



household devotional plan

March 23 - 28, 2020

As we weather the storm of this unprecedented season, we want you to know that your pastors are constantly in prayer and are eager to find ways to care for you. This devotional guide is one way we hope that you feel this. We hope that this selection of Scriptures, songs, and prayer items will equip you to lead your household to trust in God.

This week's devotional focuses on the theme from 1 Corinthians 13:13, "So now faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love." We'll take two days to mediate on each of these virtues by reading, singing, and praying together. May God strengthen our faith, hope, and love for Jesus Christ in this challenging season.

so now

f a i t h

hope

&

love

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MONDAY

MARCH 23

Reading

Hebrews 11

Song

By Faith, Keith & Kristyn Getty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXB8ihepUpE>

Prayer Items

- Pray for faith to believe that God is good even when his purposes in this season are unseen.
 - Pray for faith to care for others, witness to unbelievers, and lead the members of your household.
 - Thank God that he sees every financial struggle, sickness, and threat that endure and that he will honor us for our faith before the great cloud of witnesses. Thank him that, through our faith, we are counted among those of whom 'the world is not worthy.'
 - Lament the loss of those that have died from the coronavirus.
 - Pray that the virus would stop spreading, our church would be protected, and he would be exalted in this tragic season.
 - Pray that the Lord would return.
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MONDAY

MARCH 23

*Children's Activity **

Supplies

- Coin
- Clear glass
- Opaque (non see-through) cup

To help your children understand the concept of faith, take a coin and place it under a see-through glass. Ask the children if there is a coin under the glass. They will say "yes" as they can see the coin. Ask them, "Why do you believe there is a coin under the glass?" They will respond saying, "Because I can see it."

Now have them turn their back so they cannot see what you are doing and place the coin under the opaque cup. When they turn around, tell them that you placed a coin under the cup. Now ask them, "Do you 'believe' there is a coin under the cup?" Tell your children that since they cannot see the coin with their eyes, they must believe it is there by faith, by trusting that your words are true.

Abraham and the other heroes of the faith from Hebrew 11 believed God's Word to them, even when they could not see how it could come true. Faith is trusting in God and his Word. We can't see God, but we know he is true and will tell the truth.

** These activities are optional. If you have younger children, you may find that they need to draw a picture during each devotional to help them stay focused. Older children may feel patronized and only need an update on how they're processing the spreading virus.*

TUESDAY

MARCH 24

Reading

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Song

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken, Bob Kauflin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djcgL7Gpupc>

Prayer Items

- Pray for your vision of heaven to expand through this season. As you experience the fallenness of this world, pray that God would grow your faith for the future day of heaven.
 - Name your fears before God and ask him to give you courage to live by faith and not by sight.
 - Thank God we can know that Jesus has forgiven us our sins and will not judge us according to our weakness and sins.
 - Lament the loss of those that have died from the coronavirus.
 - Pray that the virus would stop spreading, our church would be protected, and he would be exalted in this tragic season.
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TUESDAY

MARCH 24

Children's Activity

Supplies

- Draw a Christmas Tree on a sheet of paper (doesn't need to be fancy, just recognizable).

Show the drawing to your children and ask them, "What do you see?" They should answer "Christmas Tree." Then ask them, "What is going to happen this Christmas?" Draw your children out so that they answer things like, "We will put up a Christmas tree, we will sing Christmas Carols, we will give presents, etc."

Then help your children understand that the confidence in their answers is based on believing and having faith in a future event: Christmas. Tell them when we look ahead to something that does not exist, we are living by faith, believing and trusting in something we cannot see, based on what we know.

That is the same way we trust in God. We believe God because of what we know about him from reading the Bible. We believe in God by faith. We believe God will take care of us because that is what he said he would do. God is more sure than Christmas.

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WEDNESDAY

MARCH 25

Reading

Isaiah 40

Song

Everlasting God, Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yubLGTOcm8c>

Prayer Items

- Declare before God your weaknesses. Tell him about where you feel that you are struggling. Ask God to help you place your hope in the everlasting strength of your Creator and not in the latest news report or precautionary measure.
 - Ask God for the filling of the Holy Spirit right now. Ask him to renew your strength and to help you hope again.
 - Thank God that he loves to give hope and strength to the weak, faint, and exhausted.
 - Lament the loss of those that have died from the coronavirus.
 - Pray that the virus would stop spreading, our church would be protected, and he would be exalted in this tragic season.
 - Pray that the Lord would return.
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WEDNESDAY

MARCH 25

Children's Activity

Supplies

- None

Gather your children close and give each one a snuggly hug. As you hug them, ask them to think about how they feel when their mom or dad gives them a hug. Then explain to them how knowing God cares for us is a comfort in times of trouble. Tell your children that just as they feel safe and secure in their parents' arms, Mommy and Daddy feel safe in God's care. And they can, too.

THURSDAY

MARCH 26

Reading

Romans 5:1-11

Song

All I Have is Christ, Sovereign Grace Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugGucoYMmKg>

Prayer Items

- Thank Jesus for the access to God he has given you. Thank him that the hope you have is not contingent on your emotions, faith-levels, or faithfulness but only on Christ alone.
 - Thank God that he is using the Coronavirus to produce endurance, character, and hope.
 - Pray that God would pour even more hope into your heart through the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - Lament the loss of those that have died from the coronavirus.
 - Pray that the virus would stop spreading, our church would be protected, and he would be exalted in this tragic season.
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THURSDAY

MARCH 26

Children's Activity

Supplies

- A piece of paper with the ABC's written on it in both capital and lower case letters. (E.g. Aa, Bb, Cc, etc., all the way to Zz.)

Ask your children to recite the alphabet. Ask them if they remember how difficult it was at first for them to learn the alphabet. Share any funny stories from their childhood that would illustrate how hard it was for them to learn to talk or read and write.

Use this as an example of a trial (learning to speak, read, and write) and how God used it in their lives for good. So often, we grow as a result of trials and then in God's grace we forget how hard those trials were.

Share a story with your children about a trial that God took you through, how God was your comfort. Also share how you grew as a result.

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FRIDAY MARCH 27

Reading

Exodus 34:1-9

Song

The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases, Dave Hunt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3zbp6BU1S0>

Prayer Items

- Thank God for his steadfast love and compassion. Thank him for boundless love that never is diminished by our weakness or sin. Thank God for his mercy. That he has kept steadfast love to thousands through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Praise him that, in his mercy, he has promised not to wipe the earth completely after the flood.
 - Ask him to help you see his love in this season. Ask him to deepen your amazement at the cross of Christ where he forgave your iniquity, transgression, and sin.
 - Ask him to save more people through this virus. Without Christ, no one will be saved. Ask God to add to the thousands to whom he extends his keeping steadfast love.
 - Lament the loss of those that have died from the coronavirus.
 - Pray that the virus would stop spreading, our church would be protected, and he would be exalted in this tragic season.
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FRIDAY

MARCH 27

Children's Activity

Supplies

- Look up all your family's first names and what they mean.

Ask your children if they know the meaning behind each person's name in your family. Then share with them each meaning and talk about whether or not the meaning assigned to each name fits the person.

Then tell them that God proclaimed to Moses: "The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." (Exodus 34:6).

Ask your children, "How does God's name fit him?" Talk about each characteristic and why it is an apt description of God.

SATURDAY

MARCH 28

Reading

Ephesians 3:14 - 21

Song

How Vast the Love, Sovereign Grace Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgjEgP1ZOvo>

Prayer Items

- Ask God to root you in the love of Christ so that you are not moved by the fearful news.
 - Ask God to astonish you with a fresh awareness of his lavish love.
 - Thank God that you already have the best gift you could receive: the love of Christ. Declare to him that you can lose all of your possessions, family, and future plans yet you still have the fullness of blessing in Christ.
 - Ask God to help you show this love to those in your household, neighborhood, and your church.
 - Lament the loss of those that have died from the coronavirus.
 - Pray that the virus would stop spreading, our church would be protected, and he would be exalted in this tragic season.
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SATURDAY

MARCH 28

Children's Activity

Supplies

- One small heavy object (could be a 5-lb bag of sugar or a brick)

Have your children try to pick up the heavy object only using their pinky fingers. They will not be able to lift it. Then grab the heavy object with your hand and assist them lifting it with their little pinky fingers.

Explain to the children how this illustrates how God helps us. We can't do anything without his help. God is behind the scenes helping us every day. We think we are doing things on our own because we cannot see God. However, God is helping us in all we do.

NOTES



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