

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Big Picture

WEEK 2

WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE, REMEMBER THE IMPACT YOU HAVE ON YOUR FAMILY.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:12-13 NIV

DAY 1

Sometimes life in our families is hard. We find ourselves in difficult circumstances where things make us angry or feel unfair, and we don’t know what to do next. The big picture couldn’t be more unclear. In those moments, we often want to give up or give in. But this verse reminds us that we have another option: We can choose to love those in our family because God loved us first. When we aren’t sure what the next right thing to do is, we can always know that when we choose to do what’s good, we’ll be choosing the next right step. Are you facing a difficult circumstance in your family right now? Make a list of what you believe are the good things you can do to help you get through it.

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

JOHN 14:23 NIV

DAY 2

When we find ourselves in confusing or difficult circumstances, we often wonder what to do next. Here, Jesus is giving the answer: Obey His teaching. He didn’t leave us to figure out our difficult circumstances or confusing times alone. He left us with His Word to guide us, encourage us, and help us know what to do. So, as you find yourself wondering what to do in confusing or hard moments, go back to Jesus’ teaching. Dive into His Word and look for help. Talk to your parents or a trusted adult in your life about how you can start reading the Bible and studying Jesus’ teaching to help you understand more of the bigger picture that is God’s plan for your life.

“And as for you, brothers and sisters,
never tire of doing what is good.”

2 THESSALONIANS 3:13 NIV

DAY 3

Doing the right thing isn't always easy, sometimes especially when our family is involved. It isn't always clear. It isn't always fun. And it definitely isn't something we always want to do. Sometimes doing the right thing feels like more work than staying the course we're already on. But remember that just because the right thing may feel like the harder choice at times, that doesn't mean it is. There is always a bigger picture—a future outcome we can't see. So, even when doing the right thing is difficult in the moment, when we choose what is good, again, and again, and again, we can rest assured that we're walking the path that is best for our lives. To help remind you of that, try to memorize this verse this week.

“You know what has happened
throughout the province of Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached— how God
anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the
Holy Spirit and power, and how he
went around doing good and healing
all who were under the power of the
devil, because God was with him.”

ACTS 10:37-38 NIV

DAY 4

Think about what you know about Jesus. Whether you think you know a lot about Jesus or not much at all, you probably know this: His life was about doing what was good. Jesus always chose to do what was good. Why? Because, as this verse tells us, God was with Him. And the same is true for us! God is with us, encouraging us toward what is good every step of the way. When we can't see the bigger picture around us, we can still take steps toward doing what is good, just like Jesus did! Pray this week that God will help you focus on doing what is good, step by step and day by day.

“To do what is right and just is more
acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.”

PROVERBS 21:3

DAY 5

Want to know what do in any circumstance you might face? Times where you know what's coming and times where you don't. Times when you can see how things will turn out and times when you can't. Times when things are going great and times when they aren't. In any and all circumstances, this Proverb gives us the answer: Do what is right, even when we get frustrated by our family. When we focus on doing the next right thing, we can trust that we're doing what is good in God's eyes. What circumstances are you facing right now? Whatever it is, pray that God would help you know the next right thing to do.
