



MAY & JUNE

# 5 STEPS TO CREATE A RHYTHM OF DISCIPLESHIP IN THE HOME



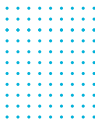
## 5 STEPS



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.

## 5 STEPS

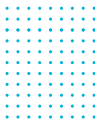


### 3. Pick one or two of the following strategies each day:

- 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 MAY



MAY 3-7



**Life App: COMMITMENT** – Making a plan and putting it into practice.

**Weekly focus:** Training to Win the Prize | 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 | **Bottom Line:** Keep practicing what matters most.

**MON:** Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 together. Write something each family member would like to commit to for the month of May. Place it where everyone will see it daily. It could be taking a walk as a family more often or choosing no technology days. Whatever it may be, make a plan and write the verse of the month next to your goals.

**TUES:** Q & A Time! Ask each other: What matters most to you? Read Matthew 22:37-38, talk about what matters most to Jesus.

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

**THUR:** Think back to when you stayed committed and finished a really big project or task. Talk together about what it felt like. Do you have a plan for the goal you made on Monday? If not, create a plan for each day of the week to reach your goal!

**FRI:** Read Proverbs 16:3 together. Grab a piece of paper and draw a picture of something that you have to take time to practice. You can also practice big things that matter to God—loving God and loving others. Those are important to Him and should also be important to us. Hang your picture on the wall or your mirror as a reminder to stay committed.

**“TRAINING THE BODY HAS SOME VALUE. BUT BEING GODLY HAS VALUE IN EVERY WAY. IT PROMISES HELP FOR THE LIFE YOU ARE NOW LIVING AND THE LIFE TO COME.” 1 TIM. 4:8, NIRV**

MAY 10-14



**Life App: COMMITMENT** – Making a plan and putting it into practice.

**Weekly focus:** The Wise and Foolish Builders | Matthew 7:24-29 | **Bottom Line:** Practice hearing from God.

**MON:** Today, you're going to have a sword drill. In Hebrews 4:12, the Bible is described as being sharper than any two-edged sword. Gather your family around and grab as many Bibles as you can find. When everyone is ready with a Bible in hand, you say "draw your sword" and they should raise their Bible in the air. Then, shout one of the verses listed below. The first person to find the verse and read it, wins that sword drill. Continue through all the verses listed. Deuteronomy 6:5, Ephesians 4:32, John 3:16, Romans 8:28, Matthew 28:20, Genesis 1:1

**TUES:** Q & A Time! Ask Kids: What is your favorite thing to practice? Ask PARENTS: Are you more of a planner or do you deal with things as they come? Share a story from your life that illustrates this.

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

**THUR:** Look up our story from this week: Matthew 7:24-29. Spend some time talking about what this verse means. Ask any questions you have.

**FRI:** Look up Psalm 119:105 and read the verse out loud. Find a flashlight and go into a dark room. Now, turn the flashlight on. That's exactly what this verse means. Wherever you shine the flashlight you can see where to go. And it's the same for God's Word. It will be our guide.

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MAY 17-21



**Life App: COMMITMENT** – Making a plan and putting it into practice.

**Weekly focus:** Model Prayer | Luke 11:1-4 | **Bottom Line:** Practice praying to God.

**MON:** Read Luke 11:2 together. Practice praying to God right now. Write down some things you know to be true about God. Then, turn off all distractions—silence your phone or video game, take off your headphones and focus, knowing that God is completely focused on listening to you too.

**TUES:** Q & A Time! Ask each other: What are some practical ways we can show love to God and others? Pick one of those things to do this week.

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

**THUR:** Read Ephesians 6:18. One of the amazing truths about following God is that He is always there, ready to listen and help. Talk about how you think you can pray “at all times”. Maybe it’s as simple as making a plan, a plan that already fits into our daily routine.

**FRI:** Play the prayer stack game by praying as you stack. Everyone writes a few words of thanks or praise on the top of their hand. Race to stack everyone’s hands on top of each other. Ready? Set. Stack that Prayer! When you are stacked all the way to the top pull hands out from the bottom and keep going!

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MAY 24-28



**Life App: COMMITMENT** – Making a plan and putting it into practice.

**Weekly focus:** Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah | Matthew 16:13-20 | **Bottom Line:** Practice talking about God.

**MON:** Talking about the things we love can be easy, but it can take practice. While you're driving this week, practice talking about God. Tell each other stories you've read or heard about Him, talk about the things you are grateful for about Him. Whatever it may be, start talking.

**TUES:** Look up Matthew 5:14-16 and read it together. Why would Jesus choose to talk about a city on a hill? What is the brightest light you have ever seen? Find the brightest light in your house. That's what Jesus is asking us to be like. What does "shining bright" look like in your family?

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

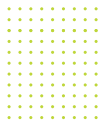
**THUR:** Read 1 Timothy 4:10-11 together. What was the last awesome thing that happened to you? When something awesome happens, we want to talk about it! Guess what? We have the greatest, most amazing, most life changing news ever! Jesus came to make a way for us to have a relationship with God, forever! When we put our trust in Him, He promises that relationship starts right now, here on earth.

**FRI:** Read Matthew 16:15-16. You'll face lots of big questions as you grow up. "What will I be when I grow up?" is one I bet you've talked about! The number one most important question is this: Who do you say that Jesus is? Is Jesus just a nice guy who did some nice things and taught some nice lessons a long time ago? Or is Jesus who Peter recognized Him to be, the Son of the living God, the one who came to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever? One of the best ways you can grow in your faith is by talking about what you believe with others. Practice together.

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MAY 31 - JUN 4



**Life App: COMMITMENT** – Making a plan and putting it into practice.

**Weekly focus:** Widow's Mite | Mark 12:41-44 | **Bottom Line:** Practice living for God.

- MON:** Read this week's Bible verse. What do you have to give? It doesn't always mean money. It could be giving your time to a family member or sharing a talent you have. Together, brainstorm some ways you or your family could use what you have to show love to God and to others. Commit to doing at least one of those things this week. Then, pray for each other, that God will help you follow through.
- TUES:** Q & A time! Ask each other: Who can you think of that does a good job at living for God? How can we practice living for God as a family?
- WED:** Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.
- THUR:** Part of living for God is loving others. Look up 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and read it out loud. Take some time to talk through anything you have questions about or don't understand. Write the verse out again and every time you get to the word "love", replace it with your name, because if love is patient, then you have to be patient too! Put it somewhere in your rooms as a reminder to show love to others!
- FRI:** 1st Timothy 4:8 tells us that training the body has value but being godly is even better! We've been learning all month long that we can grow in our faith when we practice hearing from God, praying to God, talking about God and living for God. Pray together about what your family is doing to train!

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**NEW CITY  
CATECHISM  
QUESTIONS  
FOR REFLECTION**



## NCC QUESTIONS



**18: Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished? Ephesians 5:5-6**

*No, God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them both in this life, and in the life to come.*

**19: Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor? Isaiah 53:10-11**

*Yes, God reconciles us to himself by a Redeemer.*

**20: Who is the Redeemer? 1 Timothy 2:5**

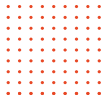
*The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ*

**21: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God? Isaiah 9:6**

*One who is truly human and also truly God.*

**22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human? Hebrews 2:17**

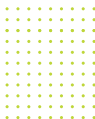
*That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin.*



# WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE



JUN. 7-11



**Life App: CONFIDENCE** – Learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

**Weekly focus:** God So Loved the World | John 3:16 | **Bottom Line:** You can be confident because God loves you.

**MON:** Read John 3:16. When you think about the word confidence, what comes to mind? Write your own definition. Talk about how you think God sees you? Here's a little secret. God thinks you are amazing. After all, He made you. He's so crazy about you that He did something no one else would do. He sent His only Son, Jesus, so He could have a relationship with you, forever.

**TUES:** Q & A Time! Ask Parents: When was a time that you trusted God to take care of you and He did?

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

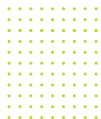
**THUR:** Look up Jeremiah 17:7. Read it together a few times. Now, talk together about ways that you can trust God. Look for opportunities to put your trust in God when you can't do it alone!

**FRI:** Grab a piece of paper and write out the words of Romans 6:23. Draw a box around the words "wages" and "gift." Then draw an arrow from "wages" to the word "death" and the word "gift" to the words "eternal life." Draw a big X over the word "death." Put a BIG circle around the word "but." Now, highlight or draw sunshine lines around "eternal life" to emphasize the huge GIFT God has given you through Jesus. Is this good news or bad? Explain this verse to each other!

**"I REMAIN CONFIDENT OF THIS: I WILL SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING."  
- PSALM 27:13, NIV**



JUN. 14-18



**Life App: CONFIDENCE** – Learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

**Weekly focus:** Israel Captures Jericho | Joshua 5:13-6:20 | **Bottom Line:** God's plan is the best plan.

**MON:** Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Write out the words of the verse on index cards and arrange them in a windy path. Set a timer and see how long it takes you to walk along the path as you repeat the verse. Then line up the cards in a straight path. Time yourself a second time as you walk along and repeat the verse. Talk about which was faster and easier.

**TUES:** Q & A Time! Ask Kids: What is something you feel really confident in and something you don't? Ask Parents: When was a time you didn't feel confident in God's plan, but trusted anyway? How did it work out?

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

**THUR:** Read Proverbs 16:9. Today's verse reminds us that while planning and thinking ahead is perfectly fine, our trust and our confidence has to be in the Lord. We need to ask Him to show us where to go. Pray as a family and ask God to "establish your steps" as a family.

**FRI:** Read Psalm 32:8 out loud. When you read the last part, what do you think about? Did you know that God has His eye on you? God keeps watch over us so He can instruct and teach us. Following God will always lead us in the right direction, not just because He knows all, but because He loves us. We can have confidence in God, knowing that His plans are the best plans.

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JUN. 21-25



**Life App: CONFIDENCE** – Learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

**Weekly focus:** Gideon | Judges 6-8 | **Bottom Line:** God can use you no matter what.

**MON:** Read Judges 6-8. Do you ever feel like the underdog in your life—like other people are bigger, stronger, smarter, or more important than you? Gideon was an underdog but that didn't stop God from using him to save God's people. If God could use Gideon, He can definitely use you, no matter the situation. Pray that you can face tough situations this week with confidence, knowing that God can always work through you.

**TUES:** Q & A Time! Ask each other: Do you know anyone who is like Gideon? Someone unlikely for God to use, but He did?

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

**THUR:** Read 1 John 4:12. Small things you do every day to show love to others can make a big difference. When you choose to show love to others, you show others who God is! What are some things your family is doing to make a big difference? We can have confidence that God will use us when we simply choose to love.

**FRI:** Here's a little obedience challenge. For the next five days, challenge yourself to pray the prayer below in your own words. Then, pay attention so you don't miss an opportunity to make a difference in your world. "Jesus, will you show me how I can make a difference for You today? Give me the confidence to follow through like Gideon, knowing that You are with me. In Jesus' name, amen."

**"I REMAIN CONFIDENT OF THIS: I WILL SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING."  
- PSALM 27:13, NIV**



JUN. 28-JUL. 2



**Life App: CONFIDENCE** – Learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

**Weekly focus:** Elijah and the Prophets of Baal | 1 Kings 18:16-46 | **Bottom Line:** God can do the impossible.

**MON:** Read Psalm 27:13 together. Talk about something tough you're facing. How can you focus on God's goodness with confidence that He can do the impossible, even in this situation? It is so important for us to remember that nothing is impossible for God. He raised Jesus back to life! Jesus died on the cross. It was the darkest day in history. But three days later, Jesus came BACK to life! God did the impossible! Remember, no matter what the situation, God is bigger.

**TUES:** Q & A Time! Ask Kids: "What is something you thought was impossible but turned out to be possible? Always remember that God can do the impossible."

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

**THUR:** Read Philippians 4:13 together a few times. Create motions to go with your verse to help you memorize it! Share your new moves with a sibling or family member. Ask God to give you the strength to do the impossible.

**FRI:** Read Job 42:2. Even though Job lost everything, he prayed these words saying, "no purpose or plan of yours can be stopped!" Remember what Job knew, God will help you do all the things He's called you to do. When you have trouble being patient or kind or humble or honest, God is with you. His plans for you are good and you can trust Him always. Pray together for Job's courage.

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- PSALM 27:13, NIV**



**NEW CITY  
CATECHISM  
QUESTIONS  
FOR REFLECTION**



## NCC QUESTIONS



**23: Why must the Redeemer be truly God? Acts 2:24**

*That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective.*

**24: Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die? Colossians 1:21-22**

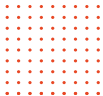
*Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.*

**25: Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven? 2 Corinthians 5:21**

*Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God will remember our sins no more.*

**26: What else does Christ's death redeem? Colossians 1:19-20**

*Every part of fallen creation.*



# 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.