



Family Worship Guide 27

Family Relationships

Look Up and Read Aloud

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

We’re going to talk about DEVOTION to your family today. DEVOTION might be a new word for you, so let’s figure out what it means. Devotion is when you have a strong attachment to someone because you love that person. Let’s think about family members we’re really devoted to.

Piggyback Rides

Put one of the smaller children on the back of an adult. Older siblings may want to do this with younger siblings, also. Piggyback them all around the room and tell them to hold on tight. Do some quick stops and turns so that the kid being piggybacked has to really hold on.

That child was really attached to the adult who was piggybacking him! Is that devotion? Nope. It was a strong attachment, but it wasn’t really devotion. Devotion is when your heart, your feelings, and your thoughts are strongly attached to someone ... not just your hands!

Talk Time

Devotion is more about what you do, not just what you say. Devotion shows in your actions.

Here’s an example. There was a dad who was very devoted to his son. He had promised his son they would go horseback riding on Saturday morning. On Friday night, some of the dad’s friends called and asked him to join them for a fun day of playing golf on Saturday. The dad thought that would be a great time, but he remembered his promise to his son and knew that would be a lot of fun, also. He chose to take his son horseback riding, because he was devoted to being a good dad and he did not want to disappoint his son.

- Is there a family member who has done something—big or small—that demonstrated their devotion to you?

Devotion means you're willing to give up something. Sometimes it means that you have to make a difficult decision or sacrifice. Is there someone in your family who has been so devoted that they were willing to give up something for you?

- I've heard of a mom who gave up her manicures so that her daughter could take piano lessons.
- I've heard of a young lady who gave one of her kidneys so that her sister who needed a kidney could live.
- If you're strongly attached—devoted—to someone in your family, what happens when they are going through a real sad time in their life? You feel sad with them, because you're devoted and attached.
- If you're devoted to a brother or sister, what happens when they win a really awesome award? You celebrate with them!
- If you're devoted to someone in your family, what happens when they're in trouble and need help? You help them, and they don't even have to ask for your help.

You do those things because you love them and you're strongly attached—you're devoted!

- Can you think of a time when something bad happened to you and your family stuck with you?
- Can you think of something awesome that happened and your family was there to help you celebrate?

Now, think about those questions, but ask them about yourself: Who are you devoted to? Who have you stuck by?

Object Lesson

You'll need a spool of thread and a pair of scissors.

One person will take a spool of thread and break off a piece. That wasn't difficult. Now, put 2 pieces of thread together and see if you can break them at the same time. Do the same thing a third time but add a third string and try to break it.

- What happened when you added the second piece of thread?
- What happened when you added the third piece of thread?

Look Up and Read

Turn in your Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:12 and read it together. "*A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*" How about that! The Bible talks about the same thing that we just saw!

When you are committed to a relationship—whether that is husband-to-wife, daughter-to-mother, brother-to-sister, dad-to-daughter, dad-to-son ... whatever—you are stronger when God is part of that relationship. He is one of the threads.

Potato Experiment

You will need a potato and a straw. Put a potato (not one that is old or soft) on the table. Hold it firmly with one hand, but don't put your hand under the potato. With the other hand, stab the straw into the potato with a fast, strong swing. The straw should go into the potato and lodge there. If it doesn't, then try it again, only this time stab faster and harder.

The straw was stuck to the potato and the potato was stuck to the straw. When you are devoted to someone, you stick with them!

Prayer

God is devoted to you in good times and bad. It's easy to be devoted when everything is going well, but God is devoted to us when we mess up really badly, even when we do things that we know He's not pleased with. He just won't leave us alone, because He's devoted! We can be devoted because we have the example of God's devotion to follow.

Dear God. I'm so glad You are devoted to me. You stick with me when I'm having trouble, and You stick with me when I'm having a great day! You're awesome, God. I want to live devoted to You! Amen.

