

COURAGE

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

DAY ONE

READ THIS

“You must fear the Lord your God and worship him and cling to him. Your oaths must be in his name alone. He alone is your God, the only one who is worthy of your praise, the one who has done these mighty miracles that you have seen with your own eyes. When your ancestors went down into Egypt, there were only seventy of them. But now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky!” – Deuteronomy 10:20-22

THINK ABOUT THIS

In our world today, it is so easy to fix our eyes on things other than God. Especially right now with what is happening in our country. Our schools are having longer breaks and restaurants can only do to-go orders. It can seem like everything can be just a little scary and sometimes, if we're being real, that can mean that it's hard to trust God.

What do you think God is trying to teach us through this passage?

He is everything. He is everything we want everything we need and He is enough. We don't have to be afraid, we can have courage. We can trust Him! We don't need the things society provides to meet our needs and desires, God alone can accomplish that. He knew all of this was going to happen, and only He knows what the next few weeks and months will look like. It's our job to simply trust Him.

You were created by the Great I Am. Perfectly created, to be perfectly you. And when you can understand that, you will be able to live with confidence, and trust in the God who calls you by name!

TALK ABOUT THIS

1. Think about someone you have looked up to, write them a note of encouragement this week! Put a smile on their face.
2. Talk about – and make a daily plan for – what you need to do to make sure you only have your eyes on Jesus. (like praying, reading your Bible daily, etc.)
3. Pray for your family and friends. That God would keep them safe and healthy.

PRAY THIS

God, you are amazing. You are enough for everything I need. You protect us, you guide us, you provide for us. Thank you for caring so much about us. Help us to remember you are always at work, even when we don't see it. Amen.

DAY TWO

READ THIS

“I’ve called you in from every dark corner of the earth, Telling you, ‘You’re my servant, serving on my side. I’ve picked you. I haven’t dropped you.’ Don’t panic. I’m with you. There’s no need to fear for I’m your God. I’ll give you strength. I’ll help you. I’ll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.” – Isaiah 41:9b-10

THINK ABOUT THIS

Have you ever received a gift card? Maybe for your birthday or Christmas? It’s so exciting because you are able to use a gift card to buy whatever you want, as long as it’s within the price limit of the card you received. A girl named Emma received a gift card for her birthday, so she thought very carefully about how she wanted to spend her money. She went to the store and found a doll right away that she liked, but she wanted to be sure she was making the right choice. So she walked down every aisle to make sure she was able to look at every item in the toy section. After much thought she was sure she wanted the doll she found at the beginning of her shopping trip. She paid for it and took it home.

Emma was very proud of her doll and took extra special care of it and named it Sally. She put her initials on Sally’s foot and took it with her everywhere she went – to school, to sleepovers, and even on family trips. Emma wanted to keep Sally safe.

Did you know that God chose you? Just like Emma chose Sally, God chose you to be his son or daughter! He picked you, he hasn’t dropped you! He takes special care of you and goes with you wherever you go! He promises to make you strong, and you don’t have to be afraid, because He will give you strength! And he chooses to be by your side every day of your life as long as you follow him!

TALK ABOUT THIS

1. How did Emma keep her doll Sally safe? How does God keep you safe?
2. What are some ways that God shows that He is with us every day?
3. Pray for a way to show someone around you this week that they were picked by God!

PRAY THIS

God, thank you for always being with me. Thank you that we don’t take a single step without you right by us. Help us to trust in your plan for our lives, and stay connected with you. Help us to not be afraid, but trust that you have a good plan for our lives. And help us to share that hope with others around us. Amen.

DAY THREE

READ THIS

“Before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “But Lord God, I don't know how to speak. I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me, “Don't say, ‘I am only a boy.’ You must go everywhere I send you, and you must say everything I tell you to say. Don't be afraid of anyone, because I am with you to protect you,” says the Lord. – Jeremiah 1:4-8

THIS ABOUT THIS

On Ginger's first day of college, she was walking out of a classroom feeling very grown up when the worst thing that could possibly happen, happened. She had confidently started down the stairs when she missed a step in front of the entire room and fell flat on her face. It was so embarrassing. She wanted to crawl under a rock! She was so sure no one would want to be her friend after that. She thought her professor would wonder if she was actually old enough to be in his classroom. She started to wonder if she would ever be ready for college.

Jeremiah was a young man when God told him to go and share His Word to people around the world. Jeremiah's response? “I don't know how to speak. I am only a boy.” Have you ever felt like that? Maybe you've thought, ‘I'm too young to share God's Word with others’ or ‘I'm not cool enough to talk to that person.’ God says to you and I the exact same message He gave to Jeremiah! “Don't say I'm only a _____ (fill in the blank with how you describe yourself!). You must go everywhere I send you and you must say everything I tell you to say.”

God uses people to share His message, and you and I are His people. Right now is a perfect opportunity to share God's love and hope with other people. Right now there are a lot of people around us that are scared, and we have this incredible message of hope! God doesn't have requirements that involve how smart you are, how tall you are, how coordinated you are, or how old you are. He will give you everything you need. You just have to be willing to share with others!

TALK ABOUT THIS

1. As a family, check out 1 Timothy 4:12. Talk about the ways we can be an example to the people around us. Talk about Jeremiah's answer to the Lord. Why do you think he said that?
2. Pray together as a family for the courage and opportunity to share hope with a neighbor, family member, or friend this week.

PRAY THIS

God, thank you for the hope that we have in you. Thank you that we have the amazing job of sharing that hope with other people. Help us to do that well, especially right now when people are looking so hard for it. Let us be a light in a dark world, and help our words and actions point other people to you. Amen.