

together

GOD'S WORD FROM
MY FAMILY TO YOURS

 FOCUS
ON THE FAMILY.
Australia

MONDAY

The Beginning: A perfect home

verse

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

let's listen

In the beginning, there was nothing. Nothing to see, hear, feel; just absolute nothingness. There was only emptiness and darkness. There was nothing; nothing except for God. God had a wonderful plan to create this perfect home for His children, for us! God wanted to fill the earth with everything that was pleasing to Him. So, God, with His voice, created everything. He spoke and things happened. What a mighty, mighty God we believe. God just spoke and it happened: light was created, animals were created, our world, our universe. God created this world for you and me. God made everything to show how amazing He is!

let's talk

What is your favourite part of creation?

What would your perfect home look like?

How do you love starting your day?

let's discover

GAME

Would you rather:

Beach or Land
Day or Night
Fishing or Bird
Watching
Nature Walks or Ocean swims
Zoo or Aquarium
Snow or Beach

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TUESDAY

CREATION

verse

Then God looked over all he had made,
and he saw that it was very good!

Genesis 1:31

let's listen

Day One God separated the light from the darkness. Day and night were created.

Day Two God made the sky.

Day Three God made the land and the seas. He made hills, mountain and valleys. He made every single plant and tree of all different colours and sizes.

Day Four God made the sun and the moon. He made days come alive, He made the seasons.

Day Five God created the great creatures of sea and the birds of the sky.

Day Six God made the animals and God made us, humans.

At the end of every day God looked and saw that it was good. God was stoked with what He had just created! His power and goodness are shown in His work of creating the world in 6 days.

let's talk

What is one of your most precious creations you have made at school, home or kindergarten?

Why is it so precious to you?

Do you feel proud of your work at school? Why do you think that is?

let's discover

Read the Creation story in your Bible or in a favourite kids' Bible story book.

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WEDNESDAY

God made PEOPLE

verse

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

let's listen

God saved the best creation for last! His last creation was people: YOU.

God created you so you could get to know Him. God wants us to be His friend, to be His mate. He wants us to talk to Him daily and created you to love Him and glorify Him. Glorifying Him in worship and in the way you live your life, how you act both when you are around other people and when you are by yourself. God created you to enjoy Him. God created us in His own image. So, God created us like Him.

He is so, so, so pleased with who He has created in you. He loves you, He wants to take you on an adventure through life and be with you forever.

let's talk

What do you like about yourself?

What is something unique that you can do or a feature that only you have?

Do you have a birthmark?

let's discover

Go around your family and let each person say two things they love about the others.

together

GOD'S WORD FROM
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THURSDAY

Patience and Endurance

verse

On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Genesis 2:2-3

let's listen

We all need one day to re-charge our bodies and our spirit! After five days in school and rushing about to all our after school activities, we need to recharge. After six days of creating this amazing world, God rested. God made one day in the week a Holy Day, a day set aside for Him. This is a day when we can relax and enjoy the world around us. It might be a day where the screens are switched off for the day, or the parents put their phones away! It might mean organising an activity as a family for you to do together. Or you may enjoy some time alone. It is the day where people go to church or meet up with other people who love Jesus. Meeting with others re-energizes us. We feel stronger and happier. God created us and He knows that we all need rest!

let's talk

How do you rest?

How do you know if you need a rest or some time out from everybody?

let's discover

Organise a family day for one day of the weekend!

Each member of the family gets to choose an activity to do!

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FRIDAY

Caring for the WORLD

verse

Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

Genesis 1:28

let's listen

God gave us the beautiful gift of this world around us for us to enjoy and use. Fruit trees to eat, mountains to climb, lakes to fish in, oceans to surf and swim in, trees to climb and make cubbies in. What an absolute treat!

As well as enjoying the world, it is also our job to make sure that we look after it! Just like you would protect and care for your favourite toy.

We look after the world by: recycling, not littering, picking up rubbish if we see it, not wasting food.

Make sure you spend time enjoying the world God made this week!

let's talk

Can you think of any more ways to care for our world?

What is your favourite outdoor activity?

Do you ever stop and feel amazed by what you see in creation?

let's discover

STOP, LOOK & THANK

When you head outside stop and look at the world around you.

Quietly, or loudly, give thanks to God who has given you this world to enjoy.

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MONDAY

Faith: TRUST

verse

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6

let's listen

FAITH. It is a BIG TOPIC.

This week we are going to break it down and try to understand it a little better.

Now, just because you can not see something or someone it doesn't mean it doesn't exist or isn't real.

Faith is trusting something you cannot see.

We can't see Jesus but we have the faith that He is around us and with us all the time.

let's talk

Who do you trust? Why?

Name a family member who is not in your house at the moment.

OK, is this person real? How do you know that?

let's discover

Grab four cups and one stone.

Hide the stone under a cup. Now get someone in your family to guess where the stone is. Take turns at hiding and finding!

Even though we cannot see the stone we know that it is under a cup. This is faith!

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TUESDAY

FAITH: Believe

verse

But these (miracles) are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

John 20:31

let's listen

Jesus showed us through the miracles He did on earth that He was from God.
Jesus:

- made the blind see,
- raised Lazarus from the dead,
- calmed the storm,
- turned water into wine, and
- fed 5000 people with 2 fish and 5 loaves.

These are just a few of the things he did, but there is so much more!

We know about these miracles because the disciples saw Jesus do them and then wrote them down in the book we read called the bible.

The bible helps us to believe and have faith that Jesus is God.

let's talk

What miracles of life do you see when you look around?

let's discover

Write a list of all the miracles of life that you see... and thank God for them! For example:

- Galaxies
- Trees
- Flowers

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WEDNESDAY

FAITH: Listen

verse

“So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.”

Romans 10:17

let's listen

Our faith in Jesus comes from listening and hearing. We listen to people who also have faith in Jesus. If we have questions we can ask others, or we can go to the Bible and look for answers ourselves.

We can pray to Jesus to help us if we are unsure of things. We can go to church where we can hear about Jesus.

We can surround ourselves with people who also love Jesus and be encouraged by each other.

We can listen to worship music and fill our minds with music that is uplifting.

let's talk

Do you enjoy listening to others?

Who do you listen to at school, at home, or in the playground?

Should we listen to everyone's opinions and advice?

let's discover

Just remember, we do not always get good advice from people.

Who would you check with to make sure the advice given to you was ok?

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THURSDAY

FAITH: Everything

verse

By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

Hebrews 11:3

let's listen

God made the whole world. He spoke and the entire universe was formed.

When you look around at the world, the beauty of the world, the oceans, the mountains, the people, the forests, the rivers... God made all this for us to enjoy.

This is a hard concept to get our head and mind around. This is where faith comes in. Faith is believing what you cannot see. We did not see God create the world, but we did hear about it in the Bible and we can also see God's creation now!

let's talk

What is your favourite thing to do outside?

What is your favourite thing that God created?

let's discover

Go outside and look up in the night sky... if it's not too late!

What do you see?

We only see a very little part of what God has made.

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FRIDAY

FAITH: Action

verse

“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?”

James 2:14

let's listen

Our faith in Jesus helps us to help people around us: our friends, family, neighbours and teachers.

If we see someone who needs a friend, or has hurt themselves, is crying or looks like they need some help, we, as people who love Jesus, need to love and help them.

Let's be different! Let's show people that we are kind, caring and thoughtful through our actions and the things that we do.

Let's make a difference in our world with an act of kindness, showing others Jesus.

let's talk

What actions do you do to show your friends you are kind and generous?

let's discover

List some kind actions, things that you can do for your friends this weekend and then go out and DO THEM!

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MONDAY

Fruits of the Spirit

verse

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”

Galatians 5:22

let's listen

The Fruit of the Spirit are characteristics of Jesus that God wants us to have.

Imagine a tree that is planted by a river. The river gives lots and lots of water to this tree, so it never dries out. This tree will grow big and strong. When it is big and strong it will grow fruit. Everybody enjoys the fruit.

The tree is you and me and the river is God's love and His Spirit in us. The more we realise God's great love for us, the more we learn about him from the Bible or from our friends, teachers or parents, the more we include him in our everyday activities. The more these characteristics, the fruit, will grow in us.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control will be seen in us!

How good is that!

let's talk

Do you like fruit?

What is your favourite fruit?

Would you eat fruit that was rotten?

How does fruit go off?

What care needs to be given?

let's discover

Write down each Fruit of the Spirit on paper.

During the week think about each characteristic. When you display one, your mum or dad will give you that piece of paper.

Try and get all nine of them!

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TUESDAY

LOVE

verse

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:14

let's listen

God showed His love to us by allowing His son Jesus to die on the cross so we could have eternal life. That is a massive demonstration of LOVE. God loves us every day, in every place, at every moment.

Now, how can we show LOVE? We can put others needs before our own. We can think of others feelings before our own. Love is not just something we say but it is an action.

We can love others because God first loved us (1 John 4:19).

When we believe what Jesus did for us, that he died and rose again, God comes to live in us. We call this the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us be like Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us show LOVE in our lives. And when we love we are like Jesus.

let's talk

What does love mean?

How do you show love to your family?

How does your family show love to you?

What is the opposite of LOVE?

let's discover

Write a list of what love is to you.

For example:

LOVE is when mum comes and gives me the biggest hug.

LOVE is when dad plays wrestles with me.

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WEDNESDAY

JOY

verse

"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love... I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow."

John 15:9-11

let's listen

JOY is a Fruit of the Spirit.

It is a feeling of great happiness we get from seeing God's awesome work and knowing that he is caring for us.

When we believe in Jesus we receive the Holy Spirit (God living in us). It is the Holy Spirit who helps us produce this fruit of JOY and become more like Jesus.

This JOY doesn't leave us when things don't go our way. When our happiness is based on our friends, or certain things happening we may not always be full of JOY.

But when we put our hope and joy in Jesus, because we know He is always near to us and loves us, we have a joy that is always present, regardless of the challenges we are experiencing.

What Joy!

let's talk

What is JOY?

What makes you happy?

What makes you laugh?

Can you be JOYFUL when you are sad?

let's discover

Write a list of what JOY is to you...
For example:

JOY is knowing that God loves me no matter what.

JOY is being loved by my mum and dad.

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GOD'S WORD FROM
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THURSDAY

PEACE

verse

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

let's listen

When we are not worried or anxious or afraid of anything we are at peace.

Whenever you are worried, or anxious or afraid, remember God is so much bigger and greater than your worry or the situation.

God is there ready and waiting for you to talk to Him and let Him know what you are worried about. You can experience God’s peace even when things are going wrong.

This is what Jesus tells us in John 14:27, ‘I am leaving you with a gift; peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid’. He tells us to let his perfect peace calm us in every circumstance and give us courage and strength for every challenge!

Let’s remember this and be confident in Jesus, trusting Him completely.

let's talk

What is peace?

When do you feel peaceful? Are there things that you are worried about?

Are there people who make you worry?

let's discover

Write a list of what PEACE is to you. For example:
PEACE is the quietness I feel when I’m lying in bed.

PEACE is walking through the bush.

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FRIDAY

PATIENCE

verse

"We also pray that you will be strengthened with all His glorious power so you have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy..."

Colossians 1:11

let's listen

God shows us how to be patient and gives us the strength to be patient. Patience is waiting your turn and not having to be first. Patience is being OK if things take longer than you want.

There are some extreme examples in the Bible where people had to wait for a very long time for what they wanted. Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17:1-6,17): God promised Abraham that he would have many, many children. It wasn't until he was 100 and Sarah was 99 that they had their first son. Now that is a long wait!

Can you think of any other examples of patience in the Bible?

These men and women of the Bible had to trust God in their waiting. They had to have faith that God knew the bigger picture. This is just what we have to do. We have to have faith and trust in God that He is looking out for us, not only in the big things, but in the small too.

let's talk

Do you change? What about your parents and your siblings?

Do you think it can be a good thing when people change?

Why is it good that God never changes?

let's discover

Let's play: Change one thing in the room while one person in your family takes their turn waiting outside the room.

When they come back in, they have to guess what has changed!

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MONDAY

Standing Firm in Faith

verse

The King was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he has trusted in his God.”

Daniel 6:23

let's listen

Daniel was a man who loved God.

Daniel was praying to God when he was told that he could not. Daniel stood firm in what he believed. He believed that his God was the one true God. He was not going to bow down and pray to another god or to the King. He stood firm, believing in and trusting God. Even though it meant being different to everyone else and putting himself at risk. As a consequence he was thrown in a lions' den, but no harm came.

We also need to stand up for what we know is right. This can be hard at times, especially if what is right is not popular or differs from what our friends are saying. But God will be with us, looking after us at these times. He promises that all things will work out for good in the end, if we keep loving and trusting in Him.

let's talk

Is it hard to stand up for someone?

If someone is being unkind to a friend, do you tell them to stop it?

Do you find it hard to tell someone what you believe in?

let's discover

Look up 'Daniel in the Lions' Den' Saddleback kids on YouTube.

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TUESDAY

God keeps His Word

verse

“He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Daniel 6:27

let's listen

God may not save you from a lion's den, but God ALWAYS keeps His promise of Eternal Life. If we believe and say that Jesus is Lord and that He died and rose for us, we will have eternal life with Jesus in heaven.

At times people don't keep their promises. Mum promises ice cream but forgets. Dad says he'll play but runs out of time. Friends forget to hold the swing for you.

God keeps his promises. He has promised to give us eternal (never ending) life through Jesus. This is God's Word. This will never CHANGE. Eternal life and His love for us will NEVER change.

let's talk

Do you talk about people when they are not around?

Have you said you would do something then didn't do it?

Why is it important to do what you say you are going to do?

let's discover

As a family, write down a list of promises God has kept for you.

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WEDNESDAY

Prayer is VITAL

verse

But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual...He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to His God.

Daniel 6:10

let's listen

Daniel knew that prayer was important! He knew that God was listening and would answer his prayers. When the law was passed banning people from praying, Daniel could not help himself but continued to pray. He did this because he loved God and would not stop talking to Him. Daniel was willing to risk his life because he knew how important prayer is. And he knew that God was Lord.

GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS! Always. He loves it when we pray. He is always there to help us if we need it. We can also ask for help from trusted friends and parents at any time.

When we ask for help from friends, parents and from God we can feel supported and loved.

let's talk

When do you pray?

What do you pray about the most?

Did you know that singing can be praying as well?

Talk about your answered prayers!!

let's discover

Start a Family Prayer Journal.

Each family member writes a prayer or draws a prayer.

Come back to it and see how God answers your prayers.

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GOD'S WORD FROM
MY FAMILY TO YOURS



THURSDAY

TRUST God in troubled times

verse

My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me...

Daniel 6:22

let's listen

Daniel was in some serious trouble! His life was being threatened; people he knew had set him up and he was in a very difficult situation.

His first response, whilst in the den with the lions, was to trust God (Daniel 6:23). God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths. Daniel had trusted God in this extremely difficult time.

Sometimes we can end up in hard situations. Maybe our friends have got us into these situations that we don't want to be in. We need to reach out to God in these times, and to other people who we trust, like our friends and family, to help us and guide us through times that are hard.

We never have to be alone.

let's talk

What is trust?

Who do you trust?

Should we trust everyone?

let's discover

Write an Acrostic poem for TRUST.

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FRIDAY

Obedience to God

verse

Then they told the king, "That man Daniel...is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day."

Daniel 6:13

let's listen

There are a lot of people in our lives who give us advice or tell us what to do.

Friends, parents, and teachers can tell us to "do this" or "say that." We should only obey them if they are asking us to do something that would please Jesus.

There used to be bracelets that said WWJD which stood for 'What Would Jesus Do' which people wore to remind them to make choices that would please Jesus.

Daniel did not want to obey the new law because it was not right. He wanted to obey God and pray to Him, even if it meant he was going to be thrown into the Lions' Den.

let's talk

What does 'obey' mean?

Do you find it hard to obey? Who do you obey? Friends? Teachers? Family?

Why do you obey them? What if they ask you to do something that you know you shouldn't do?

let's discover

Make a WWJD poster that you can see often or a bracelet.

DO YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF AT A LOSS WHEN IT COMES TO FAMILY DEVOTIONS? WHERE DO YOU START? WHAT DO YOU DO? THEN TOGETHER DEVOTIONS IS FOR YOU!!

IF YOU WANT FAITH TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF YOUR FAMILY, THIS BOOK WILL CREATE REAL LIFE CONVERSATIONS WITH PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS ALL BASED ON GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE. EACH DEVOTION IS DESIGNED TO BE AN EASY AND CONVENIENT PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE - NOT AN ADDED STRESS!

I HOPE AND PRAY THAT THIS BOOK "TOGETHER" WILL BE A TOOL TO HELP YOU CHAT WITH YOUR LITTLE PEOPLE ABOUT FAITH AND ABOUT JESUS, BRINGING YOU CLOSER TOGETHER AS A FAMILY.

IT IS GOD'S WORD FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS.

SHELL SHAW

"We love the simplicity of the Together resource as it allows for natural conversations about God, who He is and how He desires to be part of our everyday lives."

"This tool enables you to do that with your children when they are waking up, sitting at home around the table, driving in the car along the road or lying in bed at night."

Brett Ryan - CEO
Focus on the Family Australia

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

Together is a fantastic family devotion filled with relevant topics that are easy to grasp for children and serve as great reminders for adults! Our family enjoys this devotion so much and we love that our children are growing in their faith and understanding of God."

Julia - Children's Director
Church Unlimited Auckland