

Unit 1

God Gives Us Families

“Let us love one another, for love comes from God.”

1 John 4:7

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 helped Miriam care for baby Moses (Exodus 1:6—2:1-10). Then we learned how God used Aaron’s abilities to help his brother Moses (Exodus 3—5; 12). We also talked about how God used Jethro to help Moses make wise decisions (Exodus 18). The last story in our unit, about Ruth and Boaz getting married and having a baby, teaches us that God wants us to love our families (Ruth 1—4). 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 1 John 4:7. 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 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 encourage my sister when she’s nervous about her math test.”)

End with a short prayer. God, thank You 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 Jesus visited with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (John 12:1-3). In another story, we see that Jesus blessed the children (Mark 10:13-16). The next week, we learned how four friends carried a paralyzed man to Jesus (Mark 2:1-12). In another story, we saw Jesus heal the centurion’s servant (Luke 7:1-10). In our last story, a boy gave Jesus his lunch (John 6:5-13). 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! 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 your 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 a widow gave all that she had to God (Mark 12:41-44). The next week, we saw the church praying for Peter while he was in prison (Acts 12:5-17). In the final week, we saw the Ephesian church leaders caring for Paul (Acts 20:16-38). 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 people. In Jesus’ name. Amen.