

**DEVOTIONAL**

The

**Busy Family**

Week 4: Enjoy

This week we are going to enjoy the family that God has blessed us with. I want you to breathe 3x in through your nose and out through your mouth. Now that you are prepared, everyone must grab a pillow and meet in the middle of the most open room in the house. On the count of three, I want you to start a pillow fight. 1…2…3 GO!

After the pillow fight, use this time to clean up any mess and drink some water. While you are catching your breath each family member gets to tell their favorite family memory.

What is your favorite memory?

“So no one should separate what God has joined together.” Mark 10:9 (NIRV)



Hey!

The bees are buzzing and maybe the kids are blowing dandelion fuzz but are you doing whatever a family does in summer? This virus has probably changed most of, if not all your summer plans, and has left you feeling some disappointment and probably exhausted from the constant change and having the kids home for so long. That’s okay! That is exactly why we believe it is time for The Busy Family Devotional.

Our goal is to help you set aside time to really enjoy your kids and the ministry God has blessed you with. As parents, it is exceedingly difficult to find the energy to keep up with your kids, and trust us when we say, “WE UNDERSTAND”. Raising kids is no walk in the park, they don’t really come with an instruction manual or any warning labels to give you a heads up as to what is to come. But that is when we must turn to God to get us through. This is what inspired the idea for this Devotional booklet, we want to bring the family together and have some fun while building (or maintaining) our foundation in Christ.

As you and your family work your way through this booklet this month you will encounter discussion starters, scripture reading challenges, family fun ideas, and other activities to bring the light that the world so desperately tries to destroy into your home. We hope you enjoy this and that your family grows further in their faith and closer to God. Remember to open yourself up to God, your spouse, and your children while going through this devotional.

Best Wishes & God’s Blessings upon you,

Mike & Michaela Russell

**Week 3: Peace**

When do you feel the most at peace? Is it sitting in your room listening to music or maybe it’s when you’re sitting in the car staring out the window?

I want you to close your eyes right now and try to clear everything out of your mind. If this is hard for you, try counting and only thinking about the number you’re on.

Now, hopefully, your mind is clear. I want you to think one thing, God. Think about who He is and all the blessings He has given you. When you’re done say “Amen” out loud or in your head. You just prayed to God.

If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can.”

Romans 12:18 (NIRV)

**Week 1: Forgiveness**

**Once upon a time a sailor and his rat friend went to the Kingdom of Dor for their famous “Royal Soup Day”. Everybody knew that this kingdom had the best soups and they would travel across the sea just to have a taste of the amazing soup! Well the sailor’s rat friend wonders off and winds up in the royal banquet hall where the king, queen, and princess are eating. The rat ends up slipping and falling into the queens’ bowl of soup! This gave the queen such a fright that she died.**

**This accident made the king and**

**the princess incredibly sad, their**

**hearts felt broken. After this**

**the rat went down under the**

**castle to live in the dark**

**city of rats where he**

**eventually befriends a**

**small mouse with huge ears**

**named Despereaux (Des-per-oh). Despereaux inspires the rat to build up the courage and apologize for the accident he caused but when he does apologize to the princess, she gets very mad and does not accept his apology. The rat got angry for the princess not accepting his apology that he decides to seek revenge by helping the princess’ maid kidnap her!**

**The rat decides to forgive the princess for how she reacted to his apology because he knows she is still hurt and upset about losing her mother and ends up double crossing the maid and locking her up!**

**After all this happens the rat’s apology is finally accepted, the King overcomes the sadness in his heart and the Kingdom celebrates with a Soup Day!**



**Week 3: Peace**

Once upon a time, deep in the jungle a black jaguar heard the cries of tiny baby. The jaguar took the baby to a mama wolf who raised the baby like one of her own cubs. When the little man cub grew, the entire jungle knew it was time to return him to the village outside the jungle. It was time for the man cub to leave the jungle because there was a lot of fuss coming up and a very scary and mean tiger was hunting the man cub to kill him.

The man cub didn’t want to go to the village, he wanted to stay in the jungle forever. He thought the jungle was the best place for him, until he was by the water at the edge of the village when he saw the prettiest girl. They looked at each other and he followed her to the village to finish growing up. Peace was restored to the jungle when the man cub moved into the village.

**Week 1: Forgiveness**

**What does “forgive” mean to you?**

**Is forgiveness just words or is it something we must make an effort to do, work at?**

**When was the last time you can remember YOU asking someone else to forgive something you did or said?**

**When was the least time YOU had to forgive someone else for what they did or said?**

**Forgiveness isn’t always easy to give or ask for. Sometimes we think we didn’t even do anything wrong, but it ended up hurting someone, and even though we didn’t think it was bad we should still ask for forgiveness because God gives us forgiveness every day!**

**Why should we forgive people?**

**Is there someone or something you are having a hard time forgiving? Is there something you are having a hard time asking for forgiveness? Let’s talk about it.**

**“Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13 (NIRV)**





**Week 2: Love**

Family Dinner Rules:

1. Everyone has to have a good attitude. If you’ve had a bad day, talk about it, then let it go.
2. Make it a priority. There is no getting out of it, we’re all supposed to be social distancing anyways so enjoy this time and make it important.
3. Set aside any and all expectations! Don’t expect this will go smoothly because it probably won’t but that’s okay! If you want to play it safe pick a meal that is “easy” to make. If your kids really aren’t into it then after they help with some part of it, they can focus on the music or something but still spend time with you.
4. Relax. You will most likely be far outside your comfort zone having the entire house helping cook dinner so just breathe and take it one ingredient at a time.
5. Have fun, let loose. This is your family, your ministry, dance and sing along with the music. Be goofy and silly, this is the kind of things your kids and even your spouse will never forget, and it will bring the family closer together.

What ended up being for dinner?

**Week 2: Love**

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people’s wrongs. Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken. It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up. Love never fails.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Take some time to talk about what you love about your family, your parents, and yourself. This might be a little difficult and uncomfortable but please do not give up.

Now think about what your absolute favorite meal is, try to find one you can all agree is yummy and don’t forget about dessert! Once you’ve made a decision you all make dinner together and jam out to some music!