

Family Devotion Night Planner: 12 Simple Family Devotions

Make space to explore a Bible story, listen to one another and pray together. These simple family devotions are designed for children aged about 5 to 12. Read the passage in your own Bible, then use the prompts at a pace that feels right for your family.

A NOTE ON THE SCRIPTURE

A note on the Scripture: the verse summaries in this guide are plain-English paraphrases, not quotations from a particular Bible translation. Read each passage in your preferred Bible for its full wording and context.

01 Creation

Read: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Paraphrase: God creates the heavens and the earth, bringing light, land, plants, living creatures and people into being. God sees that creation is good and rests after the work is complete.

Talk together

- What part of the world do you think is beautiful?
- How can we care for something God made?
- What would you like to thank God for today?

Try this: Take a short nature walk or draw one thing in creation that you are grateful for.

Prayer: Creator God, thank you for the world and for the good things we notice in it. Help us care for your creation. Amen.

02 Noah and the Ark

Read: Genesis 6-9

When violence and wrongdoing fill the earth, God tells Noah to build an ark and bring his family and animals inside. After the flood, God makes a covenant with Noah and all living creatures, with the rainbow as its sign.

Talk together

- What might Noah have needed courage to do?
- How can we help protect animals and the earth?
- What can a rainbow remind us of?

Try this: Make a rainbow picture and name one way your family can care for living things.

Prayer: Faithful God, thank you for caring for people and creatures. Give us courage to do what is right and to care for your world. Amen.

03 Joseph and His Brothers

Read: Genesis 37, 45

Joseph's brothers turn against him, and he is taken to Egypt, where he eventually becomes a leader. During a famine he meets his brothers again, provides food for the family and chooses forgiveness.

Talk together

- How might Joseph have felt when he saw his brothers again?
- What does forgiveness mean to you?
- Who could your family help this week?

Try this: Draw a family meal and add one way each person can show kindness.

Prayer: God of mercy, help us choose kindness and forgiveness. Show us how to care for one another. Amen.

Stories of courage and care

04 David and Goliath

Read: 1 Samuel 17

The Israelite army is afraid of Goliath, who challenges them to fight. David trusts God, faces the giant with a sling and stone, and defeats him.

Talk together

- What helps you feel brave when something is hard?
- Why might David have trusted God?
- How can we encourage someone who feels afraid?

Try this: Name a worry on a paper stone, then place it beside a drawing of something that helps you feel supported.

Prayer: God, stay close when we feel afraid. Help us act with courage and encourage one another. Amen.

05 Daniel and the Lions

Read: Daniel 6

Daniel continues to pray to God even when a new law forbids it, and he is thrown into a den of lions. God protects Daniel, and the king sees that Daniel's faith has not been shaken.

Talk together

- What regular time could help you remember to pray?
- How can you stay kind when others disagree with you?
- Who could you pray for together tonight?

Try this: Make a small family prayer list and let each person add one name or need.

Prayer: God, thank you that we can talk with you. Give us courage to keep doing what is right and care for those we pray for. Amen.

06 Jonah and Nineveh

Read: Jonah 1-4

Jonah tries to escape the task God gives him and is swallowed by a great fish after a storm at sea. He later goes to Nineveh, whose people turn from wrongdoing, and God shows them mercy.

Talk together

- Why do you think Jonah tried to run away?
- Can people make a new start after doing wrong?
- How can we show mercy to someone?

Try this: Make a paper fish and write inside it one kind choice that could help someone begin again.

Prayer: Merciful God, help us listen, make things right and welcome new beginnings. Amen.

Stories of welcome and generosity

07 The Good Samaritan

Read: Luke 10:25-37

Jesus tells of a man attacked on the road, while two passers-by leave him without helping. A Samaritan stops, cares for the injured man and arranges further help.

Talk together

- What did the Samaritan do to help?
- Who might need kindness or help near us?
- What is one safe way a child can get help for someone?

Try this: Practise naming a trusted adult you could tell if someone needed help.

Prayer: Jesus, help us notice people who need care. Show us safe and loving ways to help. Amen.

08 The Lost Sheep

Read: Luke 15:3-7

Jesus describes a shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine sheep in the open country to search for one that is lost. The shepherd finds it and rejoices, showing how much God cares for each person.

Talk together

- How might the lost sheep feel when it is found?
- What helps you feel cared for?
- How can our family include someone who feels left out?

Try this: Take turns naming one way each person helps the family feel safe and included.

Prayer: Caring God, thank you that every person matters to you. Help us notice and welcome one another. Amen.

09 Zacchaeus

Read: Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus, a tax collector, climbs a tree to see Jesus, who notices him and visits his home. Zacchaeus responds by giving to people in need and paying back those he has cheated.

Talk together

- How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus noticed him?
- What could someone do to make things right after a mistake?
- How can we welcome someone others overlook?

Try this: Draw a tree with leaves showing kind actions that help repair trust.

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for seeing each person. Help us make things right and welcome others with kindness. Amen.

Stories of hope and new beginnings

10 Feeding the Five Thousand

Read: Mark 6:30-44

A large crowd gathers to hear Jesus, and the disciples see that there is not enough food for everyone. Jesus blesses five loaves and two fish, and the crowd eats with food left over.

Talk together

- What small thing could you share with someone?
- How might the crowd have felt when food was shared?
- How can your family help someone who needs a meal?

Try this: Plan one small way to share food or hospitality with another person.

Prayer: Generous God, thank you for what we have. Help us share gladly and care for people who are hungry. Amen.

11 Easter: The Empty Tomb

Read: Luke 24:1-12

Women go to Jesus' tomb and find that the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. They hear that Jesus has risen, share the news with the disciples, and Peter goes to see for himself.

Talk together

- What good news would you like to share with someone?
- What does hope mean to you?
- Who could use an encouraging message this week?

Try this: Make a small paper card with an encouraging message for someone you care about.

Prayer: Risen Jesus, thank you for hope and new life. Help us share encouragement and love. Amen.

12 Pentecost

Read: Acts 2:1-21

Jesus' followers gather in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, and they begin speaking in other languages. Visitors from many places hear about God's great works in their own languages.

Talk together

- How can people understand one another even when they are different?
- What good news about God would you share with a friend?
- How can your family welcome someone from another place or culture?

Try this: Learn how to say hello in a language spoken by someone in your community.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, help us listen well, welcome others and share God's love. Amen.