

# CAMP

## THROUGH THE

### *Entire Bible*

BY D.J. HORTON

## WEEK 13

Family CAMP devotions are a way to come together as a family and interact with God's Word. We will go through the entire Bible together this summer! Don't miss the opportunity to CAMP with your family each week using this simple family devotion guide.

### How do we CAMP as a family?

**C**ome together  
**A**ccess God's Word  
**M**ake conversation  
**P**ray



### **C: Come Together**

Come together and remove distractions. Prepare your heart and mind to hear from God's Word together today by having two pairs of shoes- an adult pair, and one baby or small child's pair- for an object lesson. Show the great contrast of the two sizes, by first showing the baby shoes (keep the big ones hidden).

Talk about how small the shoes are. For a baby or a child they are just right and do not seem tiny at all. It reminds us of our own hearts and the way we love others. We love with all we have and that feels like a lot to us.

But... (now pull out the big shoes!)... compared to God's love, our love is very small. These shoes are like God's big love. Our love is pretty small compared to God's love. God's love is bigger and better! His love is perfect! God's love is so big He can love everyone perfectly and completely all at the same time Can we do that? No! But we can know God's love, and take that love to others so they can know it, too!

Let's discover what God tells us about His great big love in today's Bible reading.

### **A: Access God's Word**

Access God's Word by reading today's Bible passage together and the daily devotion aloud.

**Open your Bible and read aloud 1 John 4:18-21.**



## God's Love is Our Hope and Our Help

Have you ever been afraid that you were not good enough? Have you ever been afraid that you were not strong enough, smart enough or skilled enough to do something without totally messing it up? At one time or another we all feel this way. Why? Because we are not perfect! Even when it comes to loving people we truly and deeply care about, we are going to get it wrong at some point because we are sinners. We need a source of hope and help: God. As our Creator, He designed us to give and receive love in a way that gives life, hope and strength. But when sin came into the world, our ability to give and receive love the way we were meant to was broken. Sin constantly tries to confuse us and keep us from God's perfect love.

Today's passage reminds us that God's love is absolutely perfect. This means that it is holy, righteous, and good. Only this kind of perfect love could provide a way for us to know Him (John 3:16, Romans 5:8). God's perfect love was shown to us when He sent Jesus to rescue us from the separation that sin caused. The sacrifice of love that Jesus Christ showed by dying in our place on the cross is what allows us to love Him in return. When we believe and accept this love, there is no longer any fear of punishment for sin because we trust that Jesus paid the price for us (Romans 8:1). We receive forgiveness when we confess Jesus as our Savior and Lord and turn away from our sin (Romans 10:9). Our hope in God's love is that nothing can ever separate us from it when we are in Christ (Romans 8:37-39)! That is the beauty and the power of God's perfect love!

As you can see, God's perfect love is bigger and better than anything we could ever imagine (Ephesians 3:18-19)! Because His love is this big, it's not something we are meant to keep to ourselves or keep hidden! We already know that God's love is big enough to give us hope that we are loved, but we cannot forget that it is also big enough to give us help in loving others the way He asks us to! That means we choose to love others as Christ loved us. We choose to love even when we do not feel like it, even when others may be acting in a way that doesn't seem to deserve love, even when others do not show love in return. We need to hold tightly to God's perfect love so that we can do what He has asked us to do: love Him and love others just as He would (Matthew 22:37-40).

The next time you are afraid you are not enough or you feel hopeless and unloved, remember today's scripture. Take hold of God's perfect love because it throws out those fears and reminds you of truth! Remember the hope of God's perfect love for us and let that help us love others in a way that points others right back to Him!

### M: Make Conversation

Make conversation around today's Bible passage and devotion by asking the questions provided. The goal of this time is to discover together the truths from God's Word and the daily devotion. Think of ways that you and your family can put this truth into action.

1. What are two things we talked about today that God's perfect love gives us? Here's a hint- they both start with the letter H! (Hope and help!) Why do we need hope? (Because we are separated from God by sin and cannot do anything to change that on our own!) Why do we need help? (Because even when we have trusted Jesus as our Savior, sin still tries to confuse us and tell us lies that will keep us from living the way God wants us to live. We can't do it on our own!)



2. According to today's scripture, what does God's love do to fear? (Casts it out, drives it out) Discuss as a family what this might look like in your every day lives. This would be a great time for an adult to share an example from their own life of when the perfect love of God gave them hope and help.
3. Discuss as a family some areas of fear in our lives that we can give to The Lord. Talk about tangible ways you can put your trust in the love and promises of God to drive out/cast out that fear.
4. According to today's scripture, what is the result of loving God? (When we believe in God's love for us, trust Jesus as our Savior and Lord, and ask for forgiveness of sin, we are then rescued by the perfect love of God from the consequences of sin. Romans 3:23, 6:23)
5. What does today's scripture and devotion say that we can and should do because of God's love? (We will love others the way God calls us to, we will not be controlled by or lead away by fear)
6. What makes it difficult sometimes to show love toward our neighbors, friends, family, classmates, etc? (answers will vary) Talk about how Jesus might love them if He was their neighbor, friend, family, or classmate. What are some ways that we can show love to others the way Jesus loves us?

### P: Pray

Guide your family through a prayer to end your time together.

**Praise God** for His great and perfect love for us.

**Thank God** for the truth of Romans 5:8, that while we were sinners, Jesus died for us.

**Confess** times where you have turned away from the hope of God's love and not allowed His perfect love to help you love others.

**Ask God to help you** show the truth of His great love, hope and help for us in the way that you treat others.

**Ask God to help others** not be controlled by fear and the lie that there is no hope or help for their lives.



### Family CAMP Activities

1. **Go on a neighborhood prayer walk.** Walk with your children around the block as you name and pray over your neighborhood unity, salvation, and loving kindness.
2. **Labor of love.** Bake/cook something together with the intention of sharing with a neighbor. Consider writing a short card to deliver along with the baked goods. Afterwards use this as an opportunity to discuss how we can show love to people around us.
3. **Write it out.** After discussing some of the fears that you may have, take time to find scripture from God's Word to replace the lies that are driving those fears. Copy the scripture onto note cards and place them on the bathroom mirror, bedside table, refrigerator, dash of the car, etc. Talk about them often, read them aloud each day/night as a reminder of the hope and help we have in Jesus!

