

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Family Matters / Week 2

**His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning.**

LAMENTATIONS 3:22B-23A ESV

DAY 1

Do you ever feel like you just can't get it right? Like you keep messing up—even when you know better? We've all been there and know the feeling. The good news is, God's grace and mercy never run out and never come to an end. And even though we may get tired of messing up and frustrated with ourselves, God doesn't get tired of forgiving us. Every day is a new chance in our decision making, in our relationships, and in experiencing God's grace.

Remind yourself of that today when you are tempted to feel overwhelmed and like you're falling short. For all of us, new mercies every day is good news.

**The Lord is my shepherd,
I lack nothing.**

PSALM 23:1 NIV

DAY 2

When it comes to our family, it's easy to look at everyone else's family and think they have it better. They live in a bigger house, drive a better car, go on better vacations, have better phones, and more gaming systems. Nothing can make us feel more like we are lacking, then looking around at what others have. This is why this psalm, written by David, is so helpful. With God as our shepherd, with God looking out for us, we don't lack anything. Sure, we may not always have what we want or, as much as other families have, but this verse reminds us that we have God. And God will take care of us.

God is with us and for our families. **Take a minute and reach out to someone in your family to tell them how grateful you are for them.**

**Don't just listen to God's word...do
what it says.**

JAMES 1:22A NIV

DAY 3

Do you ever wish there were more hours in the day? With everything that needs to be done, how do we find the time to make it all happen? As important as all of those things are, James draws our attention to the most important thing we can do with our time. Act. Not just any kind of action, but action that God's Word pushes us to do. Because it isn't enough to just know what God's Word says.

To follow God, we need to put His word into practice. And there is no better place to practice what God asks us to do, than in our family. **Today, let's look for an opportunity to do what God says with the people closest to us, the people we share a home with.**

<p style="text-align: center;">Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JAMES 1:12A NIV</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Have you ever had to learn a new skill? Maybe it was something at school, or on a sports team, or at home. Chances are, you didn't kill it on your first try. You kept trying and practicing and learning. That's called perseverance. Persevering is to keep going, even when it takes longer than we think, and longer than we want. Family relationships can be hard, and unlike other relationships, we can't escape them. It is important to persevere with our family, even when it challenging.</p> <p>James says the people who don't give up are "blessed." Meaning, they discover something, learn something, get something when they don't quit. Today, pray for perseverance when it comes to your family.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOHN 4:14A NLT</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Is there anything better than a cup of ice-cold water on a hot summer day? When we get exactly what we are craving, it's a great feeling. Sometimes we are thirsty for belonging, or friends, or understanding, or a better functioning family.</p> <p>In this verse from John, Jesus tells us He satisfies every kind of need we have. Meaning, when we don't get what we would like from our families, Jesus offers Himself. He sees our need, and He meets it. This week, take some time to slow down, sit down, and make a list of how He meets our needs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PSALM 145:18 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>Life can be hard. Everything can be great, and then out of nowhere, there's difficulty, drama, or even tragedy. There are moments in life that simply do not go according to plan. And when that happens, we feel frustrated, sad, stressed, and more. The only thing harder than going through challenges is going through them alone. The amazing thing about our God is that He promises to always be with us. He is always near. So no matter what you're going through, you can call out to God for help. You can trust that He is with you in the middle of your circumstances.</p> <p>So this week, do just that! Call out to God about a hard situation you're facing in your life or family. Ask Him to remind you that He is near. He is with you. And because of that, you're not alone.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOHN13:35 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Sometimes, it can be hard to know how to respond to others, especially when they do or say something that hurts us. Having Scripture memorized can help us remember other ways to respond, instead of just reacting with anger or spite. Commit this verse to memory to help you love others well this week.</p>