CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DEVOTIONAL

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2026

How to use this devotional

Each week there is Scripture, prayer, worship, and activities for your family. Use this devotional in the way it fits your family. The Children's Ministries Team has provided ideas and examples to get you started. If you discover a way your family loves to practice any of the sections, feel free to do that every week instead!

Books of the Bible

This year the whole church family is working to learn the books of the Bible! Each week has a few books to learn in order until you've memorized them all.

Prayer

We recommend beginning with prayer. Start by entering into the presence of God! There is a sample prayer to help guide you, but pray in the way that feels most natural for your family. You might begin by using the provided prayers, and as you become more comfortable, offer your own. If you have older children, consider inviting them to lead the prayer as they grow familiar with the routine. Encourage everyone to say "Amen" together — including the littlest ones just learning to speak!

Worship

Scan the QR code to access the worship music playlist.

Some weeks, a specific song or theme may be highlighted that connects to the week's focus. There are so many creative ways to engage in musical worship and make it part of your family's routine—play the playlist on your devices at home, listen at bathtime, or in the car on the way to school. Even better, have a dance party in the kitchen! The possibilities are endless!

Bible Reading + Questions

Read the Scripture provided for the week and answer the questions. Leave time for your child(ren) to ask their own questions. Use your family Bible or a children's Bible.

Activity + Games

Engage with the provided game or activity to help children learn the main idea of the Scripture in an interactive, hands-on way. Do this after the Bible-reading and discussion time, or save it for another day to reinforce the lesson and deepen your family's learning experience.

Memory Practice

Each week, there is a family-friendly way to practice the memory element together. There are many ways to do memory work, so feel free to use what works best for your children's ages and stages!

Blessing

End your time together with a blessing! This can be a blessing for the whole family or given individually to each person. We've provided a sample blessing to help you get started, but feel free to personalize it—consider incorporating Scripture or meaningful words of your own.

Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them—raised or with palms open—as if they're ready to receive a gift. Let them know they can simply listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

This quarter the whole church family is memorizing The Lord's Prayer. Each week you will have an activity to help your family memorize the prayer which is from Matthew 6:9–13.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

—The Lord's Prayer

Here is July's list of materials:

WEEK 27 scrap paper and flashlights

WEEK 28 3–5 sheets blank paper for each person making a book, or small notebooks

WEEK 29 Paper cups or small clay pots, quick growing seeds, soil, markers, stickers (optional)

For worship songs scan here:

JULY

July
Week 27

Books of the Bible

Bible Reading + Questions

Worship

Memory Practice

Read the prayer aloud while your family listens.
Talk about what it means.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

God, we thank you for your word. It reminds us that you never break a promise! Help us get to know you better today as we learn together. We want to see how wonderful you are! Amen.

Activity | Game

Seek and Find in the Dark!

Write the names of our Promised Savior Jesus from Isaiah 9:6–7 on separate pieces of paper or index cards (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace).

Have someone hide them in a dark room. Give everyone else flashlights to seek and find the names. Once they have all been found, read them aloud and cheer and celebrate who Jesus is!

To extend the game, write God's promises from the texts you read today so you have more note cards to find. Example: Jesus will be born from the family line of David, he will bring light to the darkness of our sin and world, etc.

Blessing

July
Week 28

Books of the Bible

Bible Reading + Questions

Worship

Read the prayer aloud and
have your family repeat it after you.
Try this daily.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Memory Practice

Prayer

Breath Prayer

Breathe in: Faithful God
Breathe out: You are our hope.

Blessing

Activity | Game

The "New Morning" Hope Journal

Supplies: 3–5 sheets of paper folded in half or a small notebook for each person, crayons, markers or colored pencils.

1. Have each person draw a sunrise on their cover. Write: "God's Mercies are New Every Morning" (Lamentations 3:23) across the top.

2. Title the left side of the first page "Sad Song". Draw or write one thing that made you sad this week. This is "Lament."

3. Title the right side of the first page "New Mercy". Draw or write one good thing God gave you today (a snack, a hug, a sunny day). This is "Hope."

4. Draw a heart in the middle of the two pages to show that God is with you in both the sad and the happy parts of each day.

Extend the activity: Share these prompts to use the journals all week:

- God, today I feel...
- One way I saw your kindness today was...
- When I am scared, I remember that you are...
- Thank you for the gift of...
- A verse that helps me have hope when I feel sad is...

July
Week 29

Books of the Bible

Worship

Memory Practice

Create actions to go along with the words. Say and do the actions all together.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Bible Reading + Questions

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for bringing us together today. Just like a seed in the ground, we want to grow in your love. Help us to learn that you are with us everywhere we go—at home, at school, and even in hard places. Open our hearts to hear your promises today. Amen.

Blessing

Activity | Game

Hope Garden
Since God told the people to "plant gardens" while they waited, your family will create a reminder to grow where they are.

Supplies: paper cups or small pots for each member of the family, or a large container for the whole family, quick-growing seeds (like grass or beans), markers, and stickers.

- **Decorate:** Have the kids decorate their "Hope Cup" with stickers or write a Bible verse about hope on the cup.
  For example: Jeremiah 29:11.
- **The "Waiting" Truth:** Explain that seeds take time to grow. Just like the Israelites in Babylon, the seeds will be "waiting" under the dirt, but God will be working on them!
- **Plant:** Put a little soil and a seed in the cup. Water it and observe each day. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to grow in your relationship with God and others while you wait for an answer to prayer or a hard situation?

July
Week 30

Books of the Bible

Worship

Bible Reading + Questions

Memory Practice

Slowly say the prayer with the actions you created. Recite them multiple times.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

God, you've never stopped sharing good news with your people—thank you! Help us listen with open ears and eager hearts. Through your Holy Spirit, lead us closer to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Blessing

Activity | Game

Dry Bones, Hear!

This game is sort of like musical chairs, except there are no chairs. That's because in this game you'll pretend to be like the lifeless bones that came alive in Ezekial 37!

Invite everyone in your family to spread out and lie down on the floor. When the music isn't playing, they must lie completely still.

Designate a leader to give directions and play the music. When they say, "Dry bones, hear!" and start the music, then everyone comes to life. They must get up, walk around in a funny way, or dance, just so long as they keep moving while the music is playing.

When the music stops, everyone drops to the floor and lies perfectly still. The last person to stop moving is out.

Play continues, eliminating one player per round, until there is only one person left. That person wins!

Here is August's list of materials:

WEEK 31 supplies to make a fort, stuffed animals, flashlight or blindfold and variety of snacks

WEEK 32 supplies for obstacle course, blindfold

WEEK 33 determined by your family's choice

WEEK 34 two jars with lids, water, food coloring

WEEK 35 Paper, fan (optional)

For worship songs scan here:

AUGUST

August
Week 31

Books of the Bible

Worship

Memory Practice

Teach the prayer and actions to a friend or family member.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Bible Reading + Questions

Prayer

God, thank you for your faithful presence in our lives. Give us courage and strength to follow you with all our heart, soul, and strength this week. Amen.

Blessing

Activity | Game

Lion's Den

(Younger Children)
Build a "lion's den" fort with your family. You can bring in stuffed animals to represent the lions. Get a flashlight and read the story from Daniel 6 inside the fort. Discuss how Daniel might have felt while he was in the den and the king's response when he found Daniel alive.

Extend the activity: What are "lion's den" or scary moments you have felt? How did God meet you there?

(Older Children)
After reading Daniel 1, do a blindfolded taste test with sugary snacks and raw fruits/vegetables. Try to guess the ingredients in the foods. Discuss which food tastes better and which ones would you want to choose first.

Questions: If friends are offering you something that you want but shouldn't have, is it hard or easy to tell them no? Why or why not? Why did Daniel choose not to indulge in all the things being offered to him, and how did God respond to that choice?

August
Week 32

Books of the Bible

Bible Reading + Questions

Worship

Memory Practice

Write out The Lord's Prayer on a large piece of paper, decorate it, and hang it in a visible place.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

Thank you God for your steadfast love that never gives up on us. Forgive us for our sins and help us to walk in obedience with you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Blessing

Activity | Game

Listen and Follow

Blindfold one member of your family and give them directions to navigate through an obstacle course in your house. (For younger kids you can help guide them with your hand.)

Ask your children what happened when they didn't listen to the directions you gave.

Read Hosea 14:9.
Let whoever is wise understand
these things,
and whoever is insightful
recognize them.
For the ways of the Lord are right,
and the righteous walk in them,
but the rebellious stumble in them.

What do you think happens when we don't follow God's direction?

August
Week 33

Books of the Bible

Bible Reading + Questions

Worship

Memory Practice

Say the prayer with the actions you created. Repeat it multiple times together, saying it in a different voice each time. Say it fast, slow, whisper, or shout!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

Father, thank you that you are a God of justice. Help guide us this week to do good and turn from evil. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Blessing

Activity | Game

Think of someone in your neighborhood or school who has been treated unfairly. How can you encourage or support them this week?

Ideas:

- Write an encouraging card to someone
- Invite someone to sit with you at lunch
- Bake something for a neighbor
- Invite someone to play at recess or a playdate at your home
- Share with someone how God has helped you

August
Week 34

Books of the Bible

Worship

Bible Reading + Questions

Memory Practice

Create a song or beat to sing the verse.
Clap, stomp, use instruments, or just sing!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

God, thank you for loving me so much. Your heart is always chasing after mine, no matter where I go. Please help me to be a light today to show others the great, big love you have for us. Amen.

Blessing

Activity | Game

Fill two clear jars with water. Tell your family the water represents our minds and how we see the world.

In the first jar, add food coloring, close the lid, and shake it up. Leave the second jar clear.

Have everyone look at the room through the jar of dyed water. Say: "This is like Jonah's anger. He was so mad that he couldn't see clearly. His vision was clouded by his own feelings, so he couldn't see how much God loved the people of Nineveh. He was too frustrated to see the truth!"

Next, look through the jar of clear water. Say: "This jar represents God's vision. God isn't clouded by anger; he sees every situation perfectly.
Even though the people of Nineveh had sinned against him, God saw all 120,000 people and chose to show them grace and mercy."

August
Week 35

Books of the Bible

Bible Reading + Questions

Worship

Memory Practice

Draw a picture of something represented in the prayer. Have each person share their picture and say the prayer individually or all together.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

Lord God, thank you that you love me so much and you are always with me. Show me how to obey you in the big things and the little things. Amen.

Blessing

Activity | Game

You will need: a piece of paper and a fan (or just your own lung power!).

- Hold the paper up a few feet away from your kids. Ask them: "Look closely... is there anything in the air between me and this paper?"
- Turn on the fan or blow a giant breath at the paper so it flutters and moves.
- Ask these questions:
  –Did you see the wind hit the paper?
  –What color was that wind? Was it polka-dotted? Was it neon green?
  –What shape was it? Was it shaped like a triangle or a dinosaur?
  –The Big Question: If we can't see it, see its color, or see its shape... how do we know it's actually there?

God is a lot like the wind! We can't look at him with our eyes, but we can see his "fingerprints" everywhere when he moves things and changes our hearts.

Now that you know how to look for "invisible" things, take the mission out into the real world! Head outside for a 15-minute walk. Your goal is to find "God's fingerprints." Look for things he made (like a cool bug or a bright sunset) or things that remind you of him, like the way a tall tree feels strong.
During a meal this week, ask everyone where they saw God workng that day.

Here is September's list of materials:

WEEK 36 basket or manger

WEEK 38 blindfold, supplies for an obstacle course (optional)

WEEK 39 Sticky Notes

Pick up the Lord's Prayer Hopscotch at the Children's Ministries check-in desk.

For worship songs scan here:

SEPTEMBER

September
Week 36

Books of the Bible

Worship

Memory Practice

Write out the prayer then read it.
For beginning writers, have them trace one word or letter. For prewriters, have them point at each word as you read it.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Bible Reading + Questions

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for coming on earth to live with us. You speak to me through your word which is alive. Help me to hear you speak to me. Amen.

Activity | Game

Bringing Gifts to Jesus

Have each person think of an item from your house that would make an amazing gift for Baby Jesus. Find the items and put them in a basket that represents the manager. Everyone then presents their gift to Jesus and explains why they think it's a good gift.

Blessing

September
Week 37

Books of the Bible

Bible Reading + Questions

Worship

Memory Practice

Say the prayer out loud together once a day, every day this week. Ideas: In the car on the way to school, at dinner time, or make it a new part of your bedtime routine!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for loving us and for caring about the little details of our lives. Thank you for Jesus, who did amazing things to show us he is your Son. Help us to trust and obey You every day. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Blessing

Activity | Game

Beat the Clock

Supplies: a large pot or laundry basket (adjust the size based on the size of your family), and something to use for a timer.

Have your family gather a lot of blue items from around the house. These could include towels, socks, Legos, or other blue blocks, toys, etc. Spread them around. Set a timer for 60 seconds. Explain that the servants in our Bible reading today had to listen to Jesus and work hard to fill the jars of water to the brim. The goal is for the family to work together to gather every single blue item in the room and fill the "stone jar" before the timer goes off.

Hint: You can make it more difficult for older kids or parents by giving them rules. (e.g. dad can only use his left hand, or everyone has to hop on one foot, or everyone has to pick up the item with their feet, etc.)

The Takeaway: The servants had to obey Jesus completely to see the miracle happen. How are we obeying Jesus and what everyday miracles have we seen in our lives?

September
Week 38

Books of the Bible

Worship

Bible Reading + Questions

Memory Practice

Read the prayer aloud and have your family repeat it after you. Try this several times this week.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

Jesus, thank you that your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Help me to walk with you today and every day. Amen.

Blessing

Activity | Game

Blindfold one person (the young ox) and walk through the house or outside. Stop and take time to notice if it was difficult, if you bumped into things, or felt scared.

Now pair them with a family member. Have them stand side by side, and link arms together. The person who is not blindfolded (the experienced ox) helps guide and show the way for the person who is blindfolded. If you want to add more fun, set up an obstacle course to try this experiment!

As you are playing the game take time to answer these questions:

- What was it like walking blindfolded without help?
- How did it change when you were yoked (linked arms) with someone who could see clearly without a blindfold?
- What does this experience teach you about being yoked with Jesus?

September
Week 39

Books of the Bible

Worship

Bible Reading + Questions

Memory Practice

Pick up The Lord's Prayer Hopscotch Activity from the Children's Ministries desk this week. Use it together to practice.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to be with you, to become more like you, and to live like you. Amen.

Blessing

Activity | Game

On sticky notes, write down the following words (each word should have its own sticky note):

- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control
- hate, fighting, impatience, meanness, bullying, dishonesty, jealousy, selfishness, disobedience

Sort the sticky notes by deciding if they are good fruit or bad fruit. This is a great time to have discussions if there is a disagreement about a particular fruit, or if your family is facing a specific challenge right now.

Old Testament Books of the Bible

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1+2 Samuel

1+2 Kings
1+2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah

Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah

Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

New Testament Books of the Bible

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Acts
Romans
1+2 Corinthians

Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians

1+2 Thessalonians
1+2 Timothy
Titus

Philemon
Hebrews
James
1+2 Peter

1+2+3 John
Jude
Revelation

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an Evangelical Free Church

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Curious about how other families are using this resource? Look for inspiration here.

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JULY–SEPTEMBER 2026

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

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ChristCommunity
an Evangelical Free Church