



# SUMMER TIME FAMILY DEVOTIONS



based on  
**Colossians 3:12**

# What's Included

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# Introduction

This is a six week family devotional study for families with young children. It is centered around Colossians 3:12. This study is intended to be done 1-3 times per week for six weeks. It can be done with your family at any time during the day.

The lesson is divided up into 5 sections:

1. Memorize/Review the Summer Memory Verse: Colossians 3:12
2. Discuss/Review the theme for the week
3. Roll the dice
4. Do the activities
5. Close with reflection and prayer

Look through the lesson to see what you need before starting. You will need dice, a Bible, children's books on the theme, music, pencils or crayons, child reflection book/worksheet and different items for each activity. (For directions on how to fold the book watch a YouTube video called: "How to Make a Booklet from One Piece of Paper")

Each time you get together each child in the family rolls the die to decide what activities you will be doing. If you have several children in your family take turns of who gets to roll. 1 to 3 activities should be chosen for each night. For example: if you have 3 children you could have one child roll each night or all 3 depending on how much time you want to spend.

Children's Books and Music should be acquired before starting the study. Books can be found at your local library and music can be found on YouTube. Bible verses and Bible stories can be read from the Bible of your choice or a storybook Bible. An adult or child can read each verse or story.

All activities in this study can be substituted if you know of something that fits better for your family.

Each week's theme should be discussed throughout your day and week, and parents should watch for, and encouraged their children to practice each character quality.

During the reflection time students can draw a picture or write what they did that day/week to show the character quality on the given worksheet.

# SUMMER TIME FAMILY DEVOTIONS OVERVIEW

*"You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient." - Colossians 3:12*

	Bible Verse	Bible Story	Children's Book	Worship Song	Activity	Prayer
<b>God's Love</b>	1 John 3:1 Colossians 1:22 Romans 5:8	Woman at the Well John 4:1-40	God Gave Us Love by Lisa Bergen	Jesus Loves Me Love Never Fails By Brandon Heath	Clothed with the attributes of God	Pray for those you know who are not Christians
<b>Mercy</b>	Luke 6:35-36 Titus 3:5	Parable of the Unmerciful Servant Matthew 18:21-35	Dial M for Mercy by Doug Peterson Mouse and Lion by Rand Burkert	Every Move I Make by David Crowder Band	The Forgiving Game	Ask for help to forgive others quickly
<b>Kindness</b>	Ephesians 4:32	Mephibosheth 2 Samuel 9	Bernstein Bears: Kindness Counts, Love Their Neighbors; Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed by Emily Pearson	Kindness by Chris Tomlin	Random Act of Kindness	Ask for help to be considerate of others, and respond politely even in difficult circumstances
<b>Humility</b>	Proverbs 11:2 Philippians 2:3	Tower of Babel Genesis 11:1-9	I'm the Best by Lucy Cousins Tortoise and the Hare	Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord	Foot Washing	Ask forgiveness for boasting. Ask God to help us put others first
<b>Gentleness</b>	Proverbs 15:1	A Comparison of Kings 1 Kings 12:12-17 Zechariah 9:9 Matthew 11:28-30	Be Gentle With the Dog Dear by Matthew Baek The Contest Between the Sun and the Wind by Heather Forest	Take My Life (using the word Gentleness) By Scott Underwood	Tone and Expression Game  Stuffed Animals	Ask for help in speaking to others with sensitivity and compassion, and help to play with others with respect
<b>Patience</b>	Romans 12:12 2 Peter 3:9	Noah Job Joseph	This Monster Cannot Wait by Bethany Barton If you want to See a Whale by Julie Fogliano	Have Patience	Puzzle  Rock Candy	Ask God to help us wait calmly, trust God's timing and be tolerant of other people's shortcomings

# God's Love

**Memorization:** Start memorizing the first part of the verse: *"You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved."*

Here are some memorization ideas:

1. With a white board and dry erase markers or each word on a different piece of paper: Read the verse and then erase a word each time
2. Read the first phrase and have each member of your family repeat it, move on to the second phrase and do the same thing. Lastly, go back and repeat the whole verse
3. Draw a picture for each key word of the verse
4. Create hand motions to go along with each word or concept

Towards the end of the week, ask each member of the family to recite the verse memorized.

**Discuss the Theme:** There are really 3 themes in this week, feel free to focus on all three or whichever one is best for your family at this time. The overall theme is that God Loves Us, which includes that he chose us, and made us holy. Discuss what each of these things mean, or discuss one theme each night. As you go through the activities relate the discussion back to the theme. Look for ways that your family members show God's love to one another this week.

## Roll the Dice Activities-

**1- Bible Verses:** 1 John 3:1, Colossians 1:22, Romans 5:8

**2- Bible Stories:** Woman at the Well from John 4:1-40, "How did Jesus show love in this story?"

**3- Children's Books:** God Gave Us Love by Lisa Bergen

**4- Worship Song:** Jesus Loves Me, or Love Never Fails By Brandon Heath

**5- Activity:** Clothed with the attributes of God- find some dress up clothes around the house, or even use some of your own old clothes to let your kids dress up. Once dressed tell your children a scenario such as "a new person comes to school/church" then let your kids role play what Jesus would do in the situation. Discuss how God "clothes us" with His character qualities so we can act in the way that He would.

**6- Prayer:** Pray for those you know who are not Christians, this can be incorporated into the ending prayer

**Close with Reflection and Prayer:** Ask each member of the family to share one thing they learned and one thing that they want to pray about. Write these items down to remember what you're praying for. An adult and/or children can pray.

# Mercy

**Memorization:** Just work on this part of the verse this week: “*So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes.*” You will put the two phrases of the verse together in later weeks. Try to memorize the phrase by the end of the week.

**Discuss the Theme:** The definition of Mercy is: not getting something negative that I deserve. Or not being punished for something wrong that we have done. Why would the verse say “tender mercy?” What is an example of mercy in your home? What is an example of mercy in the Bible? Look for ways that your family members show mercy to one another this week.

## Roll the Dice Activities-

**1- Bible Verses:** Luke 6:35-36, Titus 3:5

**2- Bible Stories:** Parable of the Unmerciful Servant from Matthew 18:21-35; Who showed mercy in this story? How did they show mercy? Who did not show mercy? Which is a better choice? Why?

**3- Children’s Books:** Dial M for Mercy by Doug Peterson; Mouse and Lion by Rand Burkert

**4- Worship Song:** Every Move I Make by David Crowder Band

**5- Activity:** The Forgiving Game: take several pieces of paper or index cards cut them into 20 cards. On each card write a scenario that would need forgiveness, for example: a friend breaks your toy, your brother colors on your artwork, etc. On the back write a number and a forward moving action like: 3 hops, 2 steps, etc. Make a finish line and a start line. Line your kids up on the starting line and have them draw a card. Read the scenario and ask the kids if they’re going to forgive them. If they say “I forgive them” then they get to do the action on the other side of the card. See who can get to the finish line first.

If you don’t have time this game can be done without the cards, but it’s good to at least have a list of ideas for scenarios.

**6- Prayer:** Ask for help to forgive others quickly

**Close with Reflection and Prayer:** Continue sharing what each family member learned and prayer requests. Don’t forget to include the parents in each step.

# KINDNESS

**Memorization:** Put together the first two sections of the verse this week: “*You are God’s chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes.*” See who in your family can say both parts by the end of the week.

**Discuss the Theme:** Examples of kindness include: being considerate of others, putting other first, and responding politely. Talk about other examples of kindness and how they’ve been shown kindness by others. Look for ways that your family members show kindness to one another this week.

## Roll the Dice Activities-

**1- Bible Verses:** Ephesians 4:32

**2- Bible Stories:** The story of Mephibosheth from 2 Samuel 9; Who showed kindness in this story? Did he have to show kindness? Did Mephibosheth do anything to deserve this kindness? How can you show kindness?

**3- Children’s Books:** Bernstein Bears: Kindness Counts; Berenstain Bears Love Their Neighbors; Ordinary Mary’s Extraordinary Deed by Emily Pearson

**4- Worship Song:** Kindness by Chris Tomlin

**5- Activity:** Random Act of Kindness- Discuss what a random act of kindness is and then plan and do an act of kindness for another family. Discuss how doing random acts of kindness can be fun and can be done at home for other members of the family. Brainstorm ways to show kindness at home.

**6- Prayer:** Ask for help to be considerate of others, and respond politely even in difficult circumstances

## Close with Reflection and Prayer

# HUMILITY

**Memorization:** Start by memorizing this short sentence: “Don’t be proud.” Then add it to the rest of the verse already memorized. See who can say the whole verse so far, by the end of the week.

**Discuss the Theme:** What does it mean to be proud? What is the opposite of pride? –*humility*, What is humility? God doesn’t want us to be proud, he wants us be to humble. Discuss how God wants us to give glory to Him for what He does in our lives. Look for ways that your family members show humility to one another this week.

## Roll the Dice Activities-

**1- Bible Verses:** Proverbs 11:2; Philippians 2:3

**2- Bible Stories:** Tower of Babel from Genesis 11:1-9

**3- Children’s Books:** I’m the Best by Lucy Cousins; the story of the Tortoise and the Hare

**4- Worship Song:** Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

**5- Activity:** Foot Washing- Many families have not ever washed the feet of the other members of their family. Discuss why foot washing was done in Jesus day, and then draw names for who will wash whose feet. Make this a quiet time, and have the person washing the feet pray for the family member whose feet they’re washing.

**6- Prayer:** Ask forgiveness for boasting. Ask God to help us put others first

## Close with Reflection and Prayer



# Gentleness

**Memorization:** Review the first part of this phrase, then add the last section of the verse. “Don’t be proud. Be gentle and patient.” Don’t do the whole verse yet, you’ll finish it up next week. Don’t forget to see who can memorize this part of the verse by the end of the week.

**Discuss the Theme:** Gentleness is speaking to others with sensitivity and compassion, playing with others carefully and treating others with respect. What are some ways to show gentleness to friends and family members? How else can you be gentle? Look for ways that your family members show gentleness to one another this week.

## Roll the Dice Activities-

**1- Bible Verses:** Proverbs 15:1

**2- Bible Stories:** A Comparison of Kings: 1 Kings 12:12-17, Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 11:28-30; Compare each of the kings in the stories. Which king was gentle? Which king was not gentle? How did you know?

**3- Children’s Books:** Be Gentle With the Dog Dear by Matthew Baek; The Contest Between the Sun and the Wind by Heather Forest

**4- Worship Song:** Take My Life, (using the word Gentleness), By Scott Underwood

**5- Activity:** Stuffed Animals- Have each of your kids find a stuffed animal. Tell them to pretend it’s a real animal. Have them show you how they would treat it. Discuss how they were gentle with the animals, and how they are to be gentle with their words and actions towards people.

Tone and Expression Game- Take a phrase like: “Please Stop Doing That.” Think of all the ways to say it with different tone and expression. It’s okay to be silly! Once you’re finished, pick which one is the most gentle. Why do they like that version over the more harsh versions? Is someone more likely to stop what they’re doing if you use a gentle voice?

**6- Prayer:** Ask for help in speaking to others with sensitivity and compassion, and help to play with others with respect

## Close with Reflection and Prayer

# Patience

**Memorization:** This week it's the whole verse! Practice each phrase together as a family and then put them together. "You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient." See who can say the whole thing. Celebrate the work of memorizing together.

**Discuss the Theme:** Patience is waiting calmly, trusting God's timing and being tolerant of others shortcomings. What are some things in life that you've had to wait for, or are still waiting for? What is your attitude while you wait? Look for ways that your family members show God's love to one another this week.

## Roll the Dice Activities-

**1- Bible Verses:** Romans 12:12; 2 Peter 3:9

**2- Bible Stories:** Pick one of your favorite or do a different story each night: Noah; Job; Joseph; Ask who showed patience, and how they did it.

**3- Children's Books:** This Monster Cannot Wait by Bethany Barton, If you want to See a Whale by Julie Fogliano

**4- Worship Song:** Have Patience

**5- Activity:** Puzzle-Put together a jigsaw puzzle as a family. It can be a large one or small one. Discuss how it takes time and patience to see the whole picture

Rock Candy- Boil 1 cup water to 3 cups sugar on the stove. Once the sugar is dissolved and the water has cooled, pour it into clear glass jars or cups. Put a paperclip with a cotton string on the top of the glass. The string should hang down into the sugar water until it almost reaches the bottom. Wait patiently for the rock candy to form. (Food coloring can be used to give color to the candy.)

**6- Prayer:** Ask God to help us wait calmly, trust God's timing and be tolerant of other people's shortcomings

## Close with Reflection and Prayer