

CAMP

THROUGH THE

Entire Bible

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WEEK 8

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 talking about people that you know love you. How do you know that other people love you? (Discuss.) How do other people know that you love them? Today, we are going to talk about how God has shown us through Jesus that He loved us first and He loves us the most!

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 John 3:16-18.

Have you ever had some really great news to share with someone? When you have good news, it is really hard to keep it to yourself! That is exactly why John 3:16 is such a popular verse that many people have seen, heard, or even memorized! It is full of good news that we call the Gospel! The word "gospel" actually means "good news". Once you know the good news of God's love for us, it is hard to keep it to yourself!



But why is this news found in John 3:16 so good? And why does this good news even matter for you and me? Let's find out.

God created us to have a relationship with Him. But the first people God made, Adam and Eve, chose themselves and disobedience over God, and that is when sin entered the world. Our ability to have a perfect relationship with God and live with Him forever was broken. That sin separated Adam and Eve from God, and every person born after them had that same problem of sin. Romans 3:23 tells us that, “Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory.” We could not be good enough or do things right enough on our own to get to God and repair that broken relationship. God knew that we needed a Rescuer. We needed someone who could come and live a perfect life, choose to pay the price of sin in our place by dying on the cross, and defeat sin once and for all by coming back to life three days later. So who did God send to be our Rescuer? God sent His Son, Jesus!



The good news of John 3:16 is that God made a way for us! He made a way for us to have forgiveness of our sin! God does not forgive our sin based on how good our behavior is, how good our grades are, how many ways we serve others, or how well we perform. We cannot do anything to earn the forgiveness of God from our sin and fix the relationship that sin broke. That is why God offers the forgiveness of sin and an eternal relationship with Him as a free gift through Jesus(see Ephesians 2:8-9)! Did you hear that? A FREE GIFT! Now THAT is some good news! This free gift is available to anyone who understands and confesses that

they are a sinner and needs Jesus to save them, to rescue them from that sin(see 1 John 1:9)! God tells us that when we believe that He made the way for us to have forgiveness and a restored relationship with God through Jesus, we can then know Him as Savior and Lord of our life! When we see how much God loves us and the way He has shown that love for us, our response should be to give Him our whole lives. We get to spend our life getting to know God more and more, experiencing His power and love through His Holy Spirit alive in us! And once you know this gospel truth and how it changes everything, you will want to make sure others know this good news, too!

God’s love is unlike any other. He is the One that loved you first and He is the One that loves you most. John 3:16 reminds us of just how great His love is. Make sure you know that good news for yourself today! And if you already know it, be sure to share it every chance you get!

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 makes something a gift? (It is given to you. You do not have to pay for it.) Why do we call Salvation through Jesus a free gift? (Because it was given to us by God and we cannot do anything to earn it or pay for it on our own. We simply have to accept it.)



2. When you are given a gift that is wrapped up, what do you do with it? (Allow responses.) Do you ever just leave it wrapped and put it in the closet and forget about it? (No! You unwrap it, you use it, you enjoy it.) So how do we make sure we are not doing that with the gift God has given us? (It is not enough to just know about what Jesus has done by dying on the cross and defeating death for us! We can't just leave that gift on a shelf! We have to believe that God made a way for us to no longer be separated from Him and accept that gift of Jesus' sacrifice as our own. Then live like we believe it by spending time with God in His Word, worshiping Him, getting to know Him, allowing Him to shape our lives.)
3. Read John 3:16 again. According to this verse, how did God show His love for us? (He gave His one and only Son.) According to this verse, why did God show His love for us this way? (So that when our bodies here on earth stop working and we die, we will not be separated from Him, but instead can have eternal life with Him!)

P: Pray

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

Praise God for His perfect, unconditional love for us.

Thank God for making a way through Jesus for us to have forgiveness of sins and the opportunity to have a relationship with Him now and for eternity!

Confess that you are a sinner and need Jesus as your Savior and Rescuer.

Ask God to help you trust Him as the Savior and Lord of your life.

Ask God to help others see the good news of God's great love for us shown through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus by the way you choose to live and love others.

Family CAMP Activities

Object Lesson/Experiment on Forgiveness of Sins.

Materials Needed:

Ground black pepper, a plate or shallow bowl, water, dish soap.

Talk about what John 3:16 tells us.

God made a way for us to have forgiveness of sins and a relationship with Him. Sin separates us from God and there is nothing we can do to fix that. Jesus paid the price of sin for us by dying on the cross. Then he defeated sin by coming back to life three days later! When we believe that He did this for us, we can ask God to forgive us of our sin and he will! God's forgiveness is complete and perfect!

The object lesson/experiment:

Pour some water into the plate. Sprinkle a bit of pepper all over the water. Dip your finger into some dish soap, and then into the pepper water. The pepper will "magically" spread out, away from the soap. Note: the less pepper you use, the more easily it will spread to the sides.

When God forgives us, he casts our sins far, far away. He forgives us completely, meaning he doesn't hold any of our sins against us once we repent. He throws them out so far away so that they can't affect us any longer. God's love and forgiveness is perfect and complete! This fun experiment reminds us of the good news of John 3:16!