

Family Devotional Guide

Colossians 3:12-17

Opening Prayer (read aloud)

"Father, thank You for gathering us as a family today. Even though we aren't meeting in our church building, we are still Your church, united in Christ. Open our hearts as we read Your Word, teach us how to love one another, and help us see Jesus more clearly. Amen."

Passage (read aloud)

Colossians 3:12–17 (CSB)

12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. 14 Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ice-Breaker Question: What's a favorite memory you have from a family trip or outing where you felt especially close together as a family?

Questions for the Family

- Forgiveness is a recurring theme in this passage, described as "bearing with one another" and "forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you." How does remembering Christ's forgiveness of us help us forgive, even when forgiveness feels costly or undeserved?
- Paul says to bear with one another, which means showing patience and not getting annoyed with someone, even when you have a reason to. Think about the people you interact with most often. What's one everyday situation where you're often tempted to get impatient? What would it look like to respond with grace instead?
- Let's go around and each share one thing we're thankful to God for, and one thing we're thankful for in our family.
- What does it look like to "let the peace of Christ rule" in our home and relationships? How can we practically let the "word of Christ dwell richly" in us as a family?

Optional: Questions for Kids

- What are some of your favorite clothes to wear? Paul says we have new clothes to put on that aren't made of cloth, things like kindness and forgiveness. What does it mean to "wear" kindness or "wear" patience?
- The passage talks about forgiving others, just like Jesus forgave us. Is it ever hard to forgive someone? What helps us be able to forgive, even when it's hard?
- The last verse says that no matter what we do, whether we're playing, doing chores, or talking to our friends, we can do it for Jesus. What is one thing you can do for Jesus this week, such as helping a brother or sister or being kind to a friend?

Communion

How to Prepare: Before you begin, gather something simple for the bread (crackers, bread, or even a small piece of tortilla) and something for the cup (grape juice or another juice you have on hand). Communion is not about the exact elements, but about remembering Jesus through them.

Scripture Reading (1 Corinthians 11:23–26, CSB):

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Communion Prayer:

"Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving Your body and shedding Your blood so we could be forgiven and made new. As we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember Your sacrifice and proclaim that our hope is in You. Help us to live with thankfulness, peace, and love this week, because of what You have done for us. Amen."

Closing Prayer (read aloud)

"Father, thank You for this time together as a family. Thank You for Your Word, for forgiving us in Jesus, and for giving us peace. Help us to live this week with kindness, patience, and love, so that everything we do brings glory to You. Amen."