

FAMILY TOGETHERNESS WEEK OF PRAYER | SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2024

GROWING HEARTS OF
WELCOME
UNDERSTANDING DIVERSE FAMILIES



UNDERSTANDING DIVERSE FAMILIES

In cultures around the world there are families with unique challenges that make them different than what may be considered the norm, especially at a time when mass migration for various reasons—war, gang violence, political and religious

repression, lack of opportunities, and poverty—is in process in many parts of our planet today. Also, there are families with members who are experiencing neurodiversity, and a host of other physical, emotional and psycho-social

challenges, in addition to racial, ethnic, nationality and language differences. As Christians, it is essential to approach this reality with love, compassion, and understanding, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ. Two key passages from the Bible, John 13:35 and Matthew 25:40, provide a foundation for embracing and supporting diverse families within our communities.

In John 13:35, Jesus declares, *“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* This verse emphasizes the importance of demonstrating love and acceptance towards others, regardless of what their

family looks like, sounds like, or is challenged by. As followers of Christ, we are called to extend love and support to all families.

To be sure, Matthew 25:40 states, *“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”* This passage highlights the significance of caring for and serving those who may be marginalized or vulnerable in communities where we live and work. By offering support, resources, and understanding to diverse families, we are ultimately serving Christ and fulfilling the great commandment (Matt. 22:39).

To effectively minister to diverse families, it is crucial to approach them with an open mind and a willingness to listen and learn. By setting aside preconceived notions and judgments—even when their practices are not compatible with what we believe to be the truth—we can better appreciate the unique challenges and strengths of each family unit. Through this awareness, we can provide tailored support and guidance, helping families to thrive and grow in their faith.

As Christians, we are called to extend love, compassion, and acceptance to all families, regardless of how different they might be to us. By embracing the teachings of John 13:35 and Matthew 25:40, we can create a welcoming and supportive environment that celebrates the diversity of families within our communities, ultimately

reflecting the love of Christ to the world. Our prayer is that this devotional resource will help lead your family to a place of greater understanding, kindness, empathy, and compassion. That by so doing, you will in essence become the hands, feet, and heart of God to every family in need, and help hasten the coming of Jesus Christ.

Remain encouraged and faithful.



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A note from the Principal Contributor

KAREN HOLFORD



This year, the focus of the week is on *Understanding Diverse Families*. We aim to help our family connect with Jesus and emulate how He approached others, regardless of their circumstances. We will be invited to welcome everyone, opening our minds to see them as Jesus would. By observing how Jesus interacted with the rich and the poor, men and women, children and adults, people with disabilities, and individuals from various cultures, we will learn to keep **Growing Hearts of Welcome**. Jesus' example teaches us to embrace diversity and foster a spirit of love and acceptance.

Karen Holford is the Family, Children's and Women's Ministries Director for the Trans-European Division. She has a professional background in occupational therapy and master's degrees in psychology, Family Therapy and Christian Leadership. She is married to Pastor Bernie Holford, and they live in England. They have three adult children and three grandchildren. She loves to write, walk in English forests, and share God's love.

HOW TO WELCOME
**FAMILY
WORSHIP**
INTO YOUR FAMILY DAILY LIFE?

WHY?

WHY FAMILY WORSHIP?

- It teaches our children and families to worship God
- Places God at the center of our homes
- Bonds our families together
- Protects our children and families
- Establishes spiritual values

WHAT?

WHAT FAMILY WORSHIP IS:

- Interactive
- Shared leadership
- Brief and engaging

WHAT FAMILY WORSHIP IS NOT:

- A lecture, sermon, or coercive activity
- Time for discipline or punishment
- Entertainment

HOW?

Worship is a time when we give adoration and praise to God. With reverence, humility, and gratitude, we make our requests to him. In the Old Testament, animals were sacrificed on the altars. **Today, we need only a sacrifice of time and self.** When we add the word family to worship, we come together to worship God as a family.

Parents especially get an **opportunity to disciple their children and teach them how to worship God.** Together, we take the time to express honor and respect to God and acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior of our lives and our home. This experience bonds us to one another and draws us closer to God.

Every family can decide how their family worship time looks and what tools they will include. It may consist of reading the bible, singing a song, and praying together as a family. But there are many ways to have family worship as many as there are families. Every family is unique, so you can custom build your *family altar* just for your family. **The only thing that remains the same is that we should turn our focus toward God,** the Creator and Sustainer of humankind.

“In every family there should be a fixed time for morning and evening worship. How appropriate it is for parents to gather their children about them before the fast is broken, to thank the heavenly Father for His protection during the night, and...when evening comes, to gather once more before Him and thank Him for the blessings of the day past.”

Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*, p. 520

REMEMBER:

Your family worship may not be perfect, and that's okay. Pray to God and keep doing your best; He is with you.

“There is no reason why [family worship] should not be the most interesting and enjoyable exercise of the home life, and God is dishonored when it is made dry and irksome. Let the seasons of family worship be short and spirited.”

Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*, p. 521

**WITH GODS HELP,
WELCOME CHRIST'S LOVE
INTO YOUR FAMILY**

God created us in His own image, and we are proof of God's love for diversity. Every member of your family is called to reflect Jesus, and the best way to do this is by following His actions. Jesus always welcomed everyone and had words of compassion, encouragement, and understanding for them.

Diversity exists both outside and inside your family, encompassing men and

women, adults and children, those with special needs, and people from different cultural backgrounds. Our actions will demonstrate how we embrace Jesus' love for others.

This week, you and your family are called to WELCOME Christ's love for everyone. Decide to open your hearts and minds, welcoming the diversity that surrounds you. By doing so, you will embody the inclusive and compassionate spirit of Jesus.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

STEPS TO WELCOME UNDERSTANDING

BIBLE VERSE

A Bible verse with a simple, creative activity to help you memorize it and experience it in a practical way

FOUNDATION

DEVOTIONAL

A short devotional story designed for the whole family

CORE MESSAGE

ACTIVITIES

Several simple activities to help you practice the positive emotions in your family life.

REINFORCING

INTRODUCTION

An introduction to the theme of the day and why it is good for us

SETTING THE MOOD

PRAYER

Pray together—where everyone can share their heart's desire.

COMMUNION

IN A HURRY? TRY THE SNAPSHOT! SECTION AT THE END OF EVERY DAY.

SUNDAY

**GOD LOVES
DIVERSITY!**

**MEMORY
VERSE**

**Lord, You have made many things. With Your
wisdom You made them all. Psalm 104:24 ICB**

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INTRODUCTION

THE BLESSING OF DIVERSITY

From the time our world was created by God, we can see that God treasures diversity. He made many more stars, flowers, fruits, fish, animals, grasses, and rocks than we need to survive! The range of different creations, colors, flavors, aromas, shapes, sounds and textures that God created are amazing, and they fill us with wonder and praise and gratitude! God's love of diversity, shown by His extravagant creativity, helps us to understand how much God values our differences. He also created

humans with DNA that splits and reconnects to form a unique embryo, with an infinite number of variations.

When we understand how much God values diversity in everything He has made, we can share His love of diversity. When we grow in love, our differences can bring us closer together, to listen, to understand each other, to value each other's talents, strengths, and gifts, and to support each other through the various challenges in our lives. When we love and respect diversity, then we truly learn how to love others as Jesus loves us.

God's love of diversity, shown by His extravagant creativity.

GOD LOVES DIVERSITY!

God was busy being creative! He enjoyed designing beautiful things and arranging them in beautiful places.

He had just made a new planet, pure blue skies, and a sparkling ocean! Everything was perfect, but empty. Now He was making the flowers. He designed the petals and the leaves, decided how long the stems should be, and worked out the best way for them to make seeds. He smiled as He sprinkled tiny daisies on the grass, shaped bright sunflowers, colored the roses and created exquisite fragrances. He sculpted cacti. He grew gardens of tasty vegetables with different shapes and sizes and colors! Orange carrots, dark green spinach, tasty onions, bright tomatoes, long juicy cucumbers, and purple eggplants. Mmm, delicious!

Read together
the Creation
story: Genesis 1

He filled the world with colors and interesting designs so that we would live in a beautiful place. He created all

kinds of wonderful fruits, vegetables and grains with delicious tastes and textures so that each person could enjoy their favorite things to eat. He made the sky, with different clouds, and its beautiful colors, to welcome us in the morning and to fill us with wonder in the evening.

He filled the air with all kinds of birds, and gave each one of them a different song, so that the world would be filled with their joyful singing. He filled the oceans with beautiful fish and shells and corals, just because He enjoyed making so many different things!

Then God created all kinds of animals. Tall creatures, short creatures, prickly

creatures, furry creatures, slow creatures, and fast creatures. They had different eyes, noses, ears, tails, skins, legs, and feet. They made different places to live, and they ate different foods. Each one of them was completely perfect. As He made

each creation, it needed to work with everything else He had made, so that each plant had a special place to grow, and each animal could find everything it needed to eat. Wow!

That's so much to think about! But God had a big and wonderful plan, and everything fitted together perfectly.

Finally, God created human beings. Man and Woman. Adam and Eve. He only made two people, and they were made in His

Each person would be made in God's image so that they would show other people something about God.

image. They both looked like God because they were His beloved children. God created a special way for them to have babies, so that the world would be filled with all kinds of different people! Each person would be made in God's image so that they would show other people something about God. Each person would look different so that we would recognize each other. Each person would have different skills so that they could help each other. Each person would have different interests and ideas, so that they could learn from each other. And each person would be different so that, as they lived together and loved each other, they would learn about God's kind, loving, patient, peaceful and generous character.

GOD LOVES DIVERSITY!

“Each person would be different so that, as they lived together and loved each other, they would learn about God's kind, loving, patient, peaceful and generous character.”

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

- Write out the memory verse using different colors and/or styles of letters.
- Or cut a variety of printed letters and glue them onto a sheet of paper to spell the verse.

PRAYER ACTIVITIES

WE'RE ALL SPECIAL!

- Thank God for something unique about each family member.
- Thank God for the ways your differences bless each other.

THANK YOU, GOD!

- Use a dice and a bag of letters.
- Throw the dice and pick a letter.
- If you throw 1 and choose A, thank God for an animal beginning with A, such as Anteater, aardvark, antelope, or ape.
- Use this guide for each side of the dice:
 1. animal
 2. bird
 3. flower/tree
 4. fruit/vegetable
 5. water feature
 6. land feature

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

DELICIOUS DIVERSITY!

- Have each person in the family choose a few favorite fruits or vegetables and make a fruit salad, or salad with them. Enjoy all the different flavors, textures, and colors.

LET'S CREATE!

- Gather any craft materials, or natural materials you can find around you.
- Work together, or on your own, to make a flower, animal, or bird out of what you can find. It doesn't have to look like a real one – design a brand-new creature!
- Once you have made it, think about where it will grow or live, and what it will eat, or sound like, etc.
- Talk about what it was like for God to create so many different things! What did He enjoy? What did He have to think about as He made them?

WONDERFULLY MADE!

- We are all wonderfully made!
- Draw pictures of yourselves on separate pieces of paper.
- Around each picture write some of the things that are special and unique about each person.
- Talk about how your differences help your family to be happy, loving, and strong.
- How does each person help the others to understand something about God's love.

PRAISE POSTER

- Draw, or cut from magazines, lots of things that God made! Trees, flowers, fruits, vegetables, animals, insects, birds, and fish, etc! Stick them on a poster.
- Praise God for His creativity at designing so many beautiful colors, shapes, textures, flavors and sounds!

CREATION EXPLORERS

- Explore a small section of your yard, garden, park, beach, or other outdoor place.
- Count how many different natural things you can find in that area.

SUNDAY SNAPSHOT!

THE VERSE

Lord, You have made many things. With Your wisdom You made them all.
Psalm 104:24 ICB

THE INTRODUCTION

When we understand how much God values diversity in everything He has made, we can share His love of diversity.

THE DEVOTIONAL

Each person would be made in God's image so that they would show other people something about God. Each person would look different so that we would recognize each other.

THE PRAYER

Thank God for something unique about each family member.

THE CONVERSATION

What are the differences between each member of your family? How do they help your family be happy, loving, and strong?

MONDAY

A photograph of a doormat on a tiled floor. The doormat is rectangular with a dark border and a light-colored, textured center. The text "JESUS WELCOMES CHILDREN AND ADULTS" is printed in large, bold, black capital letters across the center of the mat. To the left of the mat is a small potted plant with green leaves. Above the mat, a purple circular graphic contains the word "MONDAY" in white capital letters. The floor is made of light-colored square tiles, and a white door frame is visible at the top.

**JESUS WELCOMES
CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

**MEMORY
VERSE**

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” [Matthew 19:14 NKJV](#)

INTRODUCTION
**RESPECTING
ALL AGES**

In Jesus' time the elderly were often treated with respect, and children were often pushed aside, or considered unimportant. Jesus knew that children are very important because the way that we treat them when they are young will shape how they will treat others when they grow up. When older people treat children with love and respect, they will also learn to see God as loving and respectful.

Jesus cared for young and old alike. But

when one group of people was being ignored or hurt, then Jesus focused on showing them special care and attention, to teach His disciples, and us, how to become more like Him.

Jesus blessed children, healed them, and enjoyed their lively worship. He let a young boy help him feed 5000 people. He raised a widow's son and Jairus's daughter from the dead.

When we treat people of all ages with the same love, compassion, and respect, then we are treating people of diverse ages as Jesus treated them.

Jesus focused on showing them special care and attention.

JESUS WELCOMES MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Read together
the story of
Jesus and the
children:
Matthew 19

“Jesus is here!” The news ripples through the town with joyful excitement. Mothers pick up their children and sing on their way to the marketplace. Sarah gathers a handful of wildflowers and David grabs a pomegranate from the table.

As they turn a corner, they see Jesus resting under a tree. Sarah runs towards Him, then suddenly she stops. Men with cross faces are standing in her way. “No. You can’t see Jesus. He’s tired and hungry. Run-away little girl!” Sarah starts to cry. When the mothers and children see the grumpy disciples their singing stops and their smiles fade.

When Jesus sees their sad faces, He is sad too. He looks at His disciples and sighs. It was only a few days ago that He took a child in His arms and taught them that children have a special place in God’s kingdom. And here they are, chasing them all away...

Jesus calls out: “Hey! Please don’t turn the children away! They are so precious that their angels always see the face of My loving Father in heaven. Welcome them! Let them come to Me and see My loving face too!”

Jesus holds out His arms and smiles His biggest smile! “Come here children! There’s room for everyone!” They laugh as they run towards Jesus. He picks up the smallest one, to keep her safe from the crush. She limps. He gently touches her ankle. It will be better now. She smiles and hugs Him, burying her little face in His beard. He tells them about a shepherd who loves his sheep and knows each one by name.

He is a brave and loving shepherd who will even go into the wild darkness of the night to find a frightened lost lamb and bring him home again. Then He calls the children by name, blessing each one in a different way. These are special words that they will never forget. Words that they will treasure in their hearts for a lifetime.

He sees everything you do to care for these precious little ones.

He sees the tired faces of their mothers. He remembers His own mother and He speaks gentle words of encouragement. “Never forget that your Father in heaven loves you. He sees everything you do to care for these precious little ones. And you are precious to Him too. You are doing the most important work on earth.” They smile with joy.

David gives Jesus the pomegranate. The juice splashes as Jesus shares the rosy flesh. But He doesn't mind the stains on His linen robe. The children's joy is far more precious to Him than His clothes.

Sarah gives Jesus her flowers. He smiles and weaves them into a garland for her head, a crown for a princess. Whatever we give to Jesus, He will turn into something even more beautiful.

Love and laughter overflows from Jesus' lap. The disciples watch with wonder as the Son of God plays with the children of earth. And together they learn how to welcome little children, as Jesus welcomes them with love.

JESUS WELCOMES MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

He sees the tired faces of their mothers. He speaks gentle words of encouragement. "Never forget that your Father in heaven loves you. He sees everything you do to care for these precious little ones."

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

- Write the verse around a picture of a child.
- Make up actions to the verse for everyone to do together.

PRAYER ACTIVITIES

BLESSING EACH OTHER

- Jesus took the children in His arms and blessed them.
- Choose a blessing prayer from the Bible and pray it over each other (Numbers 6:24-26, Ephesians 3:14-21, etc.)

PRAYING ACROSS GENERATIONS

- In your family group ask each generation to pray for someone of another generation – parents and grandparents can pray for children and children can pray for parents or grandparents.
- What are the special prayer needs of people at different stages in their lives?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

BLESS ALL AGES

- As a family, choose to bless a child or a family with children, and an older person or couple.
- You could write a prayer for them, make them an encouraging card, give them a gift, or treat, invite them for a meal, or visit with them and take something to make them feel happy and blessed.

TEACHING EACH OTHER

- Teach special skills or games across the generations. Parents can teach children something they enjoyed doing as a child, and the children can teach their parents a game that they like to play.
- Or teach practical skills, hobbies, gardening, or baking.

SWAP ROLES

- Swap roles for an hour where the children pretend to be the parents and the parents pretend to be the children.
- Role play putting the children to bed, or trying to clean the house, or another activity of your choice together.
- What did you learn about the people you were pretending to be for a while? How has this helped you to be kinder and more understanding?

VIDEO INTERVIEW

- Find a willing senior person in your church.
- Record or video the person telling the story of how God has been present in their lives over the years.
- What have they learned about God that they would like younger people to know and understand?

MONDAY SNAPSHOT!

THE VERSE

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14 NKJV

THE INTRODUCTION

When we treat people of all ages with the same love, compassion, and respect, then we are treating people of diverse ages as Jesus treated them.

THE DEVOTIONAL

The disciples watch with wonder as the Son of God plays with the children of earth. And together they learn how to welcome little children, as Jesus welcomes them with love.

THE PRAYER

Thank God for the variety of ages in your family and how this helps you learn from each other’s experiences.

THE CONVERSATION

Ask each family member what the best part of their current age is and what the most challenging part is. Write down everyone’s responses to review and remember.

TUESDAY

JESUS WELCOMES
WOMEN AND MEN

**MEMORY
VERSE**

There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. *Galatians 3:28 NKJV*

God created Adam and Eve in His image, to be equal partners in marriage and in caring for the garden. Sin disrupted God's original design for male and female equality, and distorted God's original design. God even described Himself using maternal metaphors (Isa. 42:14), as a comforting (Isa. 66:13), and nursing mother (Hos. 11:4).

God provided care and miracles for women who were being abused, or who had experienced difficulties or tragedies. When Jesus came to earth, He was very careful to be kind, protective and uplifting of women, to help restore the imbalanced relationship.

INTRODUCTION CREATED FOR EQUALITY

Jesus had male and female followers, and Joanna provided money for his ministry. In the early church men and women worked together to spread the gospel. Men and women, girls, and boys, are given special gifts by the Holy Spirit, and each of us is called to use the gifts we have been given, to bless our families, churches and communities.

Jesus loves everyone, whether they are man or woman, girl, or boy. We are all made in His image, and everyone who loves God can help other people to see something about God through the way that they love other people, regardless of their gender.

Jesus loves everyone, whether they are man or woman, girl, or boy.

JESUS WELCOMES WOMEN AND MEN!

John tells us two stories about a man and a woman who spoke with Jesus. They were very different people! Nicodemus was a rich, educated, Jewish man, who was highly respected in his community. He didn't want anyone to know that he was meeting Jesus, so he came to talk to Jesus secretly, at night, when it was dark. He had big questions and Jesus told him that he needed to be born again and start learning about God as openly and freely as a child. Nicodemus believed in Jesus, but he didn't have the courage to speak out and stand up for him until after he was crucified.

We don't know the woman's name. But Jesus walked many miles out of His way to meet her in the middle of the day by the village well near Sychar in Samaria. She was

Read together the
story of Nicodemus
and the Samaritan
woman: John
chapters 3 & 4

probably a poor woman who had never been to school. She had been married to five husbands, and she wasn't married to the man she was living with. So, the local people gossiped about her and she was sad and lonely.

Most Jewish people didn't want to talk to Samaritans or even be near them! But Jesus simply asked her for a cup of water, to show that He accepted and respected her. Jesus knew everything about her past life, and He didn't criticize her. Jesus was kind and gentle, and He even told her that He was the

Jesus told him that he needed to be born again and start learning about God as openly and freely as a child.

Messiah that she had been looking for and hoping for!

She believed Him immediately, and she ran to the village to tell everyone else to come and meet Him! She wasn't worried about what people thought about her! And she became a wonderful evangelist!

Jesus healed men, women, girls, and boys. He treated each of them with respect and love. He protected the women who felt afraid, and He stopped men from bullying them. He told the woman who poured

perfume over His feet that the beautiful story of her loving and extravagant gift would be told wherever the gospel was shared.

Jesus ministered to men and women. He had 12 disciples, but there were several women who travelled with them and supported Jesus with their money, care, love, and prayers. When Jesus was crucified on the cross, only John had the courage to stay with Jesus, and the rest of the disciples ran away. But there were at least five women who remained with Jesus till He died. And, when He rose again, the first person He spoke to was Mary Magdalene.

JESUS WELCOMES WOMEN AND MEN!

He accepted and respected her. Jesus knew everything about her past life, and He didn't criticize her.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

- Fold paper in a concertina and cut 2 chains of paper dolls shaped like women, and 2 chains shaped like men.
- Cut them apart.
- Lay them out in a row, alternating the shapes.
- Write each word of the verse on a different doll in the chain, until you have completed the verse.
- Shuffle the dolls and arrange the words in the correct order.

PRAYER ACTIVITIES

PRAYER FOR MALES AND FEMALES

- Talk together about the different needs of males and females in your culture at the different stages of their lives.
- Make a list of their special prayer needs as babies, young children, schoolchildren, teens, young people, in their marriages, in their parenting, midlife and retirement/grandparenting.
- Pray for each gender in turn focusing on their different needs.

BLESSING EACH OTHER

- Ask the males in the family to bless the females and then invite the females to bless the males.
- Proverbs 31:10-31 is a powerful poem of blessing for a wife/woman that encompasses many of the different things different women do, from caring for the home, family, and even running their own business.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES

- We all carry gendered stereotypes in our thoughts, without being aware of them.
- Cut 8-10 pictures of different men and women from magazines. Lay them on a table and give each one a different name.
- Make a list of different jobs, interests and hobbies that are common in your culture. Copy one list per person, cut the words apart and give each person a set of words.
- Ask each person to look at the words they have been given, and the pictures on the table, and choose which person is most likely to suit this job, interest, or hobby.
- Invite them to place the words face down next to the person they have chosen, so that none can see the words.
- When everyone has placed all their words on the table, turn them over and discover what each person has chosen.
- Discuss your findings together. Were people more likely to choose a man to be a doctor or a pilot, and woman to be a nurse or a teacher? What about the hobbies? Some men like to paint pictures and some women like to be athletes...What has shaped our ideas about what men and women are supposed to do?
- The Holy Spirit gifts each of God's followers with special skills regardless of their gender.

HEROES AND HEROINES

- Provide paper and coloring/drawing materials.
- Ask each person to choose one male and one female character from the Bible, and to draw their pictures or write each of their names in the center of a separate sheet of paper.
- Pass the pictures around the family and ask each person to write one of the Bible character's spiritual gifts, talents, or character strengths around the edge of the page.
- We can all learn many good things from the brave, wise and loving examples of the heroes and heroines of the Bible.

TUESDAY SNAPSHOT!

THE VERSE

There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:28 NKJV

THE INTRODUCTION

Men and women, girls, and boys, are given special gifts by the Holy Spirit, and each of us is called to use the gifts we have been given, to bless our families, churches and communities.

THE DEVOTIONAL

Jesus healed men, women, girls, and boys. He treated each of them with respect and love. He protected the women who felt afraid, and He stopped men from bullying them.

THE PRAYER

Thank God for His original design of male and female equality. Ask for help to love others regardless of their gender.

THE CONVERSATION

Share ideas with each other on how to provide encouragement and support in everyday life as a male or female, so everyone can feel safe within the family.

WEDNESDAY

**JESUS WELCOMES PEOPLE
FROM EVERY CULTURE**

**MEMORY
VERSE**

Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, then you will be true sons of your Father in heaven. [Matthew 5:44-45](#) ICB

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INTRODUCTION
**LOVING
PEOPLE FROM
DIFFERENT
CULTURES**

One of the greatest evidences of God's love working on our hearts, and changing us to become more like Him, is our ability to be kind and respectful to people from all cultures, and with all kinds of diversity. We can love them as brothers and sisters, whatever they believe and whatever they do. We can help our children to respect and love others by being careful to talk kindly about people of other nationalities, and those who have different lifestyles, traditions, and religions.

The story of the Good Samaritan reminds us that sometimes the most unlikely people will come to our aid, because the love of God has transformed them too, even if they seem to be different from us. It also reminds us that however different we are, in whatever way, we are all citizens of planet earth, beloved children of God, and potential neighbors in the earth made new.

So, use today's lesson and activities to help your children grow more like Jesus by being kind, respectful and inclusive in their interactions with everyone they meet.

**We can help
our children to
respect and love
others.**

JESUS WELCOMES PEOPLE FROM EVERY CULTURE

Read together
the story of the
good Samaritan
that Jesus told:
Luke 10

Jesus wants everyone in the world to know that they are God's beloved children. During His ministry on earth, He didn't have time to travel far. He couldn't make a movie or podcast or preach a sermon online. But He could show God's love by welcoming, loving and helping people from other cultures.

Jesus was sad when anyone was rude to people from other countries, or when they thought they were better than the people who were different to them. Jesus was sad that many Jews hated people from other countries. They hated the Romans who ruled their country. They hated the Egyptians who made them slaves. They hated the Babylonians who invaded and destroyed their country. And they especially hated the Samaritans, who lived close by and even worshipped the same God!

Jesus wanted to challenge their unkind beliefs. He was kind to the Samaritan woman He met by the well, and He healed a Samaritan leper, who came back to thank Him. He wanted to show us how to treat everyone with kindness and respect. So, He told a special story about the kindness of a foreigner to change the way that people thought about those who were different to them (Luke 10:25-37).

Sam was a businessman from Samaria. He travelled with his donkey on long and dangerous journeys. He always packed extra food, water, and bandages, just in case there was an accident or an emergency.

One day, as he travelled down the desert road, he saw

a priest walking very quickly towards him. As soon as he saw Sam, the Samaritan, he shuddered, looked away, and crossed to the other side of the road. Sam sighed. He was used to the rude and unkind way some Jewish people treated him. Then he saw a Levite walking towards him. He was just as rude. Sam sighed again.

Suddenly Sam heard a man groaning. He found a Jewish man lying under a bush by the road. He was bruised and bleeding and very ill. He had been beaten by robbers and they had stolen his clothes and his money. Sam wanted to treat everyone with the kindness and love that he would like someone to show him. He gave him water to drink, cleaned his cuts, and wrapped them in bandages. Sam

Jesus wants everyone in the world to know that they are God's beloved children.

helped him onto the back of his donkey, and together they made the long and difficult trip down the road to Jericho.

Sam could see that the man was too ill to travel anymore, so he took him to an inn with a kind and welcoming innkeeper. Sam promised to pay the innkeeper for looking after the injured man until he was well enough to return home.

Jesus told this story to teach us that everyone is our neighbor. We can show God's loving care and generosity to anyone in need, even if they are from a different culture, and even if they are our enemy, because everyone we meet is a beloved child of God, just like us.

JESUS WELCOMES PEOPLE FROM EVERY CULTURE

Jesus told this story to teach us that everyone is our neighbor, because everyone we meet is a beloved child of God, just like us.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

- Fold a sheet of paper in half.
- Place the fold on the left side and lay your left hand on top of the paper so your little finger is touching the fold.
- Keep your fingers close together, draw around your hand and then cut it out to make a paper hand shape.
- Open it like a greeting card. Write 'Love your enemies' on the left hand and 'Pray for those who hurt you' on the right hand.

PRAYER ACTIVITIES

PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES

- Find a map of the world. Look at the different countries and take it in turns to choose a country and pray for the people in that country. What are their special needs? Pray that Christians will be able to share the love of God with others in that country.
- Draw a large, rough map of the world in the sand, or use chalks to draw it on the sidewalk. Walk slowly and gently over the map, praying for people in different parts of the world. Pray that their hearts will be open to listen to the Holy Spirit and discover God's love.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

RETELL THE STORY

- Choose a way to retell the story of the Good Samaritan for your culture.
- Change his name and the situation to tell the story of a person helping someone who is very different to them, or who might even be their enemy.
- You can act it out, write the story in your own words, make a model of the story, and tell it using toy people, or draw pictures to illustrate it.
- What does this story mean to you? Who might you be able to help? How could you help others safely, even though you are a child? (run and tell an adult to help).
- Who else might need a friend in the story? The Levite, the innkeeper, the priest, the Samaritan, or even the robbers?

WELCOME!

- If possible, invite a family from another culture to share a meal with you.
- Make a traditional dish from your culture and invite them to bring a treat from their culture.
- Ask them about their cultural traditions, crafts and songs and share some of yours so that you have a fun time learning about each other!

BEAUTIFUL CULTURES!

- Explore a different culture to your own. Find books, videos, or other resources to help you.
- Learn some of the special things that they like to eat, some of their traditions and celebrations, and what people wear.
- Make a simple dish from this culture and enjoy eating it together, or purchase food from this culture to try.
- Learn to say “I love you! And Jesus loves you!” in a different language.
- Make a craft from this culture, such as simple paper origami from Japan.

WEDNESDAY SNAPSHOT!

THE VERSE

Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, then you will be true sons of your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:44-45 ICB

THE INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest evidences of God’s love working on our hearts, and changing us to become more like Him, is our ability to be kind and respectful to people from all cultures, and with all kinds of diversity.

THE DEVOTIONAL

We can show God’s loving care and generosity to anyone in need, even if they are from a different culture, and even if they are our enemy, because everyone we meet is a beloved child of God, just like us.

THE PRAYER

Pray that Christians will be able to share the love of God with others in that country.

THE CONVERSATION

Share how living in your country impacts your family’s identity. Discuss ways to make people from different cultures feel safe and welcome with you.

THURSDAY

JESUS WELCOMES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**MEMORY
VERSE**

When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Then you will be blessed, because they cannot pay you back.

Luke 14:13, 14 ICB (The Holy Bible, International Children's Bible® Copyright© 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.)

INTRODUCTION
**WELCOMING
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES**

Have you ever had a disability, even a temporary one, when you broke an arm or your leg? What was that like? What did people do for you that was unhelpful, and what was most helpful?

Being temporarily limited by a disability can help us to have greater compassion and consideration for people who live with the permanent challenge of a disability or long-term illness.

Jesus wants everybody to be welcome and included in His kingdom of love. He doesn't want anyone to be excluded because of their disability, or because they can't see, hear, or move around easily. Teach your children to be inclusive of children who have different disabilities. Find story books about real children with disabilities and challenges to read to your children. These stories can also help them to be more understanding, compassionate and kind, to those who are experiencing physical, sensory, social, and mental challenges.

Teach your children to be inclusive of children who have different disabilities.

JESUS WELCOMES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Read together
the story of the
great banquet
Jesus told:
Luke 14

Jesus told a wonderful story about a big celebration!

A king was planning a wonderful feast! He was so happy and so excited! He sat down with his servants to plan the grand occasion. He thought about the dinner menu. He planned all kinds of dishes so that everyone would have something special that they enjoyed eating. If you were the king, what would you serve at a big party?...Mmm! Yummy!

And then he thought about the dessert menu! What are your favorite desserts and which ones would you serve your special guests?...Mmm! Delicious!

When all the wonderful plans were made for the food, the decorations, and the entertainment, the king sat down with his assistant and wrote out dozens of beautiful invitations.

He folded them into gold envelopes, sealed them with the royal seal and mailed them to the guests.

The day of the banquet arrived, and everything was perfect. The gardens were full of flowers, white swans were gliding on the lake, and the banquet table was sparkling with silver flatware, crystal glasses and gold-rimmed plates. An orchestra was practicing in the hallway and all the servants were smiling and smartly dressed.

A servant arrived with the mail for the king! Lots of letters! The king loved to hear from his people. He loved to help them when they were struggling, and sometimes he received thank you notes from them...But, when he opened them, he was so sad. Each letter was from one of the special guests, explaining why they couldn't come to the feast. A new car, a recent marriage, an overseas holiday...and some very poor

The king loved to hear from his people. He loved to help them when they were struggling.

excuses, too. As he crossed each name off the guest list, he realized that no one was coming to his wonderful banquet. How would you feel if you were ready to have a party and nobody came?

Then the king had a wonderful idea! He would invite all the people who didn't usually come to parties! He sent his smart servants to search all the roads and back streets to find people who were poor, hungry, sad, or lonely. The king asked them to find those who were blind, deaf, or who couldn't walk.

He wanted all the people who were never invited to parties to enjoy his special party!

The servants brought the excited guests to the castle. They showed them the beautiful gardens and they listened to the

lovely music. Then they took them to the banqueting hall and made sure that they were all comfortable and happy. Then the tables were set with fancy dishes and wonderful food for them to eat, and they all sang and laughed together!

Everyone was so happy! But the king was the happiest person of all! Nothing had ever given him greater joy than bringing joy to lonely and hurting people whose needs were usually forgotten. His servants never forgot that day, either, and whenever they met someone who was sad, or poor, or struggling with an illness or a disability, they asked them what they could do to help, so that they could continue to share the king's welcoming love with everyone they met.

Nothing had ever given him greater joy than bringing joy to lonely and hurting people whose needs were usually forgotten.

JESUS WELCOMES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

- Draw your favorite feast on a paper plate or circle and write today's Bible verse around the edge.

PRAYER ACTIVITIES

PRAYING FOR A PERSON WHO LIVES WITH A DISABILITY

- Ask a person with a disability to tell you their prayer requests.
- Pray for them regularly as a family.
- Write or record a prayer for them to listen to or read.

PRAY FOR HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS IN YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

- Pray for doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and other hospital staff who work together to help people to live as well as possible with a disability or long-term illness.
- Write a prayer for them inside a handmade greeting card and thank them for the work they do to help heal, rehabilitate, and support people with all kinds of disabilities.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

THE ONE-HANDED CHALLENGE

- Ask a parent to help you put one of your arms in a fabric sling so that you can't use it. Or put a sock over your hand.
- Try to do some simple tasks with only one hand: eat a meal, get dressed, tidy your room, help with the washing up, do your favorite hobby.
- What did you learn from this experience? What was difficult and what was surprising?
- How would you like people to respond to you, or help you, if you were never able to use one of your hands?

LIVING WITHOUT SIGHT

- Blindfold someone for an hour and be their helper as they do whatever they would usually do in that time.
- You will need to be their eyes by describing things carefully, helping them to move around safely, and helping them to find things and use them carefully.
- What did you learn from this experience? What was difficult and what was surprising?
- How would you like people to respond to you, or help you, if you were never able to see again?

SHARE A FEAST!

- Even though you may not be able to have a great feast like the king in Jesus' parable, why not find a way to invite a person with a disability to your home for a meal, treat them to a meal in their favorite café, or take a meal to eat with them in their home?

HELPING HANDS

- Find a person in your neighborhood or church community who is housebound, or who has difficulties walking, or doing things in their home and garden.
- Offer to help them for an hour or so and ask what you could do to help them.
- Whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability so that the person is truly blessed by your work.
- Could you offer help on a regular basis as your family's mission or kindness project?

THURSDAY SNAPSHOT!

THE VERSE

When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Then you will be blessed, because they cannot pay you back. Luke 14:13, 14 ICB

THE INTRODUCTION

Jesus wants everybody to be welcome and included in His kingdom of love. He doesn't want anyone to be excluded because of their disability, or because they can't see, hear, or move around easily.

THE DEVOTIONAL

God is happiest when we reach everyone. Nothing gives Him greater joy than bringing joy to lonely and hurting people whose needs are often forgotten. We are called to be extensions of His love.

THE PRAYER

Ask the Lord for confidence and trust that it is Him acting through you when you reach out to help people with disabilities.

THE CONVERSATION

Discuss as a family how everyone can train their minds to develop sympathy and empathy for people with disabilities.

FRIDAY

JESUS WELCOMES
RICH AND POOR

**MEMORY
VERSE**

The rich and the poor have this in common, the Lord is the maker of them all. *Proverbs 22:2 NKJV*

Jesus cared about rich people and poor people because everybody needed to learn about God's love. He knew that poor people could feel discouraged and overwhelmed by their struggle to survive, and rich people could depend on

their wealth rather than God. Jesus also knew that there would always be poor people in our communities, because, however much we have, there will be people in greater need.

farmers to leave some grain for poor people to gather. He told a rich young man to sell everything he had and give it to the poor, to test his relationship to his wealth.

Jesus was also concerned that people would show greater respect to wealthy and important people and be disrespectful to those who were poor or seen as less important. Jesus wanted everyone to feel equally loved and respected. He wants us to be generous and share whatever we have with

others, just as He generously made juice for the wedding, fed 5000 people, and generously gave His life in love for every human being.

God's original plan was that wealth would be shared, and richer people would take care of poorer people.

INTRODUCTION
**WELCOMING
RICH AND
POOR**

God's original plan was that wealth would be shared, and richer people would take care of poorer people. He instructed

Read together
the story of the
encounter of
Zacchaeus and
Jesus:
Luke 19

JESUS WELCOMES RICH AND POOR

Jesus loved making friends with people. He especially liked to be friends with people who felt lonely and unloved. He didn't mind if they were rich or poor! They all needed to know that they were loved and special.

One day Jesus went to Jericho. The crowds were following Him through the streets, and everyone wanted to see Him and be near Him. Zacchaeus lived in Jericho. He was very rich, but he didn't have any friends because he was a tax collector, and because he took more money from the people than he was supposed to take.

Zacchaeus was rich, but sad. He thought no one loved him. He wanted to see Jesus because he had heard about His teachings and he wanted to change his life, but it was too hard to do it

on his own. Maybe Jesus would help...He tried to find a place to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over people's heads, and nobody wanted to help him because they thought that he was mean and greedy.

He wanted to help him feel loved and help him to change his life and care for other people.

him, it changed His life and he decided to be kind, generous and honest in his work. He used his money to help poor people instead of hurting them.

Zacchaeus climbed into a tree to see Jesus secretly, but Jesus knew Zacchaeus. He was looking for him. He wanted to help him feel loved and help him to change his life and care for other people. Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus, and smiled at him and told him that He wanted to have dinner with him! Zacchaeus was so happy! He went home and made a big dinner for Jesus and His friends! And when he knew how much Jesus loved

One day Jesus was in the temple. A poor widow came to worship God. She loved God with all her heart, and she was sad that she only had two tiny coins to put in the offering. Lots of rich men came to the temple with bags of gold. Some of them wanted everyone to see how rich and generous they were.

The poor widow was embarrassed that she was so poor. She quickly dropped her two coins in the money box and hurried away. She thought that she was poor and invisible, but Jesus saw her and spoke loudly and

clearly so everyone could hear. “I want to tell you something special! This poor widow has given a bigger offering than anyone else! The rich men gave only a little of their great wealth, but she gave everything she had, and that takes courage and faith.”

The poor widow heard Jesus’ words and she was so happy! Jesus had noticed her tiny offering and made it very special! Many poor people who have heard her story have been encouraged. They know that God sees and understands when they can only give a little. God wants poor people and rich people to feel welcome in His kingdom.

JESUS WELCOMES RICH AND POOR

God sees and understands when we can only give a little. God wants poor people and rich people to feel welcome in His kingdom.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

- Cut out a large paper heart.
- Write the memory verse around the edge of the heart.
- Inside the heart write the names of people you know who are rich and poor and pray for them all.

PRAYER ACTIVITIES

PRAYING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR

- Pray for someone you know who is much poorer than you.
- If possible, ask them what they would like you to pray for them. Do something, however small, to bless them in a helpful way.

SMALL COIN PRAYER

- Pass two tiny coins around the family.
- Whoever is holding the coins will pray for someone who is poor and struggling and pray that God will bless your resources as you use them to help others.

PRAYING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE RICH

- Some rich people have so many things that they don't feel a need to pray or to know God.
- Pray that they will recognize the loneliness and emptiness in their lives and reach out to God.
- Pray for the Christians who are rich, that God will guide them in the wise use of their resources, so that others can be blessed in ways that will improve their lives.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

BLESSING THE POOR

- Think about the people and families you know who are struggling because they don't have enough money.
- Ask the family about their greatest needs, so that you know how to help them in the best possible way.
- Where possible, give them dignity by letting them make their own choices about food and clothing purchases.
- What can you do as a family to bless a poor family? If you don't have enough to spare, perhaps you could take time to help them with a task, or childcare, instead of giving them money, food, or clothes.

FAMILY FOOD PARCEL

- Start a family food parcel so that you have food to share with others when they have a need.
- Each time you shop for food, purchase at least 1 item of long-life food. Choose a variety of food that is good quality and includes some delicious treats.
- Keep them in a sturdy box so that it is easy to give a food parcel when you find someone who is hungry.

BLESSING THE RICH

- We often forget to bless the rich. They need love and prayers too!
- Choose a person in your community who has been a generous blessing to others, or who is serving wisely and kindly as a leader.
- Make and send them a card of appreciation or write a short prayer of blessing and send it to them.

FRIDAY SNAPSHOT!

THE VERSE

The rich and the poor have this in common, the Lord is the maker of them all. Proverbs 22:2 NKJV

THE INTRODUCTION

Jesus wanted everyone to feel equally loved and respected. He wants us to be generous and share whatever we have with others.

THE DEVOTIONAL

We know that God sees and understands when we can only give a little. God wants poor people and rich people to feel welcome in His kingdom.

THE PRAYER

Pray to receive the Holy Spirit's wisdom for the days when resources are scarce, and even more so for when you are blessed with abundance.

THE CONVERSATION

Ask everyone in the family for ideas on how to use the resources God gives you to create a plan to help those in need.

SABBATH

**GROWING
WELCOMING HEARTS!**

**MEMORY
VERSE**

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. *Revelation 3:20 NKJV*

When John wrote his vision of heaven in Revelation 7, he described a vast crowd of people before God's throne. The King of the Universe was welcoming His beloved children from more communities, centuries, and cultures that we can ever imagine.

The Creator who lavished our world with diversity at creation, is delighted by the diversity of human beings who choose to follow His loving way. He doesn't mind the color of their skin, their language, their abilities, their age, their gender, or whether they are rich or poor. He

loves them all the same, whatever they have done or not done. Many of them have never heard of God, Jesus, or the Bible! But they responded to the Holy Spirit, a quiet voice deep in their hearts, that taught them to be kind, loving, and generous towards others.

When we help our children to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and to be kind and loving towards those who think, look, speak, behave, and believe differently to them, then we teach them to have a heart that welcomes everybody to the kingdom of God, just like their Father in heaven.

The Holy Spirit, a quiet voice deep in their hearts, that taught them to be kind, loving, and generous towards others.

INTRODUCTION KNOCK, KNOCK...

GROWING WELCOMING HEARTS

Read together
1 Corinthians 12

Paul was writing a letter to his friends in Rome. He remembered all the different people, and how much they loved Jesus! He sighed because it wasn't always easy for them to get along. How could he help them understand that their differences were blessings?

He thought about his own body. His hand held the pen. His eyes helped him to see the words. His mind thought about what he was writing, and his heart was filled with the love of God for all his friends in Rome.

The Holy Spirit inspired him to write that they were like the parts of a body. They all had different jobs to do, so that everyone was cared for. At the center of their 'body' was a heart filled with God's love, and the mind of their body was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Each person had a unique responsibility to care for the others, just as our noses are different to our legs, but they take care of us in different

ways! Everyone in the church needs to help each other and care for each other.

Paul explained that the Holy Spirit had given each of them at least one gift to bless others and show them God's love. Some of them had strong faith and they could encourage other people. Some were good teachers or preachers, and they could help people to understand more about God's generous love and forgiveness. Some people were gifted to care for others. Some had been blessed with extra resources to share with those in need. And some were good leaders. When everyone used their special gifts generously and cheerfully, everyone in the church was blessed, and they would experience more of God's love together.

When everyone used their special gifts generously and cheerfully, everyone in the church was blessed, and they would experience more of God's love

When other people saw how much they loved each other, they would want to join their loving community too!

Paul wrote simple and helpful instructions about being kind and loving. He encouraged them to respect each other's differences. To comfort each other when they were sad. To celebrate and be happy together. To invite each other to their homes. To be patient. To bless each other. And to live peacefully together (Romans 12).

Paul knew they would experience a little bit of heaven on earth if they chose to live together in harmony, and their church would grow if they welcomed those who were different to themselves.

John, one of Jesus' disciples, had a special vision of heaven. He saw a beautiful picture of a vast gathering of people! They were from every country, tribe, language, and family! They were as different as anyone could ever imagine! They were all dressed in white robes, and they stood before the throne of God, worshipping Him, with joy and love and wonder! (Revelation 7:9)

And God was filled with joy and love! This is the moment He had been waiting for! All His beloved children were together at last! They were all very different, but they were all very welcome! And now they would all live together in peace and love, forever and ever.

GROWING WELCOMING HEARTS

**They were all
very different,
but they were all
very welcome!
And now they
would all live
together in peace
and love, forever
and ever.**

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

- As you learn this memory verse together, stand at a door, knock, be welcomed in and sit down at the table together.

PRAYER ACTIVITIES

GIFTED!

- Read and list spiritual gifts from Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, and 1 Peter 4:10-11 on a gift bag or box for reminders.
- Thank God for these special gifts in His community.
 - Identify which gifts the Holy Spirit has given each of you. Pray for guidance in using these gifts to bless others and reveal God's love.
 - Using our gifts to bless others brings blessings to ourselves as well!

HEAVEN

- Read Revelation 7 and discuss the diverse worship of God depicted there, recognizing you are included in this picture!
- Pray for those who don't know God yet, that they will join in this worship.
- Pray for people different from you, that they will heed the Holy Spirit and come to know Jesus.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in using your spiritual gifts to welcome others and show them God's love.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

MISSING PIECE?

- Find a picture of Jesus or draw one on a sheet of paper.
- Cut the picture into at least 20 pieces and give everyone some of the pieces. Secretly hide one piece.
- Work together to assemble the picture of Jesus.
- How does it feel when one piece is missing? When we don't use our spiritual gifts, something is missing in our family or church.
- How might God feel about each person who is missing from His family? Search for the lost piece of the puzzle and remember how God feels about each of His missing sheep or children.
- When you complete the puzzle, celebrate! And remember that the celebration in heaven when we are all gathered at the throne of God will be millions of times bigger than any celebration we can ever imagine!

IMAGINING THE FAMILY REUNION!

- Read Revelation 7.
- Draw a picture of your family at the huge reunion in heaven.
- What song would you sing to praise God at this moment?
- Choose a hymn you know, or write a new praise song of your own, and sing it to a familiar tune.

EARTH MADE NEW!

- Gather craft materials and boxes.
- Discuss what the new earth might be like: envision a village with diverse people and different kinds of houses, considering needs like shops, playgrounds, roads, churches, gardens, and gathering places.
- Use materials to create a model home for your family in the new earth.
- Imagine living in this amazing place with diverse people forever—it will surpass our imaginations, but we can enjoy sharing ideas together.

SABBATH SNAPSHOT!

THE VERSE

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20 NKJV

THE INTRODUCTION

Teaching children to listen to the Holy Spirit and be kind to those different from them teaches them to welcome everyone to God's kingdom, like their heavenly Father.

THE DEVOTIONAL

Paul wrote simple and helpful instructions about being kind and loving. He encouraged them to respect each other's differences.

THE PRAYER

Identify which gifts the Holy Spirit has given each of you. Pray for guidance in using these gifts to bless others and reveal God's love.

THE CONVERSATION

Write down actionable ideas that your family can follow to cultivate loving hearts. Review this list in a month to assess what works and what needs updating.

KEEP THE HABIT OF
FAMILY WORSHIP
WITH THESE RESOURCES

2021
Living Fruitful Love



2022
Rebuilding the Family Altar



2023
**Keys to Healthy Minds:
Flourishing Families**



DOWNLOAD THEM AT: [FAMILY.ADVENTIST.ORG/FAMILYWORSHIP](https://family.adventist.org/familyworship)

FAMILY TOGETHERNESS WEEK OF PRAYER | SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2024

SUNDAY

GOD LOVES DIVERSITY!

MONDAY

JESUS WELCOMES CHILDREN AND ADULTS

TUESDAY

JESUS WELCOMES WOMEN AND MEN

WEDNESDAY

JESUS WELCOMES PEOPLE FROM EVERY CULTURE

THURSDAY

JESUS WELCOMES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

FRIDAY

JESUS WELCOMES RICH AND POOR

SABBATH

GROWING WELCOMING HEARTS!



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Willie and Elaine Oliver: Editors
Karen Holford: Principal Contributor
Dawn Venn: Senior Editorial Assistant
Daniel Taipe: Design

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Adventist®
Family Ministries

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904, USA
301.680.6175 office
family@gc.adventist.org
family.adventist.org



@Adventist.Family



/AdventistFamilyMinistries

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