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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