

Unit 1

God Gives Us Families

“Love one another.”

John 13:34

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <https://davidccook.org/echoes/resources> to watch “God Gives Us Families” before doing the devotion together. This devotion works best in September.

The video shows children talking about ways that families love each other. As we watch them share, we hear how our families are a gift from God.

- What are some ways that other people show love to us?

Our Bible stories in this unit tell us about God giving us families. We saw that God blessed Hannah and her husband with a baby (1 Samuel 1:1–23). Then, we learned how God brought Ruth and Boaz together to marry and have a child (Ruth 1–4). We also talked about how God wants us to share in our families, just as Abraham shared with Lot (Genesis 13:1–12). The last story in our unit, about Abraham and Sarah having a baby, teaches us that God wants us to love our families (Genesis 21:1–6). Through all the stories, we see that families are a blessing from God!

- What are some ways we can show our love for other people?
- Memorize John 13:34. We can put our trust in the Lord. He loves us and takes care of us!
- Spend time at a family meal talking about the ways each of you can show love to your family this week. Give each family member time to share one way they can love the family this week. (Example: “I can hug my sister when she’s nervous about her math test.”)

End with a short prayer. God, thank You for loving us and for giving us this family. Help us to show Your love to the people in our family. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Unit 2

God Gives Us Friends

“A friend loves at all times.”

Proverbs 17:17

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <https://davidccook.org/echoes/resources> to watch “God Gives Us Friends” before doing the devotion together. This devotion works best in October.

In the video, we get to hear children share about their friends. God gives us friends to love us and help us grow in faith!

- Who are some of your friends?

Our Bible stories show ways that followers of God’s people care for each other. First, we learned how David and Jonathan were close friends (1 Samuel 18:1–4). Then we heard how Elisha helped a widow and her sons (2 Kings 4:1–7). In another story, we talked about Naaman’s maidservant and Elisha helped Naaman with his leprosy (2 Kings 5:1–14). The next week, we learned how four friends carried a man to Jesus (Mark 2:1–12). In our last story, we learned how Jesus visited with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (Luke 10:38–42; John 12:1–3). In all these stories, we learn that our friends are a gift from God!

- What are some ways you can show love to your friends?
- Memorize Proverbs 17:17. God designed people to have friends who love each other and grow in faith together. As a family, celebrate the friends He has given each person!
- Give each family member a sheet of paper and crayons or colored pencils. Ask everyone to draw a picture of how they can show God’s love to their friends this week. When everyone has finished, give them the opportunity to share about their pictures. Use this as an opportunity to celebrate friends as a gift from God.

End with a short prayer. God, thank You for giving us the gift of friendship! Thank You that Jesus wants to be our friend. Please help us to show Your love to our friends. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Unit 3

God Gives Us the Church

“Christ is the head of the church.”

Ephesians 5:23

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <https://davidccook.org/echoes/resources> to watch “God Gives Us the Church” before doing the devotion together. This devotion works best in November.

The children in our video share some of the things they do at church! Because God loves us so much, He gave us the church to help us grow in faith and follow Him.

- What are some things you love about our church?

Each of the Bible stories this month focuses on how God gave us the church. We learned that Jesus read Scripture in the synagogue (Luke 4:16–22). In another story, we learned that Peter preached while Paul taught; they worked together (Acts 3:12–26; 16:4–5; 18:23; 20:20). The next week, we saw the disciples continuing in prayer and praising God (Acts 1:13–14; Acts 2:42–47). In the final week, we saw Paul telling others about Jesus (Acts 20:16–28, 36–37). Each of these Bible stories teaches us about Jesus’ love for us!

Jesus’ friends help others!

- Memorize Ephesians 5:23. Christ is the head of the church! Lead your family in repeating the verse several times out loud, pointing up for “Christ,” pointing to your head for “head,” and putting your hands together as if in prayer for “church.”
- Make “Serving the Church” cards. On several index cards, write: “I can care for my church by ____.” Talk about the different ways your family can serve your local church, such as volunteering, hosting a Bible study, and praying for the sick members of the congregation. Use the ideas to complete the sentences on the cards. Once you’ve finished writing on each card, keep the stack of cards somewhere your family can find quick ideas for serving.

End with a short prayer. Jesus, thank You for giving us the church. Help us to care for Your church and Your people. In Jesus’ name. Amen.