Family Devotional

35 Days in the Bible
Together as a Family
What values does God share with us that might radically change our families? What are the values that establish your family?

For the next 35 days, work through a single question for each day to be talked about with your family around the dinner table along with developing a regular habit of getting into God’s Word together. We hope these questions will help your family enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus and with each other.

Take time to write out your top 5 family values.
Just like a business or company has corporate values that they desire to live by and represent who they are as an organization, your family is a mini organization. Brainstorm and write out your top 5 family values:

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

**BONUS CHALLENGE!** Is there a Scripture verse that you would want to assign to each of these values, giving you the top 5 memory verses for your family to know and live out?
MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:5
Day 1

GETTING STARTED: Describe a time when you were in a dark place that you found scary.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read John 1:4-9. This passage describes Jesus as the light of the world. If Jesus is light, how does that change the way you look at darkness? How can you show Jesus’ light in your family?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that God would give your family more opportunities to notice His light tomorrow.

Day 2

GETTING STARTED: Name the top three occupations or professions you trust the most. Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Why do you think trust comes before obedience? If possible, share a time when your family trusted God and obeyed him.

PRAY TOGETHER: Ask God to show you truths that allow your family to trust him more fully.

Day 3

GETTING STARTED: Share the most recent time that you did not follow directions and things didn’t turn out the way you wanted. This might include failing to read instructions, breaking the speed limit, or not listening to Mom and Dad.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read James 1:22-25. Why does obedience lead to blessing? Why does disobedience ultimately lead to pain?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray for a specific area that your family needs to obey God more diligently.
Day 4

GETTING STARTED: Nearly everyone has scribbled a note on his or her hand to not forget a “to-do” list. What tricks do you use to remember important assignments?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Deuteronomy 6:20-23. Why is remembering the past an important part of our faith? What is one practical way your family can choose to remember what Jesus has done for you?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that God would give your family strength to make remembering God a normal part of your day.

Day 5

GETTING STARTED: Describe a time you were gripped by fear and had a hard time getting away from that feeling?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read 1 John 4:13-19. How does Jesus cast out all fear? How can we as a family live without fear because of Jesus?

PRAY TOGETHER: God is listening right now. Bring the areas of fear before Jesus, remembering that Jesus casts out all fear.

Day 6

GETTING STARTED: Describe a time you received love when you did not deserve it.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Romans 5:6-8. What does it mean to you that Jesus shows you love even when you don’t deserve it? Share two ways you can show love to your family when they don’t deserve it.
**BONUS ACTIVITY:** Have each family member write down his or her name on a piece of paper. Place the names in a container. Have each person draw up one name (if a person draws their own name, draw again). During the next week, your job is to surprise this person with an act of love. The act of love could be anything from a hug to drawing them a beautiful picture. Be creative. Have fun!

**PRAY TOGETHER:** Pray that God would continue to provide his love to each family member so each person can continue to love one another as Jesus loves.

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**Day 7**

**GETTING STARTED:** Besides exercise, share a time that required the most physical strength. (If you want to have fun with this, try acting out your example without using words).

**DIGGING DEEPER:** Read Mark 12:30. What would happen if you and your family loved the Lord with all of your strength? How would that change the way you acted and spoke to each other?

**PRAY TOGETHER:** Pray that God would allow your family to love the Lord with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength.
MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK:

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32
Day 8

GETTING STARTED: What are the kindest words you have ever received? Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Proverbs 16:24. What other foods or objects would you replace for “honeycomb”? Be creative! Share a kind word with the person next to you that will be sweet to his or her soul and healing to the bones.

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that you would extend kindness to one another in your family.

Day 9

GETTING STARTED: Name the top three characteristics that make a helpful coach. For example: She knows what she is talking about!

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Hebrews 12:5-8. How is correction and discipline a healthy part of: 1) our relationship with God, and 2) our relationship with our family?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that your family would not “run away” from discipline, but choose to accept it as a gift from God.

Day 10

GETTING STARTED: Which movie have you seen that communicates forgiveness most powerfully? Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Ephesians 4:31-32. How does Jesus strengthen our ability to forgive beyond what we might be able to forgive only on our own? If you hurt someone in your family, ask for forgiveness right now. One rule: “sorry” is for spilled milk. To ask for forgiveness, practice saying, “Would you please forgive me for _____________ (name the specific thing you are asking forgiveness for).

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray and thank God for the opportunity to forgive one another because Jesus has first forgiven you. Pray for hearts that will continue to be soft and willing to forgive.
Day 11

GETTING STARTED: What grade (A, B, C, D, F) would you give yourself on this question: How encouraging are you? Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Hebrews 3:12-13. How does encouragement allow us to fight sin? What might “daily” encouragement look like in your family? How might this practice radically change your family to love God and each other more effectively?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that encouragement would be a normal part of how you speak and act toward one another.

Day 12

GETTING STARTED: What is one area in which you currently need wisdom?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read James 1:5-8. What two words stand out to you the most from James 1:5-8? Why?

PRAY TOGETHER: As a family, bring before God the specific areas in which your family needs wisdom. Take some time to honestly pray for wisdom as a family, believing that God will provide it! If applicable, mark a date on the calendar to revisit the request to see what God did.

Day 13

GETTING STARTED: What is one difficulty (large or small) your family faced in the past year that turned out for your family’s good?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Romans 8:26-28. What is another difficulty you are facing right now that you need to give up to God as you remember the promise of Romans 8?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that God would give you faith to believe He never leaves you, and He will work out all things for your family’s good.
GETTING STARTED: Share a time when you felt the most free! Maybe it was the wind blowing in your face when you opened up the car windows, or riding through the neighborhood on your bike.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read John 3:16-17. How does Jesus provide eternal freedom? How can your family celebrate right now the fact that we can have freedom in Jesus? For example: Get some ice cream!

PRAY TOGETHER: Thank God for salvation! Also consider looking out the window and praying for two to three homes. Pray that God would either encourage them (if they are saved) or help them come to know Jesus.

BONUS ACTIVITY: Provide space for family members to ask about a personal relationship with Jesus. Simply ask: “Are there any questions about what it means for Jesus to save you?” Simple way to share the gospel - ABC’s: 
- Admit that we’ve all messed up. We’ve all made mistakes. The Bible calls that sin.
- Believe that Jesus died on the cross to forgive you of all those sins.
- Confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK:

Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.

Ephesians 6:2-3
Day 15

GETTING STARTED: On your phone or computer, check out www.highpoint.church/serve. What are some opportunities to serve that stick out to you and your family?

DIGGING DEEPER:

a) Read Revelation 19:16. Notice that Jesus is called the greatest King in Revelation 19:16 (King of kings).

b) Read Mark 10:43-45. How is Jesus unlike a “traditional” king according to Mark 10:43-45?

c) Why do you think Jesus came to serve and not be served?

BONUS ACTIVITY: June 8 is Serve Day at Highpoint. Serve Day is an opportunity for our church to bless our city. In one day, together, we will pour out 1200 hours of love into our cities across 4 locations. Go to www.highpoint.church/outreach and sign up to serve as a family.

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray about three specific ways your family can serve this month. This might include serving at church, in your neighborhood, in your school, etc.

Day 16

GETTING STARTED: What is one characteristic you enjoy about your family?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Galatians 5:22-23. Notice that the word “fruit” is singular. This means that as we follow Jesus, we should carry all of these characteristics. Which characteristic do you need to work on the most? Which characteristic does your family need to work on the most?

PRAY TOGETHER: As you seek Jesus together through the remainder of these devotionals, ask God to blossom the fruit of the Spirit in your family.
Day 17

GETTING STARTED: Describe the last time you said, “I cannot wait until ___________ happens!” Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Isaiah 40:31. We expect more from those we trust the most. What does it look like for your family to wait on Jesus with expectation? How does the fact that Jesus is the most trustworthy person in the world impact our expectations?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that your family would wait on God with great expectation, believing that He is perfect!

Day 18

GETTING STARTED: One of the reasons people love fast food is because they know they will have a consistent experience. It is never a surprise how much the fries will be salted or how the cheeseburger is going to taste. What are other experiences that are (almost) always the same?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Hebrews 13:8. How does Jesus being “the same yesterday and today and forever” impact you and your family in faith and deed (how we live out our faith)?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that God would increase your family’s confidence and trust in Him. Pray that each family member would know that Jesus’ love for us and promises to us never change.

Day 19

GETTING STARTED: How do you feel about “unlimited” soda refills?: a) More the merrier! b) Eww, gross! c) I have another opinion, which I will explain to you right now.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. Why does God bless abundantly? In what ways do you and your family miss out by not giving generously?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that God would help you and your family trust Jesus. Pray that this trust would result in you and your family giving back generously to Jesus.
Day 20

GETTING STARTED: Where would you build your dream home if money was no obstacle? Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Matthew 7:24-27. Although it is fun to think about “where” we would build our dream home, the “how” is even more important. Go back to Matthew 7:24-27 and replace the words “rain,” “floods,” “winds” and “rock” with real life challenges that your family might go through or is going through. Examples may be health challenges, relationship difficulties, money challenges, etc.

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that your family would build its foundation on Jesus. Pray that through whatever difficulty, your family would continue to look to Jesus.

Day 21

GETTING STARTED: Who are some people in your life who have sacrificed on your behalf? How would you want to thank them?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Leviticus 14:12-13 and John 1:29. Why do you think the Bible calls Jesus the “Lamb of God” (also Hebrews 9:13-14)?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that your family would understand more deeply what it means that Jesus is the “Lamb of God.”
Week 4

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK:

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Proverbs 12:19
Day 22

GETTING STARTED: Who is someone in your life that is good at listening? What makes that person a good listener?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read 1 John 5:14-15. How should your prayers change, knowing that God hears you when you pray according to His will?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that God would reveal His specific will to you and your family as you obey what God already commands in the Bible.

Day 23

GETTING STARTED: If you could be any age, what age would you choose? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Hebrews 5:12-14. In what areas does your family still drink spiritual “milk”? In what areas does your family need to eat more solid food?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that God would allow your family to continue to grow in maturity. Pray that God would substitute milk for solid food.

Day 24

GETTING STARTED: Describe a time you worked hard and achieved your goal. Out of all of the goals you achieved, why was this one important?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Philippians 1:6. Using only seven words, put together a complete sentence that describes how you feel about the fact God will complete what He started. Share why you came up with that sentence with the rest of the family.

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that your family would be encouraged, knowing that Jesus will bring to completion what He began.
Day 25

GETTING STARTED: Do you agree with the phrase, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?” Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Proverbs 12:18 and James 3:1-12. In what ways have you experienced a wise tongue bringing healing? In what ways have you experienced the tongue bringing hurt?

BONUS ACTIVITY: Put together all the “healing” and encouraging words your family can think of that start with the letter A. Repeat this process for B, C, D and E. Draw them up on a big poster board and hang it somewhere in your house.

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that God would use your family to speak words of healing and not hurt. Pray that words of healing would become normal practice in your family.

Day 26

GETTING STARTED: The Guinness Book of World Records says that Paul Anderson lifted more than 6,200 pounds! What is the heaviest object you ever had to carry?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Matthew 11:28-30. What do you think it means to give your burdens to Jesus? How have you or your family experienced giving your burdens to Jesus? Is there a burden you still need to give over to Jesus?

PRAY TOGETHER: Take a moment to share what burdens each person might be carrying. Take some time to give those burdens to Jesus.
Day 27

GETTING STARTED: Look at the person to the right of you. What is his or her second favorite food?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Matthew 4:1-4. What lesson do you think Jesus is teaching the devil? If you have not already, commit to memorizing this week’s memory verse as a family.

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that as you memorize the verse, God would deepen the roots of His Word in your family.

Day 28

GETTING STARTED: If you could have dinner with anyone (not including Jesus), who would you choose? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER:

a) Read Colossians 1:15-17. Choose five words that stand out to you the most. Explain why you chose those words.

b) Read Revelation 3:20. Why do you think the Creator of the universe who holds the world together, would choose to eat with you?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that your family would be filled with thanksgiving, knowing that the God of the universe chooses to eat with you! Pray that anyone who is discouraged would be encouraged, knowing that the God of the universe chooses you!
Memory Verse of the Week:

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24
Day 29

GETTING STARTED: Which would you choose: a) to work hard for three hours straight and then have three hours of free time, or b) repeat the cycle of working hard for one hour and then playing for one hour, until the job is finished?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Colossians 3:23-24. Think about what it takes to make your family “work.” For example, mom has her job, the kids have their job and the dog has its job... How would your family change for the better if each family member worked heartily for the Lord?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that each family member would support, love and work (chores, obedience, etc.), knowing they do it for Jesus!

Day 30

GETTING STARTED: Share a recent time you made a good/wise decision, and it paid off.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Galatians 6:7-9. According to this passage, in what ways does making a good decision lead to a positive result? Identify non-spiritual and spiritual examples of sowing and reaping that you see in your everyday life. A non-spiritual example might include: If I do not put gas in the car, the car will not run.

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that your family would choose to make wise spiritual decisions, so that in due season, your family will see God’s blessing!

Day 31

GETTING STARTED: Share the best reward or gift you have ever received.
DIGGING DEEPER: Read Matthew 25:14-23. What talents or skills can you contribute to your family? What talents does your family have that you can share with your friends and neighbors?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that God would give your family opportunities to share those talents with others! Whether that is at your local sports team, church, after school program, or neighborhood, ask God to show you ways you can use your talents to serve.

GETTING STARTED: Take some time to craft your family’s mission statement. If you already have one, what are some edits you might make?

THINK: What is your family about? What do you want to be known for? What truths from the Bible would you want to include? As an additional resource, go to www.focusonthefamily.com, and search for “writing a family mission statement.”

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Matthew 28:18-20 and 1 John 4:19. Are there any truths from Matthew 28:18-20 or 1 John 4:19 you want to include in your family’s mission statement?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that God would encourage your family to live out your mission statement as each of you understand that you love because God first loved us.

GETTING STARTED: What is your greatest personal victory or win in the past six months?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Revelation 21:3-4. How does the truth that God wins (no more pain in Heaven!) help you and your family trust and obey Jesus more in the hard times? What about Heaven excites you the most?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that your family would trust God even in the hard times. Pray that God would comfort your family right now if you are going through difficult times.
Day 34

GETTING STARTED: Ask everyone to find a mirror, a piece of paper and a pen. Have each person look in the mirror and write down three words that best describe themselves. Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER:
a) Read 1 Peter 2:9. How does the way that God sees you change or agree with how you see yourself?

b) Read Isaiah 1:18. How does the truth that God forgives you from your sins change or agree with how you see yourself?

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray that every person in your family would know that God forgives them and sees them as special.

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Day 35

GETTING STARTED: Share the top two things you learned through these devotionals. Share why you chose those two above the rest.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read Psalm 95:1-6. List the reasons the Psalmist gives for worshiping Jesus? What other reasons would your family add to this list?

BONUS ACTIVITY: Consider singing a song of praise together as a family to close out the final devotional.

PRAY TOGETHER: Thank God for the opportunity to read, pray and study God’s Word together these past several weeks. Pray that God would allow your family to make new habits and continue in His Word to help encourage one another and lead each other toward Jesus.