

# real family

## **4-Week Scripture Devotional**

FROM PASTOR AARON KUNCE

*My people, hear my teaching;  
listen to the words of my mouth.*

<sup>2</sup> *I will open my mouth with a parable;  
I will utter hidden things, things from of old —*

<sup>3</sup> *things we have heard and known,  
things our ancestors have told us.*

<sup>4</sup> *We will not hide them from their descendants;*

***we will tell the next generation***

*the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
his power, and the wonders he has done.*

—Psalm 78:1-4



# Introduction

In the past few months we've explored renewal and the way of Jesus. We are now embarking on a series about family. This devotional resource doesn't follow the message series but is meant to be a guide for prayer and conversation in your home.

What do you think of when you hear the word *family*? What comes up in your heart when we talk about family? For some of us, family has been a place of deep pain. Some of us carry wounds in our hearts that need healing. Others of us come from healthy families that have been a source of joy and possibility. Families shape us in really big ways. Our homes have a major impact on our lives. If we want to be renewed and walk in the way of Jesus in a way that impacts York County, we must figure out how to live together as families that bless and empower the next generation to be a people of spiritual legacy.

This devotional is packed with scripture. Most are short passages, but to get us started, let's reflect on a longer one. **Deuteronomy chapter 6 is an incredible passage.** Please take a few minutes to read it together as a family.

It was given during an urgent moment for the children of Israel in the Old Testament, and it's an urgent moment for us as well. It's one of those "hinge moments" where if the people of God can get this right, then there is so much promise. And if they get this wrong, there will be spiritual disaster. God is saying that his heart is for spiritual life and blessing to flow down generational lines. What can we learn from Deuteronomy 6?

**We have to break off some things from our past and build some things for the future of our families.** Notice what you need to break off and then discover what you need to build.

1. Break off spiritual complacency. (vv. 10-12)
2. Break off worldliness and the spirit of the age. (vv. 13-15)

And then we need to build.

1. Build a compelling vision of God in your family. (vv. 4-5)
2. Build an ecosystem of discipleship in your family. (vv. 6-9)
3. Build a vision for spiritual legacy in your family. (vv. 20-25)

—Pastor Aaron Kunce

# Week 1

## **Real Family** UNITY

As we seek to build a vision of God, discipleship, and spiritual legacy for our families, we should start with scripture. The Bible teaches some vital things we need to build into our marriages, parenting, and day-to-day family life. This devotional resource will cover four simple themes in scripture: **unity, love, peace, and mission.**

Read the verses below for personal devotions or read them with your family and talk with each other about these themes. Then spend a few moments praying together.

Our first theme is **unity**. Jesus prayed an extraordinary prayer for unity in John 17. The cry of his heart then, and also for today, is unity. Read these passages and consider how God is calling your family to unity. Try using *The Message* translation or a Bible translation you don't normally read.

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NOVEMBER 1 · ROMANS 15:5-7

*Glorifying God together, with one voice.*

NOVEMBER 2 · COLOSSIANS 3:1-21

*Bearing with one another.*

NOVEMBER 3 · PSALM 133

*The goodness and beauty of unity.*

NOVEMBER 4 · GALATIANS 3:28

*God's family is not divided. We are one in Jesus.*

NOVEMBER 5 · CORINTHIANS 1:10

*Of one mind and one heart.*

NOVEMBER 6 · 1 PETER 3:8-22

*Gentleness and respect; having a good conscience.*

NOVEMBER 7 · PHILIPPIANS 2:1-18

*Like Jesus, taking on the form of a servant.*

# Week 2

## **Real Family** LOVE

The theme we will explore in scripture this week is **love**. Read these passages and think and pray about how small acts of love can make a difference in the lives of your family and then talk together about how you can love others in the way of Jesus.

Maybe it's small things like sending a note or text of encouragement, making a meal for someone, checking on a friend or neighbor, or hosting an online game night. Invite someone into your group. Reach out to people you haven't seen for a while with kindness. Christ fills us with his love and then it begins to show in small ways in our lives.

Sometimes God asks us to love in sacrificial ways too (see Ephesians 5:1-2). What are some ways God is calling your family to love sacrificially?

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NOVEMBER 8 · EPHESIANS 5:25-33

*A marriage of mutual love and respect.*

NOVEMBER 9 · 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

*Love bears all things.*

NOVEMBER 10 · ROMANS 12:9-17

*Let love be genuine.*

NOVEMBER 11 · 1 JOHN 4:19

*Why do we love?*

NOVEMBER 12 · MATTHEW 22:37-40

*The Greatest Command is still the Greatest.*

NOVEMBER 13 · ROMANS 12:10

*Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it.*

NOVEMBER 14 · 1 JOHN 4:20

*Jesus being blunt: Loving God includes loving people.*

# Week 3

## **Real Family** PEACE

When Jesus was resurrected, the words “Peace be with you” were constantly on his lips. Followers of Jesus are people of **peace**. We are to seek peace with everything we do and everything we say. Your family needs peace in these times of anxiety and anger. And peace comes from trusting in the Lord. Isaiah 26:3 says, “(God) will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.” What does it mean to trust in God?

Philippians 4:6-7 says: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” May your family experience the peace of Jesus this week.

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NOVEMBER 15 · LUKE 6:27-36

*Let people bring out the best in you, not the worst.*

NOVEMBER 16 · ROMANS 12:18

*Seek peace.*

NOVEMBER 17 · JOHN 14:27

*Let not your heart be troubled.*

NOVEMBER 18 · JOHN 16:33

*Peace is found in Jesus Christ.*

NOVEMBER 19 · LUKE 1:67-79

*To guide our feet into the path of peace.*

NOVEMBER 20 · EPHESIANS 4:1-6

*The bond of peace.*

NOVEMBER 21 · ROMANS 14:18-19

*Let us pursue what makes for peace.*

# Week 4

## **Real Family** MISSION

This week our theme is **mission**. In John 20:21, Jesus said: “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” All of us are sent by Jesus on mission! How can your family integrate discipleship and service into the fabric of your everyday lives?

When God wanted to act on his promise to save the world, he started a family and gave them a mission. He spoke to Abram and his household and they became a family on mission. We see Jesus operating in the same way, gathering an extended family-like group of disciples around himself before embarking on his mission. The church is the family of God and we have a mission together to this lost and hurting world. And our individual families participate in this by living as missional friends of Jesus in our homes and everywhere we go.

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NOVEMBER 22 · 1 PETER 2:9-10

*Chosen to be a holy people.*

NOVEMBER 23 · ROMANS 12:5-17

*Never be lacking in zeal.*

NOVEMBER 24 · ROMANS 1:16

*God's plan to rescue everyone who trusts him.*

NOVEMBER 25 · COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

*Let your conversation be always full of grace.*

NOVEMBER 26 · ROMANS 10:9-15

*How beautiful are the... uhh... feet?*

NOVEMBER 27 · PHILIPPIANS 1:27

*How to conduct ourselves as families on mission.*

NOVEMBER 28 · 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

*Everyone has a vital part to play.*