

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Family Matters / Week 1

**The Lord is near to the
brokenhearted and saves those
who are crushed in spirit**

PSALM 34:18 ESV

DAY 1

Chances are you already know that no family is perfect. Since we are all part of some kind of a family or other, we experience firsthand how broken families can be. And one of the hardest things about living in a broken family (which is ALL families) is that they are made up of broken people. And broken people hurt one another. Even the closest families encounter challenging seasons.

But God promises that we're not alone during these hard times. He is close to us and present in all things. **Do you need to apologize to anyone in your family? Or forgive someone who may have hurt you? Make the first move and talk to them today.**

**We have this treasure in jars of
clay to show that this all-
surpassing power is from God and
not from us.**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7 NIV

DAY 2

Sometimes it's good to be reminded that God doesn't only use "well-behaved" or "perfect" people. This verse reminds us that we are like jars of clay—imperfect on the outside, but with incredible hope and potential on the inside.

By using flawed people, which is ALL of us, God's power is more recognizable. He gets all the credit! Remember, as broken or messed up as you or your family may feel, God can use all of us. **Look for God doing something in your family today that you may have missed. And thank Him for working in imperfect people.**

**What is impossible for people is
possible with God.**

LUKE 18:27 NLT

DAY 3

Sometimes living with our family can feel impossible. Maybe it's because of all the arguing, or how different we all are, or because something about our family just bothers us.

Whatever the reason, we can all relate to the feeling. But what if this verse applied to our families? What if we started living like getting along—even if it feels impossible—is possible with God? What if we started living like kindness, forgiveness, compassion in our families—even though it feels impossible—is possible with God? **Spend some time praying today, asking God to help you see what is possible with Him, even if it feels impossible to you.**

I have given you an example to follow. **Do as I have done to you.**

JOHN 13:15 NLT

DAY 4

One of the best things about Jesus coming to Earth, was how He cleared up any confusion we might have about what God is like. Up until Jesus, people had wondered about God and made guesses and assumptions, but when Jesus showed up, it all became clear. God was love. And because of Jesus, we have an idea of how we are supposed to live as His followers. Sometimes the most difficult people to show the most love to are the people closest to us. Even so, Jesus has set an example for us.

Just as Jesus has loved us, we are commanded to love one another, including our family. **Today, look for one way to love your family like Jesus has loved you.**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, **so great is his love.**

PSALM 103:11 NIV

DAY 5

We may all be able to tell of a time when our family has let us down. Our parents didn't love us like we needed them to. A sibling hurt us. We didn't feel like we are accepted or belong.

Whatever the reason, family hurt is a severe hurt. Which is what makes this verse from the book of Psalms so encouraging. God's love is perfect. His love never fails. And it goes farther than we could possibly imagine. So when our families are challenging and disappoint us, **remember that God's love never disappoints.**

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but **always strive to do what is good for each other** and for everyone else.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:15 NIV

DAY 6

It's human nature to want to get even with someone else. We want things to be fair, and to us, fair means we all get what we deserve, especially when we're wronged! But we have to remember one very important thing: God's love isn't fair. God showed His love to us by sending Jesus to die for our sins. That was something we certainly didn't deserve. It wasn't fair, but it was love. And love is better than fairness.

So, the next time you're tempted to get even with someone in your family or a person close to you who has hurt you, remember that as Jesus followers, we are called to extend love. We're called to choose love over fairness. Because of what God did for us, we can offer grace and love to others, even when it doesn't seem fair.

"By this everyone will know that **you are my disciples**, if you love one another."

JOHN13:35 NIV

DAY 7

One of the ways we can demonstrate our love for God is by loving other people. This starts with our family! Memorizing a verse like this will help us begin to love those closest to us as a reflection of the love God has for them and for us. Make this verse your lock screen on your phone this week. Every time you come across it on your phone, stop and say it out loud. Work on memorizing it so that it encourages you to love those around you with the love of God.