

CAMP

THROUGH THE

Entire Bible

BY D.J. HORTON

WEEK 7

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?

Come together
Access God's Word
Make conversation
Pray



C: Come Together

Come together and remove distractions. Prepare your heart and mind to hear from God's Word together today by playing a game of "Follow the Leader".

This game is typically pretty easy... except this time, you will play it BLINDFOLDED! Designate someone you trust (maybe a parent) to be the leader. Everyone else must blindfold themselves (perhaps with a bandana, t-shirt, or sleep mask). Without physically touching, the leader must lead the blindfolded family members through the house or yard by only giving verbal commands. Of course, we want to keep everyone safe, but be sure to throw in some challenges!

Following the leader can be a fun game, but it is not always easy when you cannot see the person you are trying to follow! Today, we will talk about a man named Jonah and what happened on his journey to follow God.

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 Jonah chapter 2.

In the book of Jonah, God instructed Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh to tell the people to turn from their sin. But instead of trusting and following God, Jonah decided to run in the opposite direction! Jonah found a ship headed from Joppa to Tarshish and paid the fare for a ride as far away from God as possible (like that is even possible).



While he climbed down to the bottom of the ship and fell asleep, God sent a big storm at sea, and the waves were HUGE! The sailors were terrified as the ship was about to break into pieces. They called out to their gods and began to throw everything overboard to lighten the ship so it would not sink. After waking Jonah, the sailors discover that he is running from God and is the reason for the storm. They took Jonah and threw him overboard, and immediately the sea became calm. The Lord caused a great fish to swallow Jonah and Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

While in the belly of the fish, Jonah realizes his foolishness in running from God. That is when he prays the prayer you just read in Jonah chapter 2.



Can you imagine what it was like in the belly of a fish? In the middle of all that mess, that stench, that darkness, that fear, that loneliness, that unknown, Jonah remembered the Lord. He remembered who God was, His great love, and that God's promises are true. Jonah remembered God and right there in the belly of that fish called out to God and praised Him!

After this prayer, God spoke to the great fish, and it vomited Jonah up on the beach. Jonah repented, turning away from sin and all of his own plans. Jonah chose to go God's way and follow God's command. Because of this, God used Jonah mightily in the big city of Nineveh, as many people turned their hearts to God.

Sometimes following God may not be easy. We may have times where what God is asking us to do seems impossible, or it may just not be the thing we really want to do. In those times that we feel afraid, uncertain, or alone we, too, need to remember God. We need to call out to Him and praise Him. Why? Because God is with us! He will show us His perfect way and give us the strength to obey Him and walk out what He has asked us to do...even if we have gotten off track! God loves us and wants the very best for us. Let the story of Jonah's journey remind us that discovering and living God's best for our lives is always found in complete surrender and obedience!

So if you're feeling that life is too hard, pray and ask God for help. And take a deep breath, because God's got this!

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. Let's talk about our game we played today. How did you feel playing "Follow the Leader" blindfolded? Were you a little nervous or scared? Even though you may have been a little scared, how did you know that you could trust the person giving you directions? (Because you know them personally/ have a relationship with them/ because you know they love you.) As much as the person giving directions loves you, imagine how much God loves you! (For a hint, read Romans 5:8.)



2. Jonah got on a boat to run from the presence of God. Why was this not a smart move? (You can never escape the presence of God. See Hebrews 4:13. God is always with us.) Why is it important for us to remember this truth about God? (It gives us hope because we know we are never alone and that He always has a plan for our lives that is good and perfect. See Philippians 1:6, Jeremiah 29:11-13, Romans 12:1-2.)
3. Can you think of a time that you knew exactly what you had been asked to do, but you chose instead to disobey? Why is it important to obey? (It keeps us safe, it shows love and respect to the one we are obeying and the belief that they have our best interest in mind. Disobedience does not just affect us, it affects others, too.) We know that Jonah chose to disobey and it made a mess for him and the people with him on the boat. When Jonah repented in the belly of the fish, God gave him another chance to obey. What do you think would have happened if Jonah would have obeyed the first time? (He may have avoided a lot of hard and hurtful things for himself and others.)
4. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and then God delivered Him. Does this remind you of something in the New Testament that happened across three days? (It reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection! Jesus paid the price for our sin by dying on the cross and He was in the tomb for three days. Then God raised Jesus to life to make a way for our salvation! Jonah was a man that spent three days in a fish because he disobeyed God. Jesus, the Son of God, was different. He lived a perfect life. Jesus obeyed God all the way to death and those three days in the tomb so that you and I could have a relationship with Him, no longer separated by sin! See Matthew 12:38-42, Luke 11:29-32).

P: Pray

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

Praise God for always being with us.

Thank God that he offers salvation to each of us through Jesus.

Confess sin any disobedience (sin) to God.

Ask God to help you trust him, even when things may not make sense to you.

Ask God to help others respond in obedience to Him and discover His best for their lives.

Family CAMP Activities

1. Follow the Leader again. This time, have multiple family members blindfolded, but holding hands as they follow the leader together. Discuss the benefits of your family following the Lord together.
2. Take off the blindfolds and play the game by imitating the leader. Take turns being the leader and have fun with it. Discuss the influence we can all have as leaders.

