

# faith & family

## Life Source

### Family Devotions

Hopefully your preteen is beginning to develop a habit of personal devotions. But there are still plenty of times when your input is needed—and valued. Encourage your child to read the daily Scriptures. Read the verses yourself. Use the questions to help your preteen understand the verses and apply them to life. Discover and learn from God's Word—together!

- **SUNDAY**— Read Genesis 5:1, 2.  
In whose image were people created? What do you think it means to be created in God's image?
- **MONDAY**— Read Genesis 5:3-5.  
What did Adam name his first son? How many years did Adam live? How many of your grandfathers and great-grandfathers have you met?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Exodus 2:1-8.  
What actions show that Moses' birth mother loved him? Why do you think a mother loves her children so much?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 2:18, 19, 21.  
Who raised Samuel? What did Hannah do for Samuel every year? How do your parents provide for your daily needs?
- **THURSDAY**— Read Esther 2:7.  
Who took care of Esther when her parents died? How were they related? If you live with someone other than your birth parents, what can you do to show appreciation to that person?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Acts 6:1-7.  
Who was being overlooked in the daily distribution of food? Who was selected to help these people?

What does our church congregation do to help people who are in need?

- **SATURDAY**—Read Colossians 3:12-14.  
What does it mean to "clothe" ourselves with compassion, kindness, and the other attributes mentioned in verse 12? When it comes to forgiving others, whose example should we follow? What is the most important virtue mentioned in these verses?

## POWER SURGE

Find these verses in the Bible.  
Together, memorize the verses.  
**Colossians 3:12-14**

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Exodus 20:12.

Whom should you honor? What reason is given for doing this? What are some ways you can honor your mother and father?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Proverbs 1:8.

When have you listened to your father's instructions? What are some teachings your mother has shared with you? Why do you think your parents share their wisdom with you?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Ephesians 6:1-3.

Which of the 10 Commandments do these verses repeat? What do you think the world would be like if children everywhere disobeyed their parents?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read Acts 5:25-30.

Who were the apostles disobeying by preaching about Jesus? What did Peter mean by his reply in verse 29? Are there times when a child might need to disobey his parents in order to obey God?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Proverbs 22:6.

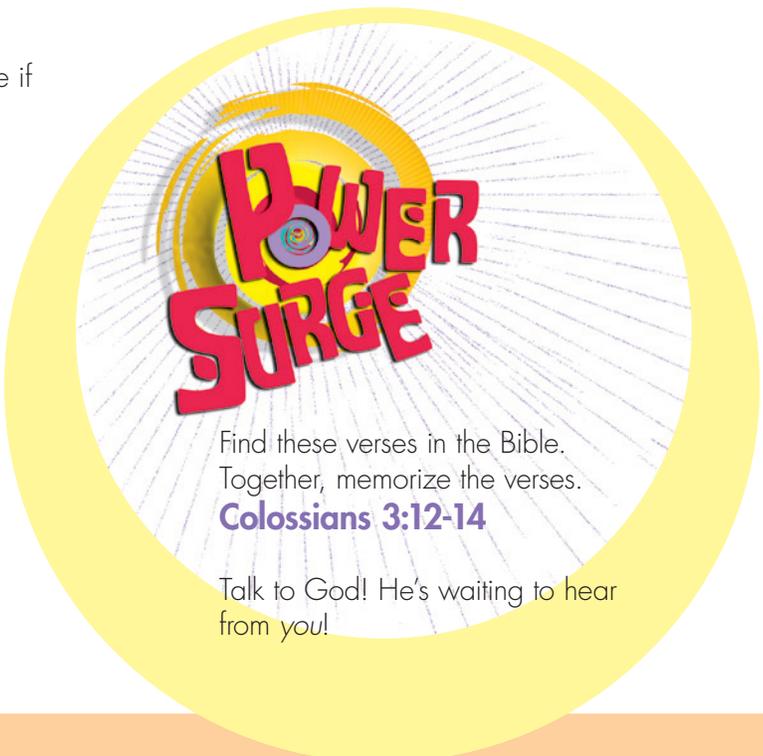
What does this verse say that parents are to do? What will be the result? How do your parents or guardians raise you to obey God?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Proverbs 3:11, 12.

Do you get angry with your parents when they discipline you? Why does God discipline His children? Why do parents discipline their children?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Proverbs 13:24.

What does the phrase "spares the rod" mean? Why is proper discipline important for children?



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- **SUNDAY**—Read Genesis 12:1-9.  
What did God ask Abram to do? Has your family ever had to move suddenly? How did you feel?
- **MONDAY**—Read Psalm 139:7-12.  
How does it make you feel to know that God is always with you? Are there times when you feel lonely? How could this psalm help you during those times?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Psalm 4:8.  
Have you ever lost sleep because you were worrying about something? How can you work on trusting God to help you through your problems?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Psalm 20.  
Which verses in this psalm talk about God helping His children? What are some things people today trust in instead of God?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Psalm 46:1.  
Have you ever been in danger or faced an uncertain future? How did God help you through that time?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Proverbs 3:5, 6.  
On whose understanding should we not lean? When we acknowledge God in all our ways, what will He do?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Isaiah 41:13; 43:5.  
What kind of things frightened you when you were younger? What things frighten you now? How can these verses help you when you are worried or afraid?

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Genesis 37:3, 4.  
What gift did Israel (Jacob) give to Joseph? How did Joseph's brothers react? How do you think you would have reacted if you were one of Joseph's brothers?
- **MONDAY**—Read Genesis 37:17b-20, 23, 24, 28.  
How serious was the jealousy of Joseph's brothers? Have you ever felt as though you hated one of your siblings? How can God help you when you are feeling jealous?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Genesis 42:6, 8.  
How did God bless Joseph's life despite his brothers' deeds? What would you do if you had the opportunity to get back at your brother or sister for something he or she had done to you? What would God want you to do?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Genesis 45:3-5, 15.  
How did Joseph's brothers feel when Joseph told them who he was? Why do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Psalm 133:1.  
What kinds of things cause you and your brother or sister to fight? What can you do to get along better with your siblings?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Matthew 18:21, 22.  
What do you think Jesus meant in verse 22? Are there things for which you still need to forgive your brothers or sisters?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Genesis 4:8-12.  
How angry was Cain at Abel? What can you do when you need to control your anger against a brother or sister?

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Romans 15:5, 6.  
What is a “spirit of unity”? What are some things you can do with your friends to worship God together?
- **MONDAY**—Read 1 Chronicles 22:6, 7, 11.  
What did David instruct Solomon to do? If you had been alive during Solomon’s time, how would you have wanted to help with this project?
- **TUESDAY**—Read 1 Chronicles 22:14-19.  
How did God’s people work together to build the temple? What would have happened if they had not worked together?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read 2 Chronicles 2:1, 2.  
Can you think of a time when you tried to complete a project by yourself but needed help? Why is a leader usually needed for a large project? When serving God, are you more of a leader or a helper?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Ecclesiastes 4:9.  
When was a time that you worked in a group to complete a project? What does this verse mean when it says that two people can have “a good return for their work”?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Ecclesiastes 4:10.  
When and how have your friends helped you? Who are some friends you have helped?
- **SATURDAY**—Read John 17:20-25.  
How are God and Jesus one? Why do you think Jesus prayed to God for believers to work together?

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**Romans 12:4-6a**

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Ephesians 4:2-6.  
What does it mean to be “completely humble”? How can you depend on God when someone in your circle of friends gets on your nerves?
- **MONDAY**—Read Ephesians 4:25-29.  
Can you name the actions listed in these verses that can help you keep unity with other people? Which of these do you need to improve on the most?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Ephesians 4:32.  
What are some ways you can be kind to others? Who has already forgiven you?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Philippians 4:8.  
Do you ever think about unwholesome things? God knows your every thought. How does this make you feel?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Philippians 4:9.  
What does Paul ask fellow believers to put into practice? Who are some people in your life who work well in a team situation? How can you follow their example?
- **FRIDAY**—Read James 1:19, 20.  
Have you ever been quick to anger? How do anger and harsh words break up groups of friends?
- **SATURDAY**—Read John 15:20.  
Who is speaking here? What is Jesus trying to explain to His followers? Have you ever been made fun of because you believe in God? How do you trust God in these situations?

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Mark 6:6, 7.  
What had Jesus been doing in the villages?  
What authority did Jesus give the 12 disciples?  
How does Jesus help you before you go tell someone about Him?
- **MONDAY**—Read Mark 6:8, 9.  
If you were to travel to a mission field, what would you take? What nonessential items might you leave behind?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Mark 6:10, 11.  
What were Jesus' disciples to do if the people did not listen to them? Have you ever had someone refuse to listen when you talked about Jesus?  
What did you do?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Mark 6:12, 13.  
What did the apostles do for the people? What can you do for people as you share with them about Jesus?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Mark 6:30.  
What did the disciples do when they returned from preaching about Jesus? Are you excited about what you have done for Jesus this week?  
Whom will you tell?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Philippians 2:1, 2.  
What does Paul ask the believers to do in verse 2?  
What does "being one in spirit and purpose" mean?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Philippians 2:3, 4.  
How hard is it for you to put others first? When were some times in the past week when you put yourself first? In the future, how can you value others above yourself?

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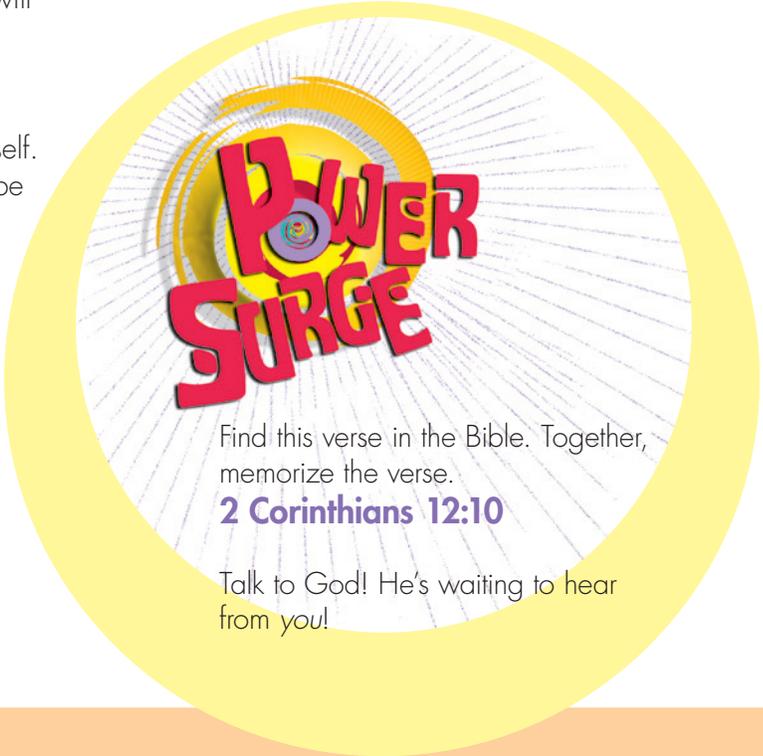
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- **SUNDAY**—Read Acts 4:1-4.  
Have you ever felt as if God was not using you? Although Peter and John were imprisoned, how did God continue to use them to spread His Word?
- **MONDAY**—Read Acts 4:7-13.  
Do people look at you as “ordinary,” as they did Peter and John? What extraordinary things can you do because of your time spent with Jesus?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Isaiah 52:7.  
What does it take to have “beautiful feet”? What will you do this week to make your feet beautiful?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Acts 3:11-16.  
Notice how Peter refused to take the glory for himself. Instead, he gave credit to God. When might you be able to tell about God's greatness so that others will know it is God working in you?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Jeremiah 1:4, 5.  
How long has God been planning to use you? How does it feel to know that God has special plans for your life?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Jeremiah 1:6-8.  
How did Jeremiah react to God's news? Have you ever used Jeremiah's excuse? Why does God say this excuse is unacceptable?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Jeremiah 1:9, 10.  
How can God's words be put into your mouth? Plan this week to talk to someone about what you read in God's Word.



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Find this verse in the Bible. Together, memorize the verse.

**2 Corinthians 12:10**

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- **SUNDAY**—Read Luke 22:47-49; John 18:10, 11.  
What imperfect trait of Peter is shown in these passages? What characteristic do you have that is less than perfect?
- **MONDAY**—Read Acts 2:14, 22-24, 36.  
How does this side of Peter seem different than the passages in Luke 22 and John 18? How is it the same? How can God use you for His glory despite your imperfections?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Acts 2:37-41.  
How effective were Peter's words? How effective could you be if you let God work through you?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Romans 7:14, 15.  
What is Paul's struggle in this passage? When are some times that you can relate to Paul's problem?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Psalm 119:96-98, 102, 103.  
According to these verses, what is the only perfect thing that exists? Why did God give us His commands?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Matthew 5:48.  
Do you ever feel less than perfect? Even though you are not perfect, why is it important to strive for holiness in your life?
- **SATURDAY**—Read Philippians 2:3-11.  
Do you relate with any of the things that verses 3 and 4 say not to do? Plan this week to imitate Jesus' perfect attitude.

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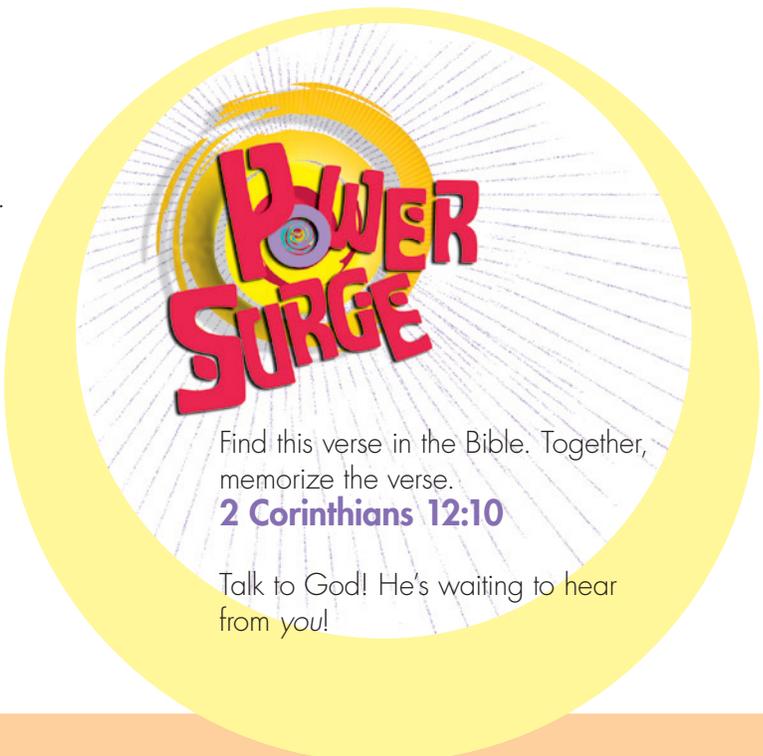
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- **SUNDAY**—Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9.  
Have you ever pleaded to God to take away a hardship in your life? How did you learn to rely upon God's grace in the situation?
- **MONDAY**—Read Exodus 4:10-12.  
Moses felt that his lack of eloquence would hinder him from serving God. What do you let hinder you from serving God? Are you willing to let God help and teach you so you can serve Him?
- **TUESDAY**—Read 1 Timothy 4:7-12.  
How might being young be seen as a weakness? What does God say about being young?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Joshua 1:1-9.  
Think of a time when you felt less than courageous. Was it due to a weakness of yours? How does God say you can succeed despite your weaknesses? What promise did God give in Joshua 1:9?
- **THURSDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 16:7-13.  
If you were searching for someone to help you carry out an important job, what qualities would you look for? According to this passage, what does God look at when He chooses His workers?
- **FRIDAY**—Read 2 Corinthians 12:10.

Does this verse sound like the standard attitude of yourself and the people around you? Why is it hard to accept that God uses us when we are weak?

- **SATURDAY**—Read Colossians 3:23, 24.  
When it comes to serving, why do our weaknesses matter very little? What should be our purpose for serving others?



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- **SUNDAY**—Read Acts 18:1-4.  
Why did Paul stay with Aquila and Priscilla? Who has God placed in your life to whom you can show hospitality?
- **MONDAY**—Read Acts 18:18, 19.  
Have you ever gone to a new place with a friend? How did it help to have a friend with you?
- **TUESDAY**—Read Acts 18:24-26.  
What act of friendship did Aquila and Priscilla show to Apollos? Think of a friend who needs to understand God's ways better. How will you help that friend this week?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read Acts 18:27, 28.  
What were the results of Priscilla's and Aquila's help to Apollos? How can you encourage your friends to follow God?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Romans 16:3, 4.  
Are there members of your congregation for whom you are grateful? What can you do to show friendship to members of your church family?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Luke 14:12-14.  
Is it harder to be nice to your friends or to people you don't know or like? Why should you give to people you don't know or who can't pay you back?
- **SATURDAY**—Read John 15:12-17.  
What has God commanded His followers to do? (Read verse 17 again.) Jesus has called you His friend. How does knowing this fact help you to be a friend to others?

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**Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10**

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- **SUNDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4.  
Do you have a friend with whom you are “one in spirit”? Have you ever made a pact or covenant with a friend, as did Jonathan and David?
- **MONDAY**—Read Proverbs 27:5, 6.  
Have you ever “wounded” a friend out of love? Why might you intentionally do or say something that will hurt a person you love? How might this hurt actually help the person?
- **TUESDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 20:1-3.  
Why was David's news difficult for Jonathan to accept? Have you ever had to give difficult news to a friend?
- **WEDNESDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 20:4.  
Why are Jonathan's words in this verse so important? Jonathan knew he could trust David. Can you trust your friends? What are you willing to do for your friends?
- **THURSDAY**—Read Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10.  
How has a friend helped you this week? How can you return the favor to this friend? How can you help a friend who has never helped you?
- **FRIDAY**—Read Proverbs 17:17.

When was a time that a friend helped you even though it was not convenient for him? What did your friend do? When can you show love to a friend?

- **SATURDAY**—Read 1 Samuel 20:41, 42.  
Have you ever had to say good-bye to a good friend? As Christians, why can we say, “Go in peace”?

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○ **SUNDAY**—Read Mark 14:27-31, 66-72.

Do you have a friend who has trouble keeping promises? How do you think Jesus felt when Peter made the promise, "I will never disown you"?

○ **MONDAY**—Read Psalm 55:12-15.

Why is it harder when a friend, rather than an enemy, hurts you? Have you ever hurt a close friend? Did you ask for forgiveness?

○ **TUESDAY**—Read Psalm 55:20, 21.

Have you ever had a friend who was two-faced? How can you be true to your friends?

○ **WEDNESDAY**—Read John 18:25-27.

Have you ever denied knowing Jesus, as Peter did? Besides acknowledging Jesus with your words, how can you acknowledge Him with your actions?

○ **THURSDAY**—Read Psalm 51:9-17.

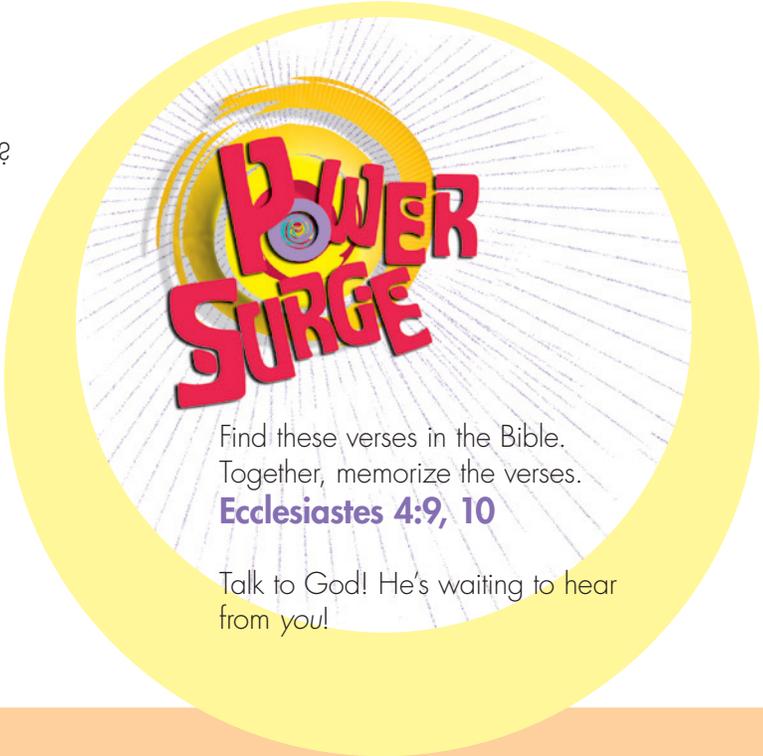
David wrote this psalm after being convicted of sin in his life. Why should we ask God for a "pure heart" and a "steadfast spirit" when we have done something wrong?

○ **FRIDAY**—Read Psalm 103:8-12.

Have you ever wanted to get revenge on someone who sinned against you? According to this passage, how does God treat us in regard to our sins?

○ **SATURDAY**—Read Romans 3:23; 1 John 2:1, 2.

What has sin done to the relationship between you and God? What has Jesus done to mend that relationship?



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