

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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## Big Picture

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### WEEK 1

WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE, REMEMBER THE IMPACT YOU HAVE ON YOUR FAMILY.

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“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

**GALATIANS 5:22 NIV**

#### DAY 1

Have you ever felt frustrated with some of your family members? Maybe you wish that your siblings wouldn't fight so much. Or maybe you struggle to get along with your parents. Maybe you just feel like nobody in your family understands you! The good news is that you never have to face those frustrations in your life alone. God is with you, and because of that, you can call on Him to help you choose the right response when you are frustrated. He's always working in you to help you choose things like joy, peace, kindness, self-control, and more. Today, remind yourself of the good qualities God brings out in all of us. Remember that even when it's difficult, God can bring those qualities out in you, too!

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

**EPHESIANS 4:32 NIV**

#### DAY 2

We all know what it feels like to be hurt by someone. We've all been lied to, had hurtful things done to us, seen promises broken—the list goes on and on. But if that's true, then we also have to admit that in the same way that others have hurt us, we have hurt others. None of us are perfect, and that's what makes the forgiveness God offers us all so important. That forgiveness is the bigger picture. It's what we can offer others because God has already given it to us. Are you struggling to forgive someone who's hurt you? Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you see the bigger picture of His forgiveness.

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“And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands. As you have heard from the beginning, His command is that you walk in love.”

2 JOHN 1:6 NIV

### DAY 3

We all have people in our lives who give us advice. And sometimes, that advice feels like it's meant to keep us from having any kind of fun or freedom at all. But when we step back and see the bigger picture, we realize that it's really there to help us choose what's best for our lives. The same is true when it comes to our faith. God loves us and wants what is best for us. That's why He left us the Bible—His Word filled with stories, wisdom, and advice to help us pursue the best possible big picture for our lives. This week, take some time to read and memorize some of God's Word in the Bible as a reminder of the good He wants for you.

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“And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

MATTHEW 22:39 NIV

### DAY 4

Has someone ever left a positive impact on your day simply by showing you some love? Maybe a parent made you your favorite meal after a bad day, or a sibling took you out for ice cream, or your best friend came over to hang out because they knew you were struggling. Those small acts of love go a long way to let you know that you're cared about, don't they? In the same way that others have shown you love, you can leave a positive impact on the people around you by showing love to them. Talk to your Small Group Leader this week about a few simple things you can do to show love to the people in your life.

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“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.”

EPHESIANS 6:7 NIV

### DAY 5

Paul's command in this verse—to serve all people with everything we have—sounds kind of difficult, doesn't it? Sure, it's easy to give our time, energy, and attention to help those who love us well. But what about the people who have hurt us, wronged us, or made our lives more difficult? Well, serving them isn't as simple. But here, God calls us to keep our eyes on the bigger picture—to keep our eyes on Him. Serving other people (even the people we don't like!) becomes easier when we make God the center of our focus. Who in your life do you find it most difficult to serve? Choose to serve that person this week, asking God to remind you that you're serving Him when you serve them.

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