

# FAMILY DEVOS

BRINGING GENERATIONS TOGETHER

## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF LIFE IN CHRIST



VOLUME TWO



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BRINGING GENERATIONS TOGETHER

## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF LIFE IN CHRIST

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Hebrews 4:16

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John 4:24

Knowing Him  
Abiding in Him  
Obeying Him

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VOLUME TWO



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# Introduction: Family Devos Vol. 2

By Pastor David McEuen

Welcome to Family Devos: Vol. 2! I hope that you found the first volume helped you fulfill God’s call for you as a family. Remember, God LOVES families and has designed it to be the primary means of discipleship for children and teens from generation to generation. His instruction for Israel still reflects His heart for families today:



<sup>4</sup> “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.* <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, emphasis added)

## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF LIFE IN CHRIST



As we begin the next round of Family Devos, you may get a sense of déjà vu but also notice a few changes. First, you’ll notice that we’re covering the same topics—salvation, prayer, Bible study, community, worship, service, and solitude—as the previous Family Devo book but from a different perspective. Whereas the first devo book Defined these, this devo book

will look at how Jesus Demonstrated or taught about them. Second, you’ll notice that these same practices are covered in a different order than before. This was done in an effort to match them with a spiritual discipline that is closely tied to them that will be covered on Sunday mornings as we continue through our current sermon series.

As with our previous book, each family devo features an opening question or activity, memory verse, Bible passage to read together and discussion questions to be used at your discretion based on the age of your children. The content can be spread throughout the week or completed in one sitting depending on your family schedule. For more information on how to use this devo, check out the instructions on page 7.

As you use this Family Devo, remember to keep these practical instructions from our previous devo book in your mind:



- 1. God has called you.**

When God gave you your first child, He called you—especially fathers—to lead your children spiritually. When God calls you, He provides the means to fulfill this call. Rely on Him.

- 2. Be intentional with your time.**

Joshua told the people of Israel to “...choose *this* day whom you will serve...” You’ll never just get around to it. Pick a time, pick a place and stick to it as best you can. You might even tie family devo time to an already established routine to create the habit. Whether mornings or evenings, the important thing is to be consistent and keep at it.

- 3. Quality over quantity.**

Kids can only pay attention so long. Start small and add time as you continue meeting together. Even 5 minutes together in the Word can reap eternal dividends.

- 4. Give yourself grace.**

If Family Devos aren’t going the way you envisioned they would or should, don’t be discouraged. Remember, God is for you and wants you to succeed in this endeavor; you may just need to change things up a bit. He supplies the grace needed to do this well and the grace needed when it doesn’t go the way you want.

My prayer continues to be that these devos equip you to be able to disciple your children in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Let us continue to remember to, “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, *making the best use of the time*, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16) and daily point our kids to Christ.



# HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

**Essential Elements Defined: Prayer**

**Pr**  
PRAYER  
introduction 4-6

**Getting Started:**

**Option #1:** What are some different ways we can talk to people? How can we talk to God?

**Option #2:** Has there ever been a time you needed help with something? Maybe you needed help fixing your shoes, fixing a broken toy, or working on project at school. What did you do?

**Memory Verse**


"Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

**Introduction:**

Prayer is one of the ways God has given to His followers spend time with Him by talking to Him and asking for His help. Jesus taught His followers how to pray and what He taught them helps us understand some of the in-and-outs of prayer. Let's take a look at what Jesus said.

**Read: Matthew 6:9-13**

The text is not included in this space because we want to encourage you to read this passage from an actual Bible, rather than from this book or a device. We believe that this will provide your family with a firm foundation in God's Word, if your children are old enough. It would be great practice for everyone to turn to the passage while it's being read.



Start Here! You're welcome to choose one of these questions/activities to get everyone ready to go. Or you can use both if you split the study up.

Sometimes the text is only there to help give you instructions or suggestions.

Text that is in *Italics* is meant to be read aloud. It is introducing the main points of the study.

The numbered questions are here to promote discussion with your elementary age kids and up.

These **Bold Points** are for all ages. If you have preschoolers, just focus on these main points.

**Talk about it:**

When we pray, we need to remember who we are praying to. According to what we just read, who do we pray to? What does Jesus call God?

**We pray to God who is our Heavenly Father.**

- How do you picture God when you pray?
- If God is our Father, what does that make us to Him?
- How can seeing God as loving father change the way you pray?

*Did you know that God has a plan for everybody? His plan is always better than our plan and He wants us to choose His way every day.*


**We pray for God's will and plan for our lives.**

- What kinds of things does God want us to do?
- Why do you think God wants us to do these kinds of things?
- God doesn't want His will for us to be a mystery. Read John 6:29-30; Acts 2:38; Ephesians 5:17-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7. What do these verses say about God's will for your life?

**Digging Deeper:**

Jesus mentions a Kingdom coming in this prayer in the Old Testament. God promised He would set up a literal Kingdom on earth one day. Until then, God's Kingdom comes when people trust in Jesus as their Savior and Lord and Jesus becomes King of their lives.

Who do you know that needs know about Jesus? In addition to praying for them, how can you share Jesus with them?



God wants us to depend on Him. He invites us to ask for anything that will help us follow Him. What kinds of things do you ask God for?

**We pray for God's help in everything**

- What do verses 11-13 say we should ask God for?
- What's the difference between a "want" and a "need"? Can we ask for both?
- What is something that you need to ask God's help with this week?

**Pray about it:**

At the end of each Family Bible, spend time taking requests, giving thanks, and asking God's help to live out what you just discussed.

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The **Digging Deeper** questions are for youth age and up but can be used with younger students at your discretion.

**REMEMBER:**

You can do more than one point per day or spread it out throughout the week.

It's your choice!

Do what fits your schedule the best!

When you pray together, write what you're thankful for and what you're asking God to help you with. Later, you can see how God answered your prayers!

# Essential Elements Demonstrated: Worship

Week Eight

## Getting Started:

**Option #1:** In today's story, people waved palm branches and laid them on the ground for Jesus. Create a palm branch out of paper and write out ways you can worship Jesus on it.

**Option #2:** Work together to create a cheer for Jesus.

## Memory Verse

"I will bless the Lord at all times;  
 his praise will always be on my lips."  
 (Psalm 34:1)

## Introduction:

*Worship is the way we say "Thank you" to God by offering our best gift to Him. Whether it's a song or time or money, we can worship God with our life through everything we do. Today we'll see a time in Jesus' life when He was worshipped by a crowd while entering a place called Jerusalem. Let's see why they worshipped Jesus and why we should too.*

## Read: Matthew 21:1-11

## Talk about it:

*The story we just read said that as Jesus entered Jerusalem, people were spreading leaves on the ground and laying their clothes on the road to honor and worship Jesus. Why do you think they wanted to do this for Jesus?*



## The crowd worshiped Jesus because of who He is.

1. What did the crowd shout when they saw Jesus?
2. What do you think “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” means?
3. In light of this, what makes Jesus worthy of your worship?



### Digging Deeper:

Why is it important to recognize who God is when we worship Him?

*Jesus came into Jerusalem in a very special way. The crowd saw what Jesus was doing and they got excited. What is something that Jesus has done that makes you excited?*

## The crowd worshiped Jesus because of what He did.

1. What was Jesus riding when He entered Jerusalem?
2. According to verses 4-5, why was this important?
3. What is something that Jesus has done for you that makes you want to worship Him?



### Digging Deeper:

Why is it important that Jesus fulfilled prophecy?

How can remembering that Jesus keeps His promises change the way you worship Him?

*When the crowd saw Jesus and what He was doing they started cheering for Jesus. They shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” What do you think, “Hosanna” means?*



# Essential Elements Demonstrated: Bible Study

Week Nine

## Getting Started:

- Option #1:** Name some signs you see when you're riding in the car. What are these road signs for?
- Option #2:** BIBLE DRILL! Pick a verse or book of the Bible for your kids to find. Have a competition to see who can find it first. Play as many rounds as you would like but end with the passage for the devo.

## Memory Verse

"This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do ." [Joshua 1:8]

## Introduction:

*The Bible is the inspired Word of God that teaches us about salvation through faith in Jesus and prepares us for every good work. It shows us the way we should go and will help us do what is right if we do what it says. Let's look at how Jesus used the Bible to do what was right when He faced temptation.*

**Read: Matthew 4:1-11**

## Talk about it:

*In this story, Jesus was in the wilderness being tempted by the devil. This means that the devil was trying to get Jesus to sin by disobeying God's Word. Jesus knew this and quoted the Bible to help Him do the right thing. Why was Jesus able to quote the Bible?*



## Jesus knew what the Bible said.

1. How do you get to know what the Bible says?
2. Psalm 119:11 says, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (NLT) What do you think it means to hide God's Word in your heart?
3. Can you quote some Bible verses that you have "hidden in your heart"?



### Digging Deeper:

Look at the answer Jesus gave to the devil in Matthew 4:4.

How does man, "not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God"?

*It's important to know the Bible and hide it in our hearts by memorizing it, but it's also important to do what the Bible says. Let's look at Jesus' example again. In the story we read, did Jesus do what the devil tempted Him to do or what the Bible said?*

## Jesus obeyed what the Bible said.

1. Why do you think Jesus obeyed the Bible? (Read John 14:31)
2. Read Psalm 119:9-11, John 6:68; 14:15. What do these verses say about why you should obey the Bible?
3. What happens if you don't do what the Bible says? What should you do if (and when) that happens?



### Digging Deeper:

Read James 1:22.

What does it mean to be "doers of the word"?

Can we pick which parts to do and not to do? Why or why not?



# Essential Elements Demonstrated: Service

Week Ten

## Getting Started:

- Option #1:** What are some of the chores you do around the house? When is the last time you did your chores without being asked?
- Option #2:** Have everyone balance a book on their head. Try to walk around the house without the book falling off. If a book falls off someone's head, they have to freeze. They can only be unfrozen when someone with a book on their head touches their hand. See how many are left with the book on their head at the end of 2 minutes.

## Memory Verse

“...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” [Matthew 20:26b-28]

## Introduction:

*Jesus said that He came, “...not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” [Matthew 20:28] When we follow Jesus we’re called to be like Him and serve those around us. This means we help take care of others when they have a need without being asked. Let’s take a look at how Jesus served others to see how we should serve one another.*



**Read: Matthew 14:13-14; Mark 6:34**



## Talk about it:

*In the passage we just read, Jesus was trying to take a break with His disciples but some people heard where He was going and followed Him there. Jesus could have been annoyed and sent the people away but he didn't. What did Jesus feel when He saw the crowds?*

### Jesus served others with compassion.

1. What does it mean to be compassionate?



#### Digging Deeper:

How did Mark 6:34 describe the people?

What do you think that means?

If you were to view people in this way, would it cause you to be more compassionate with them?

2. Do you look at people like this?
3. Why do you think it is important to be compassionate when serving all people?

*Now let's look at a time in Jesus' life when He served in a way no one else wanted to serve. Read John 13:3-5. What did Jesus do for His disciples?*

### Jesus served others with humility.

1. What do you think humility is? How did Jesus show humility by washing the disciples' feet?
2. Why is it important to be humble when serving one another?
3. How can you stay humble when serving others?



#### Digging Deeper:

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.”

What do you think this quote means?

Why is it important to make this distinction?



# Essential Elements Demonstrated: Prayer

Week Eleven

1

**Pr**  
PRAYER  
Hebrews 4:16

## Getting Started:

**Option #1:** Build a tower with Legos, blocks, or whatever you can find. While building, have someone read Psalm 61:1-4 and talk about how God is our strong tower and a place we can run to in times of trouble.

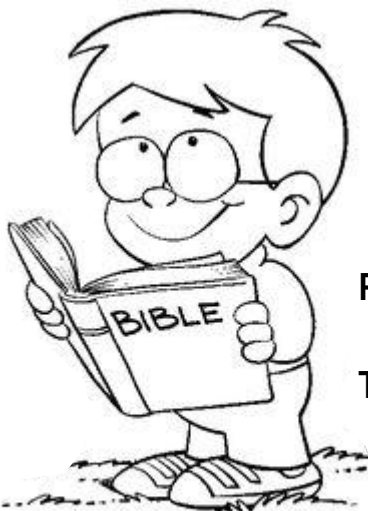
**Option #2:** Think about your day. When did you pray?  
What do you usually pray about the most?

## Memory Verse

“God, hear my cry; pay attention to my prayer.

I call to you from the ends of the earth when my heart is without strength.  
Lead me to a rock that is high above me, for you have been a refuge for me,  
a strong tower in the face of the enemy .” (Psalm 61:1-3)

## Introduction:



*Jesus taught His disciples that when we pray, we pray to God who is our Heavenly Father, we pray for God's will and plan for our lives, and we pray for God's help in everything. Jesus prayed like this when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Let's take a look at Jesus' example and learn some more about prayer.*

**Read: Mark 14:32-37**

**Talk about it:**

*Jesus was facing the hardest time in His life and knew that He needed to pray. Where did Jesus go to pray? What did He do when He made it to the Garden?*

## Jesus went to be alone to pray.

1. Why do you think Jesus wanted to be alone to pray?
2. Is it easier to pray when it's loud or when it's quiet?
3. What can you do to help keep your focus on God when you pray?

*We should be respectful when we pray to God but He doesn't want us to hide our feelings. God likes it when we are open and honest with Him when we pray. What was Jesus praying about in the Garden?*



### **Digging Deeper:**

Read Matthew 6:5-6.

Where did Jesus say we should go when we pray?

Why did He say this?

Does this mean we shouldn't pray in front of others?

## Jesus was honest when He prayed and didn't hide anything from God the Father.



### **Digging Deeper:**

Read Matthew 6:7-8.

Jesus said that the Father knows what we need before we pray to Him.

If this is true, why do you think God wants us to pray ?

1. What did Jesus ask for when He prayed?
2. Why was Jesus making this request? How did these verses say Jesus felt?
3. What is the first thing that you do when you're overwhelmed? Do you pray for help? Why or why not?

*God can do anything but sometimes He doesn't answer our prayers in the way that we want because He knows what is best for us. How do you feel when you don't get what you want?*



# Essential Elements Demonstrated: Solitude

Week Twelve

## Getting Started:

**Option #1:** Play a few rounds of Simon says.

**Option #2:** Play the quiet game. See if your family can stay quiet for at least 3 minutes.

## Memory Verse

“Rest in God alone, my soul, for my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will not be shaken.” [Psalm 62:5-6]

## Introduction:

*It's important for Jesus' followers to take time each day to put away distractions and quietly meet with Jesus. Jesus wants us to draw close to Him and hear what He has to say but we must be willing to be still and listen. This week, let's look at a story of two sisters who had an opportunity to listen and learn from Jesus and see what they did.*

## Read: Luke 10:38-41

## Talk about it:

*In the story we read, a woman named Martha invited Jesus to come and stay with her family while He was traveling. How exciting! Jesus had come to visit! This was the perfect time to visit with Jesus and hear His teaching but the Bible said that Martha was doing something else. What did Martha do instead of listening to Jesus?*



## Martha was distracted—she was too busy.

1. How did Martha feel trying to do her “many tasks” by herself?
2. How do you feel when you try to do too many things at once?
3. How can busyness affect your relationship with Jesus?

*Martha let all she had to do keep her from taking time to meet with Jesus and she became overwhelmed. We can feel the same way when life gets too busy. To avoid this, we should learn to be like Mary. What did Mary do when Jesus came to visit?*



### Digging Deeper:

When our lives begin to get busy, we're tempted to neglect our spiritual lives because we have other things that “need to get done.”

Why do you think that is?

How can you learn to balance the things that need to get done and your need to meet with Jesus and trust God to work everything out?

## Mary stopped to listen to Jesus.

1. What do you think Mary had to do to stop and listen to Jesus?
2. What do you have to do in order to stop and listen to Jesus?
3. Why do you think it is so hard to be still and listen?



### Digging Deeper:

Is there anything in your life that is more difficult for you to put down in order to spend time alone with Jesus?

If so, ask God to help you reorient your priorities to make Him first in your life.

*Martha started to be annoyed that Mary wasn't helping her. She asked Jesus to tell her sister to help her but Jesus told her only one thing was important in that moment. What was that one thing?*





# Essential Elements Demonstrated: Community

Week Thirteen

## Getting Started:

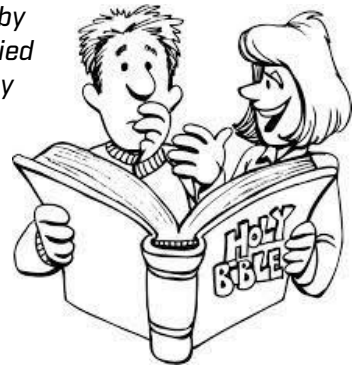
- Option #1:** Name someone that you admire and want to be like and talk about why you want to be like this person.
- Option #2:** Think about some of your favorite teachers at school or at Temple. How do they show you that they love you?

## Memory Verse

“I give you a new command: Love one another.  
 Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.”  
 [John 13:34]

## Introduction:

*The first church in the book of Acts shows us what real community is like. They show us what being part of a church should be like and the kind of people we should want to be and hang out with. They all shared the same faith in Jesus Christ, cared for one another by selflessly sharing their lives, and all shared the same purpose by wanting to do whatever God called them to do. Before Jesus died on the cross, He gave His followers a command to help us enjoy this kind of community. Let's take a look.*



## Read: John 13:34-35

## Talk about it:

*In the passage we just read, Jesus is speaking in the middle of a meal that he was having with His disciples. He knew that He would die on the cross the next day and so He had some important things that He wanted to say to them. What was the new commandment that Jesus gave to His disciples?*

## Jesus commands us to love one another.

1. Why do you think Jesus wants His disciples to love one another?
2. Do we get to pick and choose who we love? Why or why not?
3. How do you show someone that you love them?

*When Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another, He said they should love like someone they knew. Who did Jesus say the disciples should love like when they love one another?*



### **Digging Deeper:**

Jesus said that the way we interact with one another has an effect on our worship (Matthew 5:23-24).

Is there someone that has offended you that you need to forgive?

Is there someone that you have offended that you need to seek forgiveness from?

## Jesus commands us to love like He has loved us.

1. How has Jesus shown His love for you? (Read Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9)
2. How would you describe Jesus' love for you?
3. How can you show this same kind of love to those around you?



### **Digging Deeper:**

Is showing love to one another the same thing as agreeing with them?

Why or why not?

How do you make the distinction?

*Jesus commands us to love one another as He has loved us. In fact, Jesus said that His followers should be known for the way they love one another. Is there something that people know you for? What is it?*



# Salvation Demonstrated

Week Fourteen

## Getting Started:

**Option #1:** Use what you can find around the house—LEGOs, blocks, toothpicks—to build a bridge. Talk about how Jesus bridges the gap that sin makes between mankind and God.

**Option #2:** Sing “Jesus Loves the Little Children” together.

## Memory Verse

*“For, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* (Romans 10:13)

## Introduction:

*Jesus loves us and came to save us. He knows that everyone is a sinner and separated from Him and so He came to take the punishment for your sin by dying on the cross so that you could be saved by believing in Him and making Him the Lord or boss of your life. Everyone who believes in Him can be saved. Let’s look at a time when Jesus showed His love to a group of children and see what this shows us about salvation.*



**Read: Luke 18:15-17**

## Talk about it:

*In the story we just read, a group of people were trying to bring their children to see Jesus. The disciples tried to stop them because they thought the children would bother Jesus, but Jesus wasn’t bothered by them. What did Jesus do for the children instead of sending them away?*

## Jesus invites you to come to Him through salvation.

1. Why do you think Jesus invited the children to come to Him?  
Why does He invite you?



### Digging Deeper:

If someone were to ask you why they needed to be saved, what would you tell them ?

2. Read Isaiah 59:2. What does this verse say separates you from God?
3. Read Romans 5:8 & 1 Peter 3:18. What did these verses say Jesus did to save you?  
[Consider walking your children through the Roman Road of Salvation: Romans 3:23, 3:10, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10, 13]

*When Jesus invited the children to come to Him, He said, "...whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Jesus was saying that salvation is a gift that He gives to you. What should you do when you want something that someone else has?*

## Salvation is given to those who ask.

1. How do you ask for salvation?
2. Why do you think we have to ask for salvation?
3. What does the Bible say happens when we ask for Jesus to save us?  
[Read Romans 10:13] Why is this important?

*Jesus' disciples thought they were helping Jesus by keeping Him from being bothered, but Jesus stopped them from turning people away. Why do you think Jesus He did this? [Read 1 Timothy 2:4]*



### Digging Deeper:

What do you think Jesus means when He said that the kingdom of God must be received "like a little child"?

Why is it good for us to do this?

How should you depend on God "like a little child"?







**DAVID MCEUEN**  
PASTOR OF WORSHIP AND FAMILY

God loves the family and has designed it to be the primary means of discipleship for children and teens from generation to generation. These devos are our gift to you to help you do just that. My hope is that as our church walks through the Essential Elements of Life in Christ, these Family Devos will help you and your family grow in Christ TOGETHER.

Though our current sermon series covers 14 spiritual disciplines that assist in spiritual growth, our family devos will only focus on the first six. This booklet will Define these six disciplines for you and a second booklet will follow midway through our series that will look at how these disciplines are Demonstrated in the Scriptures.

Our prayer is that these devos will help you create a habit of worshipping together as a family and will help you “Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” [Proverbs 22:6, NLT]