

About this devotional: This book was written with the idea to help give families some ideas for devotionals that are simple, easy and interactive for everyone. Gathering the family together for even a small time with God is getting more difficult and finding ways to hold a child's attention even harder. As parent's our hearts desire is to keep our children walking with God and in the faith and we struggle with ways that work many times. This book hopefully gives you more direction and a way to keep your kids interested in God with stories with a moral for life and an activity to go along with the story.

Ways to use this devotional: I have tried to keep every activity or game easy to do that can last a few minutes to continue the lesson each day or as long as your family wants. I have tried to keep all the material needed from things hopefully around your home with very little things to have to buy. Several activities do require copying or writing them out by hand. There are a few extras you can tear out of the back of the book. I would suggest you read ahead of time the family activity, so you are prepared and ready to explain it to the family or have the items needed before you begin.

Get some family journals: One way I feel your family could grow stronger with Jesus is start personal journals for each day. In them you can all write the Bible verses, prayers for others and prayers for the family. There will be a few activities that suggest writing in personal journals for each family members. For little ones you can help them write in theirs.

I have tired to keep all activities simple and fun for all ages and have added some varieties for ages of your own family. Above all this devotional is meant to have fun, draw your family closer together and learn more about Jesus. If you would like, get creative and if you have ideas that work better as an activity, jump in and do them along with these activities or in place of them. Just don't skip that part of the devotional each day as they are meant to help enhance the point of the story.

Day 1

Proverbs 25:11- The right word spoken at the right time is as beautiful as gold apples in a silver bowl.

Blind Man and a Lamp

Once there lived a blind man in a small town. He always carried a lighted lamp in his hand whenever he went out at night.

On one dark night he was going with his lighted lamp in his hand. A group of men were passing that way.

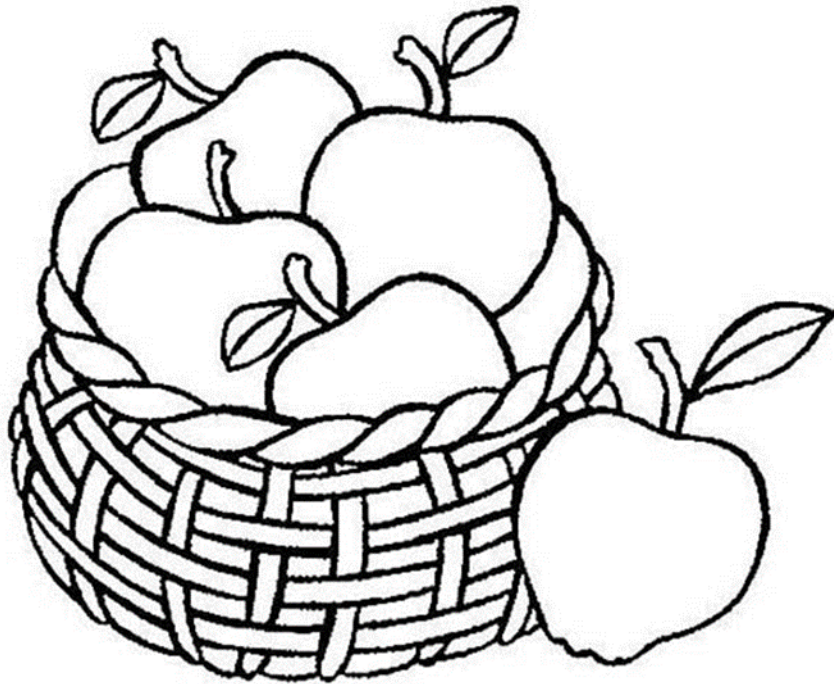
They saw the blind man and made fun of him. They said, "O Blind man why do you carry the lighted lamp. You are blind and cannot see anything?"

The blind man politely said, "This lamp is not for me, but for you people who have eyes. You may not see a blind man coming and push him. They felt ashamed and begged pardon.

Moral: Think twice before you speak.

Do as a family:

Fill in the apples with golden words that your family can use around each other that are kind and uplifting. Each family member needs to help fill the apples and if anyone wants to, they can color the apples golden.



Day 5

Galatians 6:9 “We must not become tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time if we do not give up.”

Beg Your Pardon Mrs. Hardin

One afternoon, a little boy had lost his kitten. He looked under his bed. He looked all over his house. But still there was no puppy. Finally, he looked for his puppy in the garden. After a few hours, he still could not find the puppy.

The little boy was tired and was about to give up. Then he saw his neighbor, Mrs. Hardin.

“I beg your pardon, Mrs. Hardin. Is my puppy in your garden?” asked the little boy.

“Oh yes, she is. She is chewing on a mutton bone,” replied Mrs. Hardin.

The little boy climbed the fence and saw his puppy chewing on a mutton bone. He was so happy that his puppy was not lost but had only gone to his good neighbor’s house to eat.

Moral of the story: Do not give up searching for something you have lost too soon.

Do as a family:

Icy Perseverance-Materials: an ice cube for each family member with a penny frozen inside.

Give each family member an ice cube with the frozen penny inside. Explain that the first person to get the penny out of their ice without putting it in their mouth or hitting it with another object is the winner. Give everyone 5 minutes to figure out ways to melt the ice and get the penny out.

Afterwards discuss:

1. How does melting the ice cube compare to reaching your goals?
2. Did you ever feel like quitting? Why do some people quit before reaching their goals?
3. Could you have gotten the penny quicker had you broken the rules? Would you feel as good about winning if you didn't follow the rules?
4. How do hard work and perseverance help you achieve your goals?

Day 8

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 “Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together. If one falls down, the other can help him up. But it is bad for the person who is alone and falls, because no one is there to help. If two lie down together, they will be warm, but a person alone will not be warm. An enemy might defeat one person, but two people together can defend themselves; a rope that is woven of three strings is hard to break.”

Union is Strength

There was an old farmer who lived in a village. He had four sons who were lazy and idle. They often quarreled among themselves. The old man was very much annoyed with it.

So, he called his four sons and told them that since his end was near, he wanted to teach them a lesson. So, he told them that since his end was near, he wanted to give them a useful piece of advice.

He sent for a bundle of sticks; it was brought. He asked all his sons turn by turn to break the bundle of the sticks. All tried hard, but none of them was able to break the bundle.

Then he asked one of them to untie the-bundle. This was also done immediately. Then he asked each of them to break the sticks individually. Now each one succeeded in doing so.

The old farmer then said to them, "If you live together in peace, none can harm you. But if you are divided, you will lose."

Moral: United we stand, divided we fall.

Do as a family:

Working together as a team always brings about better results. Pick one of the two challenges or if you have time do both. Make sure you are prepared ahead of time for the first one. Help your family grow stronger together and learn to depend on each other.

Listen Up - Make an obstacle course in your space, divide in pairs and take turns guiding their blindfolded partner through the course. The trick is that the person without the blindfold has to guide the blindfolded partner using verbal cues only.

Our House Scavenger Hunt - Use family phones for picture taking and have a list of crazy things that need to be photographed in a certain amount of time. Ideas can be "dad's oldest T-shirt" or "mom's favorite purse." Give each team a staggered list — so everyone isn't trying to get the same picture at once — and let the crazy chaos ensue. (Make copies of the lists at the end of the book, you could divide the page in two and have one team use on side and the other team use the other) (page 132 & 133)

Day 14

Psalm 34:8 invites us to, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” Jesus calls Himself the bread of life and He encourages His followers to be the salt of the earth. There are innumerable references to fruit, fish, and oil in the Bible.

Read about the fruits of the Spirit in [Gal. 5:22-23](#). Have children make a notebook with a page for each fruit, one each day. Make a checklist for each and check when during the day there is evidence of one of the fruits in his or her life.

Spend five to ten minutes looking through the Bible when fish, oil, and bread are mentioned in the Bible. Write them down and see how they can connect to the goodness of God or talk about why God chose to put the story in.

Challenge your family to find the story of the poisoned soup and read what happened.



Day 29

Luke 12:15 “Then Jesus said to them, “Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. Life is not measured by how much one owns.”

The Greedy King

There once was a king named Midas who did a good deed for a Satyr. And he was then granted a wish by Dionysus, the god of wine. For his wish, Midas asked that whatever he touched would turn to gold. Despite Dionysus’ efforts to prevent it, Midas pleaded that this was a fantastic wish, and so, it was bestowed.

Excited about his newly earned powers, Midas started touching all kinds of things, turning each item into pure gold.

But soon, Midas became hungry. As he picked up a piece of food, he found he couldn’t eat it. It had turned to gold in his hand.

Hungry, Midas groaned, “I’ll starve! Perhaps this was not such an excellent wish after all!”

Seeing his dismay, Midas’ beloved daughter threw her arms around him to comfort him, and she, too, turned to gold. “The golden touch is no blessing,” Midas cried.

Moral: Greed leads to downfall

Do as a family:

Play Deal or No Deal

Number envelopes 1-12. Fill 6 envelopes with different amounts of play money and 2 with a bankrupt card. Fill the last 4 with a gift your child would like on a piece of paper (candy, small toy, etc.). With multiple children you might have to play a few rounds changing up the amounts of money and order. Each round one of your children will play followed by the other ones.

During the round have your child pick four envelopes at a time. Reveal the amount of money or prize one at a time. With each reveal they can choose to keep the money from the first envelope or give it up for the next one, at the end of the four reveals they can bank only the one envelope they kept and move onto the next four. If at any time they get the bankrupt card their turn is up. Also, at the end of each four reveals tell them if they choose to walk away now, they can have all the money and prizes from those four envelopes and add a special appealing bonus to entice them (it will vary with each family as you know your own children).

At the end, the one with the most money gets to play the final Ultimate Deal of No Deal round. Mark 2 more envelopes with "Myself" and the other "My Family". In the "Myself" envelope put a paper with their winnings and make it something less appealing like a free pass on one chore or a can of olives (you get the idea) and on the "My Family" envelope make the prize something fun for the whole family. The winner then has to choose to use all their winnings including the prizes to choose "Myself" envelope or keep their winnings and choose "My Family".

This will help teach them about getting too greedy and the benefits that can come from sharing as a family too.