Family Devotions for our Church Family at Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church

**Introduction:** Read, Pray, Sing

[In this video](https://youtu.be/v9SUYzSLmrE), Dr. Donald Whitney summarizes family worship with three simple steps: Read, Pray, and Sing. Read the Bible. Pray together. And Sing Together. It sounds intimidating at first, but Dr. Whitney puts our minds at ease by encouraging us to make it simple and short. He also puts our fears at ease because he acknowledges the reality of family life together, including children! But he also encourages us with the spiritual impact that it can have on a family, even though it may not seem like anything spiritually big is happening. However, God will use family worship in your family’s life so we encourage you to Pray. Read. Sing. Together as a family.

**We would like to help!**

Some of you might be intimidated about reading the Bible and making a few comments. Therefore, we have put together a few short devotionals from the book of Ephesians for you to use with your family. This devotional comes from the greeting in vv.1-2. Please read the Scripture together as a family.

**Ephesians 1:1-2**

The apostle Paul was incredibly thankful and amazed his entire life at God’s grace in choosing him, calling him, and securing him in who he was in Jesus. Paul knew none of these realities were based on his performance but on the grace of God. As we look at this greeting to the church at Ephesus, let’s see what Paul is certain of for himself as an apostle as well as for the Ephesians.

Paul opens his greeting with his name, his role, and the authority by which he holds that role. He is an **Apostle.** Jesus Christ had appeared to him (requirement for apostleship), trained him, and appointed him to this special office *(Acts 9:1-18)*. Paul knew who he was because Jesus had graciously confronted and commissioned him. He did not plan to be an apostle, but when called he joyfully embraced Jesus’ saving grace and enabling grace. Brothers and sisters, Jesus will not appear to us like He did to Paul to call us to salvation or to ministry. However, He does speak just as plainly to us about salvation and His will for all of His people in their Christian lives. Paul surrendered his identity as a Pharisee and his will to persecute the Church of Jesus Christ to his master’s will. We, through the Spirit and the Word, can do the same and know who we are in Jesus Christ.

Paul continues his greeting with the address. He is writing to the “the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus…” Who are “the saints”? Don’t think about the Catholic Church or the football team, but what Paul himself meant. He is writing to *all believers.* Every believer is a “saint”, a “holy [set apart] one (BDAG).” Let that stop you in your tracks. If you are “faithful in Christ Jesus” (the next phrase he uses to describe this group), you are a holy one in God’s eyes. That’s incredible! All believers, regardless of age, gender, job, wealth, health, or anything else, are holy in God’s eyes, and He addresses us as such. In a world where everyone seems to be having an identity crisis, all those who have faith in Jesus can and should be certain that they are holy in God’s eyes.

As if that is not enough, Paul then says to these believers that God the Father and their master, Jesus Christ, send them grace and peace. What does this mean? First, grace generally means God’s undeserved favor that He gives freely to undeserving sinners when they really deserve the opposite, His wrath. God has shown us grace by saving us from the punishment of our sin. However, grace does not stop there. He also *continues* to give us grace (Paul’s point here) in granting us blessings (1:3-14) so that we might walk faithfully with Him. Second, Paul communicates that God’s peace is theirs. Does this mean a calmness? Perhaps, but it’s a calmness or lack of chaos based upon a larger reality. This idea of peace is one that Paul communicates in almost all of his letters. It means that God is for us and not at odds with us, that we are well because we have a free and clear relationship with God through Jesus Christ. What security! What a promise we have as believers to live our lives knowing we have God’s grace and God’s peace still!

Before Paul even begins the content of the letter, he assures us of God’s grace and peace that are forever ours in Christ Jesus. These realities are a cause for rejoicing!

**Pray Together**

1. Thank God that He called you to be His like He called Paul.
2. Ask God to make known to you what His specific call on your life is and commit to Him your desire to obey that call.
3. Ask God to assure you that you are His holy one and that you would find your identity in that.
4. Thank God for the grace and peace that are always yours in Christ Jesus!

\*In this short greeting Jesus’ name is mentioned 3x. Worship Him now together in song!

**Sing Together**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugGucoYMmKg**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugGucoYMmKg)

**All I Have Is Christ**

**Verse 1**

I once was lost in darkest night  
Yet thought I knew the way  
The sin that promised joy and life  
Had led me to the grave  
I had no hope that You would own  
A rebel to Your will  
And if You had not loved me first  
I would refuse You still

**Verse 2**

But as I ran my hell-bound race  
Indifferent to the cost  
You looked upon my helpless state  
And led me to the cross  
And I beheld God's love displayed  
You suffered in my place  
You bore the wrath reserved for me  
Now all I know is grace

**Chorus**

Hallelujah all I have is Christ  
Hallelujah Jesus is my life

**Verse 3**

Now Lord I would be Yours alone  
And live so all might see  
The strength to follow Your commands  
Could never come from me  
O Father use my ransomed life  
In any way You choose  
And let my song forever be  
My only boast is You

CCLI Song # 5174122

Jordan Kauflin

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[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OibIi1rz7mw**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OibIi1rz7mw)

**Christ Our Hope In Life And Death**

**Verse 1**

What is our hope in life and death  
Christ alone Christ alone  
What is our only confidence  
That our souls to Him belong  
Who holds our days within His hand  
What comes apart from His command  
And what will keep us to the end  
The love of Christ in which we stand

**Chorus**

O sing hallelujah  
Our hope springs eternal  
O sing hallelujah  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death

**Verse 2**

What truth can calm the troubled soul  
God is good God is good  
Where is His grace and goodness known  
In our great Redeemer's blood  
Who holds our faith when fears arise  
Who stands above the stormy trial  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

**Verse 3**

Unto the grave what will we sing  
Christ He lives Christ He lives  
And what reward will heaven bring  
Everlasting life with Him  
There we will rise to meet the Lord  
Then sin and death will be destroyed  
And we will feast in endless joy  
When Christ is ours forevermore

CCLI Song # 7147502

Jordan Kauflin | Keith Getty | Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Matthew Merker

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5Y8s-Sz_ac>

**Jesus Strong And Kind**

**Verse 1**

Jesus said  
That if I thirst  
I should come to him  
No one else can satisfy  
I should come to him

**Verse 2**

Jesus said  
If I am weak  
I should come to him  
No one else can be my strength  
I should come to him

**Chorus**

For the Lord is good and faithful  
He will keep us day and night  
We can always run to Jesus  
Jesus strong and kind

**Verse 3**

Jesus said  
That if I fear  
I should come to him  
No one else can be my shield  
I should come to him

**Verse 4**

Jesus said  
If I am lost  
He will come to me  
And he showed me on that cross  
He will come to me

CCLI Song # 7139992

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