A Family Shaped by Christ

5-Day Bible Reading & Devotional Guide
Complete in Christ | Colossians 3:20-21 | Lakeview Baptist Church

Spend a few minutes each day reading Scripture, reflecting on God's design for the family, and praying together.

Monday - God's Design for the Family

Read: Colossians 3:18-21

God created the family and established a design for how it should function. Children are called to obey, and parents are called to lead with love and patience. Whether a family includes biological parents, adoptive parents, grandparents, or other caregivers, God's Word provides principles for honoring one another. A family shaped by Christ isn't a perfect family. It's a family learning to live under His authority.

Reflect: Is Jesus truly at the center of the relationships in our home?

Prayer: Lord, help our family follow Your design and reflect Your love in the way we treat one another.

Tuesday - Obedience That Pleases God

Read: Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 6:1-3

Paul tells children to obey their parents because doing so pleases the Lord. Obedience is more than hearing instructions; it means responding to them. Children should respect the loving authority of those responsible for raising them. This doesn't mean obeying sinful or harmful demands, but it does mean recognizing that God uses parents and caregivers to provide guidance and protection.

Reflect: How can I demonstrate respect for those God has placed in my life?

Prayer: Father, give me a humble heart that honors You by respecting those who guide and care for me.

Wednesday - Authority That Encourages

Read: Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4

God gives parents authority, but that authority must be exercised with love. Constant criticism, unreasonable expectations, and harsh words can discourage a child's heart. Correction is sometimes necessary, but it should help children grow rather than make them feel defeated. Remember, there is a difference between correcting a child's behavior and crushing a child's spirit.

Reflect: Do my words and actions encourage the people under my care, or do they leave them discouraged?

Prayer: Lord, give parents and caregivers wisdom, patience, and gentleness as they guide the children entrusted to them.

Thursday - The Power of Forgiveness

Read: Colossians 3:12-14

No family gets everything right. Parents lose their patience. Children disobey. Words are spoken that we wish we could take back. But the gospel teaches us to respond with humility, forgiveness, and love. Sometimes the most powerful words spoken in a home are “I'm sorry” and “I forgive you.” We cannot rewrite yesterday, but through Christ, we can begin a different tomorrow.

Reflect: Is there someone in my family I need to forgive or ask for forgiveness?

Prayer: Jesus, soften my heart. Help me show the same grace and forgiveness that You have shown me.

Friday - Christ Makes All Things New

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 5:8

God's design for the family is good, but none of us follows it perfectly. Our greatest need isn't simply better rules or parenting techniques. We need a Savior. Jesus lived without sin, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again so that we could be forgiven and made new. When we turn from sin and trust in Him, He begins transforming our hearts and relationships. A family shaped by Christ begins with hearts surrendered to Christ.

Reflect: Have I personally trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior? How is He changing the way I treat my family?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for my sins and rising again. Transform my heart and help me reflect Your love in my home.

A thought to carry into the week: A family shaped by Christ doesn't begin with perfect parents or perfect children. It begins with hearts surrendered to a perfect Savior.