- THUR:** Read Psalm 103:1-2 together. Talk about what these verses means to each of you as an individual. How is this reflected in what you do every day? End your time in prayer together.
- FRI:** Read Ephesians 5:20. Grab a piece of paper and set a timer for two minutes. During those two minutes, have each person write down everything they want to thank God for! When the timer goes off, compare your lists!

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Life App: GRATITUDE – Letting others know you see how they've helped you.

Weekly Focus: The Story of the Workers in the Vineyard | Matthew 20:1-15 | Bottom Line: Adjust your attitude.

MON: Meal Time Q&A FOR PARENTS: What is something difficult you've experienced that you're grateful for now? Q & A FOR KIDS: Who has most recently helped you? How did that make you feel?

TUES: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

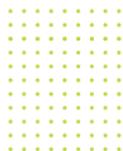
WED: Read 1 Corinthians 15:57. Grab your "Gratitude List" and write the word "GRATITUDE" along the side of a section in block letters. Next to each letter, write down something you're thankful for that starts with that letter.

THUR: Happy Thanksgiving!! Read over your gratitude list today and allow any family gathered with you to add to it!

FRI: Read Acts 16:24-25. While chained and probably in a ton of pain, Paul and Silas were grateful. They knew that God was with them, just as he was with Jesus when He suffered on the cross. Do you think it was hard for them to adjust their attitude? Share some situations at home or school where you could "adjust your attitude." Pray for each other, that God will help you face everything this week with an attitude of gratitude.

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Life App: GRATITUDE – Letting others know you see how they've helped you.

Weekly Focus: Lord's Supper / Last Supper | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Exodus 12 | Bottom Line: Get in the habit of being grateful.

MON: Read Luke 22:19. Praying before you eat is an opportunity to pause and remember that everything, including the food on your table, comes from God. Bowing our heads to talk to God before we dig in is a habit to help us practice gratitude. For the next week, ask your family to join you for a gratitude prayer challenge. Ask the oldest member of your family to lead the prayer first and to thank God for at least three things as they pray. Take turns, allowing each family member to lead the prayer at each meal, always thanking God for at least three things!

TUES: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

WED: Read Philippians 1:3. Answer these questions together. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being low gratitude and 10 being high, how grateful are you? _____ Now ask each other: "On a scale of 1 to 10, how grateful would you say I am? _____ Do the numbers line up? Is one higher than the other? Talk about this together.

THUR: Read Colossians 3:17 together. Grab your "Gratitude List" and read back over everything you've written this month! Write down one big thing you want to thank God for. Try to name something that isn't a thing you own (like your bike or your Xbox) but something God has given you (like your family, your faith, Jesus, etc.) Spend some time saying thank you to God for all the things on your "Grateful List" this month.

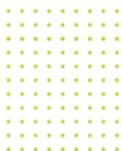
FRI: Talk about at least three creative ways you can show gratitude to each other as a family this weekend. Practice gratitude for one another, with one another!

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER





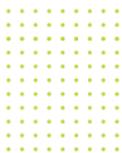
Life App: CHRISTMAS – Celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift!

Weekly focus: Jesus Is Promised | Isaiah 9:6 | Bottom Line: We can have hope because God keeps His promises.

- MON:** Read Isaiah 9:6-8 together. Today, use the words of Isaiah 9:6 to pray a prayer of thankfulness to God for keeping His promise.
- TUES:** Read Joshua 21:45 aloud. When you hear the word promise, what do you think about? Have you ever made a promise and not been able to keep it? Talk about that for a bit. Today’s verse reminds us that God kept all His promises to His people and we can be sure He always will! End your time in prayer together worshipping God for being a promise keeper.
- WED:** Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.
- THUR:** Read Jeremiah 23:5 aloud. Talk together about who you think this verse is talking about. Discuss the answers to these questions, “How hard is it to let someone else be king of your life?” “Who is the king of your heart and life?” “What would it look like if Jesus was the King of your heart and life?”
- FRI:** Read Ezekiel 12:28 aloud. Aren’t you thankful that God keeps His promises?! Make a list of all the ways your family has seen God keep His promises and post it somewhere where everyone can see it. End your time in prayer together.

“TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU. HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD.” LUKE 2:11, NIRV





Life App: CHRISTMAS – Celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift!

Weekly Focus: Gabriel Appears to Mary | Luke 1:26-56 | Bottom Line: You can have joy because God has a plan for you.

- MON:** Read Luke 1:30-31 aloud. What would you do if suddenly an angel from heaven appeared to you with a special message from God? Would you run? Would you stand there frozen, unsure what to say? God’s plan for Mary was a plan she never could have dreamed up on her own. What a reason to have joy! The same is true for you. An angel probably won’t show up in your bedroom, but that doesn’t mean that God doesn’t have a specific plan and purpose just for you. You can have joy because God has a plan for you.
- TUES:** Read Luke 1:38 aloud. Talk about faith. Mary trusted God. Why? Because God made Mary. God loved Mary. And God’s plan for her was awesome. Fill in the blank: Five years from now, I will be _____ years old. I hope that _____. Now try adding 10 or 15 years and fill in the blank!
- WED:** Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.
- THUR:** Read Psalm 33:11 aloud. Think about Christmas, what do you think it has to do with God’s big plan? What does it have to do with how much he loves you? Think of something your family can do this month to celebrate Christmas and God’s purpose for us and write it down. Make time this month to follow through with your plan!
- FRI:** Read Psalm 32:8 aloud. Play “Follow the Leader” or “Simon Says” together. What’s your favorite role? To be the leader or the follower? When we choose to trust in God, when we take His advice, He will guide us and show us the way to go. And He will watch over us with love all along the way. We can trust God always.

“TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU. HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD.” LUKE 2:11, NIRV





Life App: CHRISTMAS – Celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift!

Weekly Focus: Jesus Is Born | Luke 2:1-7 | Bottom Line: God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.

- MON:** Read Luke 2:6-7 aloud. Grab a piece of paper and pretend for a second that you are the king of a very large kingdom. What would your throne room, or royal playroom look like? Draw it on the page. If you have a nativity at home, go stand near it and hold up your picture. Spot any differences? Spend time thanking God for sending His only son, by way of a manger, to save us!
- TUES:** Read Galatians 4:4 together. Write this week’s bottom line on an index card (God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.) and place it next to your favorite Christmas decoration. Thank God for sending Jesus at just the right time because of His love for you.
- WED:** Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.
- THUR:** Read John 3:16 aloud. Why did God send His Son into the world? Was it to show His mighty power? Was it to remind us that He’s the one in charge and that we all have to do what He says? Nope. God sent Jesus for one big reason. LOVE. God loved the world—every single person—so much that He gave the most precious and perfect gift, His only Son, Jesus. When we believe and put our trust in Jesus, we will not be separated from God! God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.
- FRI:** Merry Christmas Eve!! Read John 3:17. Go on a heart search this weekend. Pay attention to shapes around you to see if you can spot some hearts. For instance, did you know that when you cut through the center of a strawberry, its center looks a little bit like a heart? You might find heart shaped clouds in the sky, or heart shaped leaves on the ground. Every time you see a heart remember that God loves you so much that He sent Jesus.

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Life App: CHRISTMAS – Celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift!

Weekly Focus: Shepherds Visit | Luke 2:8-20 | Bottom Line: God’s peace is for everyone.

MON: Read Luke 2:8-12 together. Talk about how God sent Jesus as a gift for every one of us. Jesus brought peace. He made a way for us to have a relationship with God forever! Discuss these questions: When do you first remember hearing the Christmas story about Jesus? Who told you? Why do you think God sent an angel to tell a bunch of everyday shepherds about Jesus’ birth instead of someone else with more power or influence? If Jesus had been born today (in 2020), who do you think the angel would have told first?

TUES: Read Luke 2:16-20 together. What did the shepherds do as soon as they heard about Jesus’ birth? If Jesus had been born today with all the technology available to us, there would be so many ways to tell people all about it. Think of a few ways you might tell someone! Pray together and ask God to help you tell others the good news about Jesus, just like the shepherds did on that first Christmas. Remember, God’s peace is for everyone and He wants us to share this good news with the people around us.

WED: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

THUR: Read John 14:27 together. Talk together about the definition of peace. Jesus came to make things right between us and God. He came to make a way for us to be a part of God’s family. That’s why we celebrate Christmas! Sing some Christmas songs together and worship God for bringing us peace!

FRI: Read John 16:33 aloud. Do you ever wonder why you seem to fight with your siblings so much? Jesus reminds us that even though we will have trouble in this world (like those fights with your sister) it’s okay, because He is bigger and stronger than any of the yucky stuff we might face.

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MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES



MEMORY VERSE



- Use your best handwriting to write the verse on poster! Use your creative brain (and maybe some crafts) to decorate it and hang it in a room where everyone will see it for the week.
- Create skits that show how the Word might be applied to a real life situation. Or play a good 'ole game of Charades with your memory verses.
- Create a crooked path to walk on. You can set up obstacles to jump over, use yarn or tape to create a crazy zig-zag pattern on the floor, whatever you choose! Then write out the words of today's verse on scraps of paper and set them out along the path. As you walk, pick up the words and repeat the verse. Time yourself to see how long it takes to say the verse. Then, create a straight path or remove all the obstacles. Lay the cards along the new path and say the words of the verse as you pick them up. Was it faster on the straight, blameless path?
- Hang the memory verse on the frig and everybody has to say it before they can open the door.

MEMORY VERSE



- Replace the words to a familiar tune with the verse you are memorizing and sing it together repeatedly each day!
- Create hand motions for the verse you are memorizing.
- Practice saying the memory verse with different voices. For example, opera style, slow motion, squeaky, robot, etc!
- Write the verse with expo marker on different places around the house: bathroom mirror, inside the car window where your kid sits, bedroom window, etc.
- Write it on post-it notes and stick it all over the house.
- Make a fun video
- Write the verse on a chalkboard or dry erase board. Say it together. Erase one word. Say it again. Keep going until the whole verse is erased.

MEMORY VERSE



- Write the verse in a journal leaving some blanks to be filled in until you can recite the entire verse without any words written.
- Write each word of the verse on a separate card. Shuffle the cards and practice putting them in order.
- Say the verse while you are doing jumping jacks. See how long it takes you to say the verse from memory while jumping.
- Plank and say the memory verse and see if you can finish before you give out.
- At a family dinner, teach the memory verse to dad or grandma.
- Break the verse up and write it on different pieces of paper and hang on the wall. Each day, take down a page and recite the verse in full. Repeat until memorized.
- While driving in the car, recite the verse as many times as you can while waiting at every stoplight.