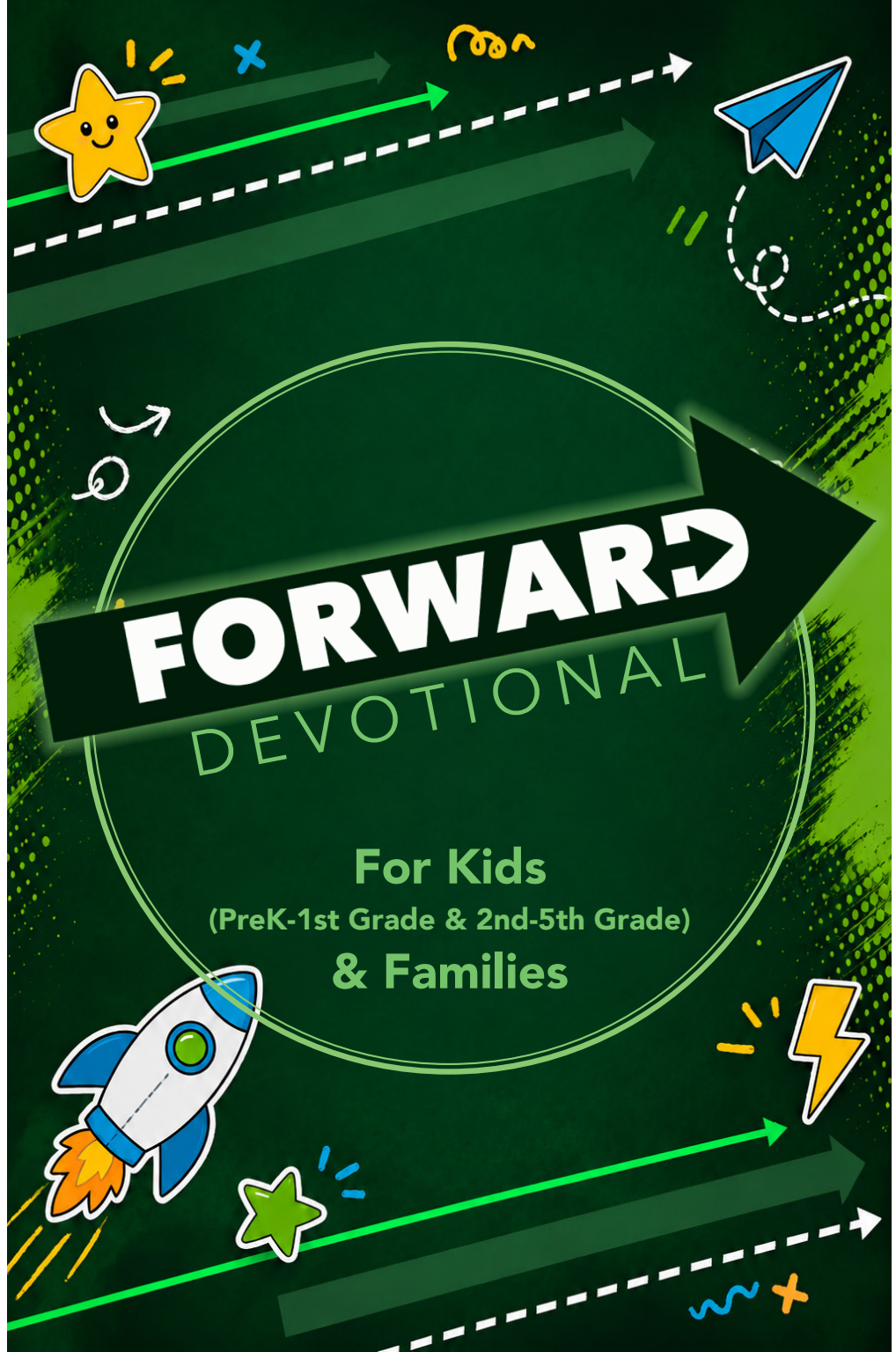




FORWARD

DEVOTIONAL

For Kids
(PreK-1st Grade & 2nd-5th Grade)
& Families



YOUR FORWARD ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!

GET READY TO LIVE LIKE JESUS - ONE DAY AT A TIME!

This book is packed with fun activities for PreK-1st Graders and 2nd-5th Graders and their families! Check out the activities, challenges, prayers, and ways to grow closer to God. Each day, you'll have a chance to learn something, try something, and do something that helps you Live Like Jesus.

Here's how it works:

READ IT: Discover something about God and His amazing story.

TRY IT: Take on a fun challenge and put what you learn into action.

TALK TO GOD: Spend a few minutes praying and talking with God.

LIVE IT: Look for a way to show Jesus' love to someone else!

WEEK 1

PreK-1st Grade

The Power to Live Like Jesus Comes from the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE EACH DAY

Read Galatians 5:22-23

FAMILY ACTIVITY



MONDAY

LOVE: Make a card for someone who's sick or lonely.

TUESDAY

JOY: Draw a picture of something that makes you happy.

WEDNESDAY

PEACE: Practice a quiet minute of stillness or deep breathing.

THURSDAY

PATIENCE: Try stacking blocks slowly and carefully to build a tower.

FRIDAY

SELF-CONTROL: Make a snack for your family, but wait to eat until everyone is ready!

SATURDAY

GOODNESS: Take a short walk and point out 3 things you are thankful to God for.

SUNDAY

FAITHFULNESS: Think of some ways your family can Live Like Jesus this week.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE: Pray to the Holy Spirit to make your family look more like Jesus every day.

WEEK 1 2nd-5th Grade

The Power to Live Like Jesus Comes from the Holy Spirit

DAY	SCRIPTURE	REFLECTION	ACTION
M	John 14:26	What is 1 thing I need God's help with this week?	Think of someone to pray for today.
T	Galatians 5:22-23	Which fruit of the Spirit comes easiest for me? Which is hardest?	Encourage one person today.
W	Acts 1:8	How could God use me at school or home?	Pray for someone at school.
Th	Romans 8:26	Have I ever felt like I didn't know what to pray?	Spend 1 minute sitting quietly with God.
F	Philippians 2:13	What is something God is growing in my life right now?	Tell someone "Thank you" today.
S	Psalms 46:1	Where do I need God's strength today?	Take a short walk and thank God for 3 things.
Sun	Galatians 5:25	What does it mean to keep in step with the Spirit for me?	Ask God to help you become more like Jesus this week.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT "JESUS, HELP ME LIVE LIKE YOU TODAY."

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FAMILY ACTIVITY: I SEE JESUS IN YOU

Have everyone write their name on a piece of paper. Pass the papers around the table and have each family member write one way they see Jesus in that person (kindness, patience, generosity, etc). When everyone is finished, take turns reading them aloud.

Close in prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to make your family look more like Jesus this week.

- Was anything written that surprised you?
- What fruit of the Spirit would you like God to grow in you this year?
- How can our family help one another become more like Jesus?

WEEK 2 PreK-1st Grade

The Spirit Leads Us Beyond Our Comfort Zone

SCRIPTURE EACH DAY
Read Matthew 28:19



FAMILY ACTIVITY

MONDAY	Smile and say hello to someone today.
TUESDAY	Draw a picture of someone who teaches you about Jesus.
WEDNESDAY	Be a helper today.
THURSDAY	Make a new friend today and then tell your family about your new friend.
FRIDAY	Invite people to play with you and tell your family how it went.
SATURDAY	Think of something kind you could do for someone today and then do it!
SUNDAY	Think of a way you can show people God's love.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE: Invite someone over for dinner, ice cream, or to church this month.

WEEK 2

2nd-5th Grade

The Spirit Leads Us Beyond Our Comfort Zone

DAY	SCRIPTURE	REFLECTION	ACTION
M	Joshua 1:9	What makes me nervous when meeting new people?	Smile and say hello to someone today.
T	Matthew 28:19	Who has told me about Jesus?	Write down their name and thank God for them.
W	Isaiah 6:8	Am I willing to let God use me to help others?	Volunteer to help someone today.
Th	Luke 19:5	Jesus noticed people others ignored. Who can I notice?	Sit beside someone different today if possible.
F	Acts 8:29	Have I ever ignored a push from God?	Pray for courage before you leave your house today.
S	Hebrews 13:2	How can I make people feel welcome?	Invite someone to join when you play at recess or in a game.
Sun	Romans 12:13	What gifts has God given me to bless others?	Write one encouraging text to a friend.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

MAKE A NEW FRIEND THIS WEEK.

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FAMILY ACTIVITY: THE EMPTY SEAT

Place an empty chair at the dinner table and ask: If someone sat in this chair this week, who would we want it to be?

Talk about: The new student at school, A lonely neighbor, Someone sitting by themselves at lunch, A family new to church

As a family, choose 1 person/family to pray for this week. Invite someone over for dinner, ice cream, etc.

- Who do you think Jesus would notice?
- Who might feel unseen right now?
- What is one small thing we could do to help someone feel they belong?

WEEK 3 **PreK-1st Grade**

We Move Forward Through Serving

SCRIPTURE EACH DAY

Read Matthew 5:16



FAMILY ACTIVITY

MONDAY

Make a card for someone, to make them smile.

TUESDAY

Help someone in your family.

WEDNESDAY

Do something nice for someone at school but shh...don't tell them.

THURSDAY

Give someone a compliment today.

FRIDAY

Donate something you no longer use.

SATURDAY

Think of something kind you can do for someone else - then do it!

SUNDAY

Pray for those who serve as missionaries.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE: **Complete one secret act of kindness every day this week.**

WEEK 3

2nd-5th Grade

We Move Forward Through Serving

DAY	SCRIPTURE	REFLECTION	ACTION
M	Mark 10:45	How did Jesus serve others?	Help with something around the house before being asked.
T	Galatians 6:2	Who could use some encouragement right now?	Hold the door for someone.
W	Colossians 3:23	How could I serve others?	Do something kind without telling anyone.
Th	Micah 6:8	What does kindness look like at my school?	Leave an encouraging note for someone.
F	Matthew 5:16	How can my actions point others toward God?	Tell someone why they matter.
S	James 2:17	How can my faith become action?	Donate something you no longer use.
Sun	Acts 20:35	When have I felt joy serving someone else?	Pray for missionaries and people serving today.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

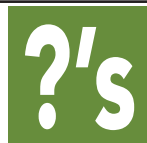
COMPLETE ONE SECRET ACT OF KINDNESS EVERY DAY THIS WEEK.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: FAMILY SECRET SERVICE

Write several simple acts of kindness on slips of paper and place them in a bowl.

Examples: Leave snacks in the mailbox for the mail carrier, pick up litter on your walk, bake cookies for a neighbor, pay for someone's drink, write encouraging notes to teachers, help another family with a chore.

Each family member draws one and completes it together sometime during the week.



- How did it feel to serve someone else?
- What was difficult about serving?
- How do you think serving points people toward Jesus?

WEEK 4

PreK-1st Grade

We Thank God for Yesterday & Trust Him for Tomorrow

SCRIPTURE EACH DAY

Read Jeremiah 29:11



FAMILY ACTIVITY

MONDAY

Say or write down 3 things you are thankful for.

TUESDAY

Draw a picture of something that scares you and then crumple it up.
Remember, God is bigger than anything we could be afraid of.

WEDNESDAY

Take 3 deep breaths and spend 20 seconds being quiet with God.

THURSDAY

Write a note to encourage someone in your family.

FRIDAY

Draw a picture of something you want to do in the next year.

SATURDAY

Talk with your family about 3 things that you loved from last year and 3 things you want to change from the last year.

SUNDAY

Ask someone in your family to pray for you and then pray for them.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE: Keep a gratitude list all week long.

WEEK 4

2nd-5th Grade

We Thank God for Yesterday & Trust Him for Tomorrow

DAY	SCRIPTURE	REFLECTION	ACTION
M	Psalm 118:24	What made me smile today?	Write 3 things you're thankful for.
T	Proverbs 3:5-6	What am I worried about right now?	Give that worry to God in prayer.
W	Philippians 4:6-7	What helps bring me peace?	Take five slow breaths and pray.
Th	Psalm 136:1	Where have I seen God's goodness this year?	Tell someone something you're thankful for.
F	Jeremiah 29:11	What do I hope God has planned for my future?	Write yourself an encouraging note.
S	Isaiah 41:10	What am I afraid of right now?	Ask someone to pray for you.
Sun	Lam. 3:22-23	How has God been faithful to me?	Spend time thanking God for what he has given you.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE KEEP A GRATITUDE LIST ALL WEEK LONG.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: Highs, Lows, & Hopes

Have everyone answer 3 q's:

1. What is one high from this year?
2. What is one hard thing God has brought you through?
3. What is one thing you're trusting God with this year?

Then have each family member write their hope for the year on an index card. Place the cards in an envelope labeled: "We'll Open On This Date..."

Pray over one another before sealing the envelope.

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- What are you most thankful for?
- What feels uncertain right now?
- What would it look like to trust God with what's next?



YOU DID IT!

YOU MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE END?

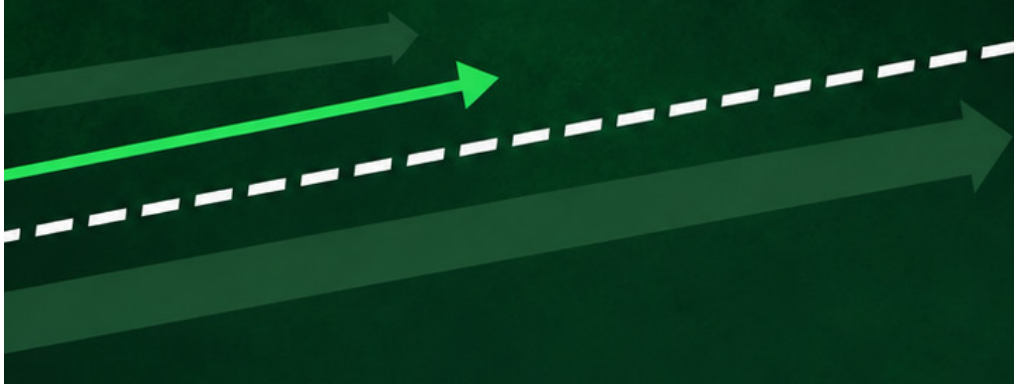
But guess what?
Your adventure doesn't end here.

Every day is a new chance to:
LOVE LIKE JESUS
HELP LIKE JESUS
FORGIVE LIKE JESUS
PRAY LIKE JESUS
SERVE LIKE JESUS

You don't need a special book or a special day to
LIVE LIKE JESUS.

You can do it anywhere. Anytime. Every day.

KEEP MOVING FORWARD
God has BIG plans for you!



CELEBRATE WHAT GOD HAS DONE

STEP FORWARD INTO WHAT'S NEXT.

JOIN US IN PRAYER AS WE PREPARE

As we look forward to our debt-free celebration, we invite everyone to participate in the 333 Prayer Initiative, a church-wide season of prayer and spiritual preparation.

For 30 days, we are asking our church family to spend 3 minutes each day praying for 3 things.

Download the prayer card at
[**www.carlislepaumc.org/forwardcelebration**](http://www.carlislepaumc.org/forwardcelebration)

