

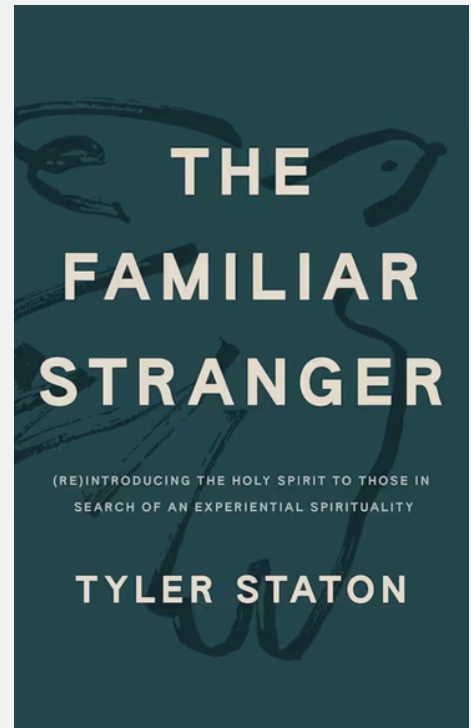
JANUARY BOOK MONTH 2026

GETTING TO KNOW THE FAMILIAR STRANGER: FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Based on *The Familiar Stranger* by Tyler Staton

This devotional invites families to discover the Holy Spirit not as someone distant or confusing, but as God who is near, gentle, and active in our everyday lives. Each week includes a short reading, a family conversation, a simple practice, and a prayer.

You don't need to do this perfectly. Choose a time that works for your family — around the dinner table, before bed, or during a quiet moment together.



WEEK 1: God Is With Us

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Big Idea	The Holy Spirit isn't just for church or grown ups - He is with us every day!
Read Together (for parents)	In <i>The Familiar Stranger</i> , Tyler Staton reminds us that the Holy Spirit is often closer than we realise. God's Spirit isn't distant or loud — He is present, attentive, and walking with us in our ordinary moments.
Talk About It (for kids)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is always with you, even when you can't see them?• How does it feel to know God is close to you?• Where do you think God might be with you during the day?
Family Practice	Before bed one night this week, pause together and say: "God, thank You for being with us today." Invite each family member to name one moment they noticed God's kindness — through a person, a feeling, or something good that happened.
Prayer	Holy Spirit, thank You for being close to our family. Help us notice You this week. Amen.

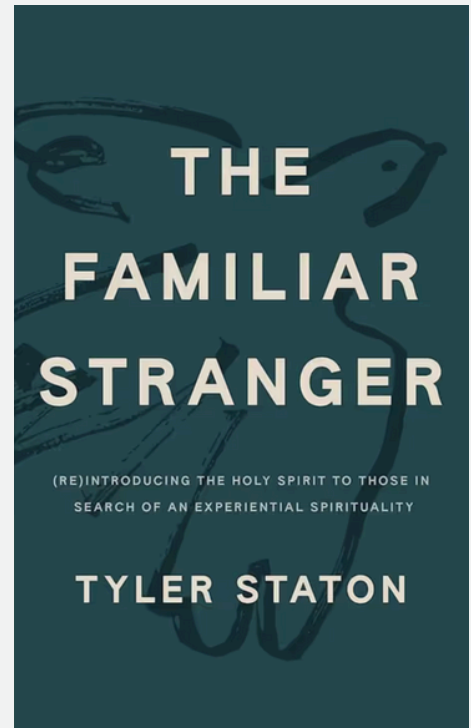
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WEEK 2: Learning To Listen

Big Idea	The Holy Spirit speaks in quiet ways — through peace, wisdom, Scripture, and loving nudges.
Read Together (for parents)	Staton writes about learning to slow down and listen. The Spirit often speaks softly, not to rush us, but to guide us with love.
Talk About It (for kids)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you ever had a quiet thought to be kind or helpful?• How do we listen better — with our ears, hearts, or actions?• What helps our family slow down?
Family Practice	<p>Find one moment this week to sit quietly together for 30 seconds. Ask: “Holy Spirit, is there anything You want us to know?”</p> <p>Afterwards, remind children: God’s voice is always kind and loving.</p>
Prayer	Holy Spirit, help us listen. Teach us to hear Your loving voice. Amen.

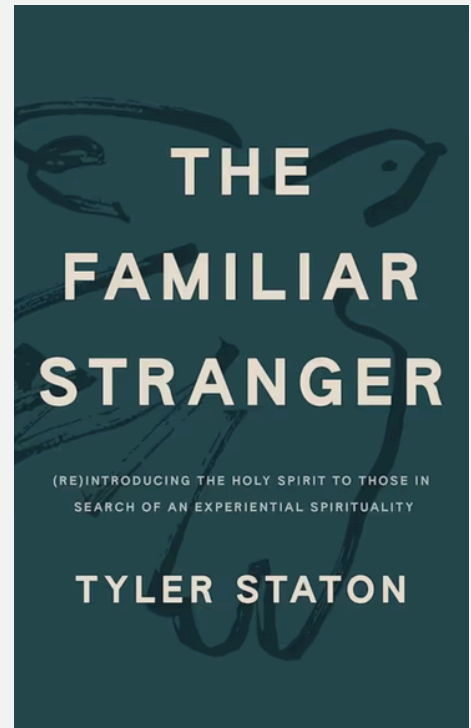
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WEEK 3: The Holy Spirit Helps Us

Big Idea	The Holy Spirit helps us when things are hard and gives us strength to love others.
Read Together (for parents)	One of the beautiful truths in <i>The Familiar Stranger</i> is that the Spirit is our helper — comforting us, guiding us, and giving us courage when we need it.
Talk About It (for kids)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you do when something feels hard?• How do you think God helps us when we feel sad, worried, or unsure?• Who can we help this week?
Family Practice	<p>As a family, choose one act of kindness to do together this week — a message, a meal, a prayer for someone else, mowing the neighbours lawn, etc.</p> <p>Afterwards ask: “How do you think the Holy Spirit helped us do that?”</p>
Prayer	Holy Spirit, thank You for helping us. Help us love others like Jesus. Amen.

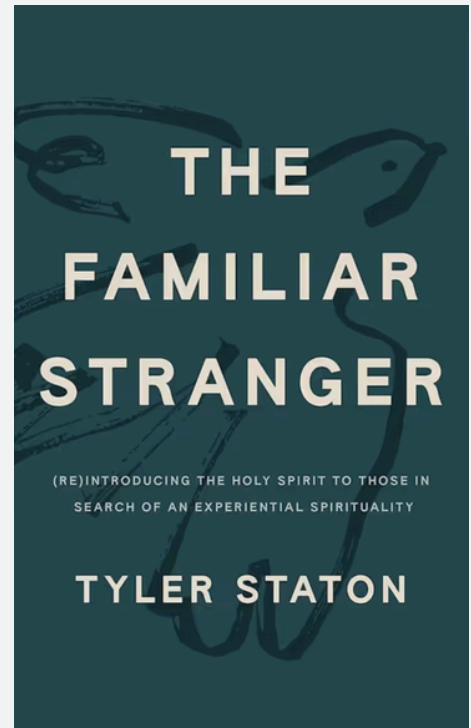
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WEEK 4: Walking With the Spirit

Big Idea	Life with the Holy Spirit is a journey — we grow as we walk with Him every day.
Read Together (for parents)	Staton encourages believers to see life with the Spirit as an ongoing relationship, not a one-time moment. We learn as we walk, trust, and stay open to God.
Talk About It (for kids)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does it mean to walk with someone?• How can we walk with God every day?• What do you hope God helps you with this year?
Family Practice	<p>Invite each family member to finish this sentence: “This year, I want God to help me with...”</p> <p>Write them down and pray them aloud together. Hang them all on the fridge for accountability, and encouragement to check in each week.</p>
Prayer	Holy Spirit, we want to walk with You this year. Lead our family as we follow Jesus together. Amen.