

# *Weekly Mom's Devotional*

## Week 1: Devotions as a Family

Recently, I have been more diligent in spending time with God daily, and it has felt so refreshing to feel Him closer and speaking to me in new ways! Only a couple of months ago, I was struggling to find the time and energy every day to spend alone with God. Since my free time seems to be after the kids are asleep, I rarely FEEL like staying up later to read and pray. I sometimes even fall asleep towards the end of my devotional time. However, spending even a few minutes a day in the Word has made my relationship with God so much closer and more fulfilling.

I encourage you, if you're not already, to take even five minutes a day to read a few verses or one devotional entry and pray a short prayer, leaving time to hear from God. It may seem hard in the beginning; it may even feel like the time spent won't impact anything. But continue for a few weeks and God will reward you with the feeling of His presence. You may find that these are the moments of the day that you look forward to the most, and even desire to up those 5 minutes to 10, 15, or more. I know it can be hard as a busy mom to find time and freedom for private daily devotions. I also know that feeling of losing closeness with God if you skip too many days of quality time with Him. We need this time with God, as we are called to have faith and live in peace, knowing God is our provider and protector. He will surely take care of us no matter what is going on in the world.

**During this time, the world is full of fear over the coronavirus, and some of us are left isolated at home. We can start to worry about how long we'll be shut away and what to do with our antsy kids who crave stimulation and activity to feed their minds. Lately, I've also been trying to find creative ways to engage my kids in the Bible. I just read an article talking about time with God and how sharing this time with your kids can be so rewarding for both your kids and for you! You can personalize your family's worship and devotion time with engaging and age-appropriate music, Bible readings, and fun activities to coordinate with the topic/story you're reading. My kids and I often read Bible stories and worship together, but this is neither every day nor organized to include activities to tie it all together.**

**While many of us are home from work and school, making a special time daily where we can worship and read a specific devotional topic as a family could be a great way to spend time together, engage your children, and enrich your own spirit! My kids are very young, so I will be using a children's Bible for the story, some higher energy praise songs that we can sing and dance to, and a hands-on and toddler-appropriate craft or game that will coordinate with the story. You can give this time your own family's customized twist! If you have older kids, you can let them contribute to coming up with a related activity. Bible discussions, trivia, or card games/board games could be some good ideas for older kids and teenagers, while something with construction paper, snacks, or active games would be fun for younger children. I know it can be chaotic, challenging, and tiresome to have all the kids home at once, especially when kids get bored and tension gets in the air, but this could be a great way to break up the day. The kids may love the routine engagement as a predictable part of the day spent close with their parents.**

**I encourage you to take advantage of this rare opportunity to have a fun time as a family! I will do the same! God bless you all! I look forward to seeing everyone back at church!**

## **Scriptures & Quotes to Guide Your Devotional Time This Week**

***“We can be tired, weary and emotionally distraught, but after spending time alone with God, we find that He injects into our bodies energy, power and strength.”***

**- Charles Stanley**

***“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”***

**- Isaiah 26:3**

***“Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!”***

**- Psalm 150:1-2**

***“Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.”***

**- Psalm 62:1**

***“You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.”***

**- Psalm 16:11**