

OUR Christian FAMILIES



FIRST CHURCH
OPEN BIBLE
Family Life Resources



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We understand the challenges of busy schedules at home, which is why we offer resources that support you and your family which are easy to use, relevant and most importantly honor God. We pray these resources for your home along with the classes and services at First Church make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Open Bible

Colossians 2:6,7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

MOST BIBLE VERSES IN THIS BOOKLET ARE QUOTED FROM THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Introduction

The Calling and the Mission of the Church

“For this reason, I kneel before the father, from whom every family in heaven, and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches, he may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being...”

(Ephesians 3:14-16.)

Ephesians gives us a templates for family life in the church body and in our homes. Paul reminds us of what Christ did for us. This becomes the basis for our church family and our home life. The intention of God is that now through the church, the wisdom of God should be made known. - Ephesians 3:10.

Paul prays that Christ will dwell in our hearts through faith. And that we can grasp the deep love of Christ, being filled with His Spirit.
- Ephesians 3:17-19.

As we grow in Jesus, we can provide loving shelter in our church, family, and our homes.

LESSON 1

Caring for One Another

Parent's Passage: Ephesians 4:11-16

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:22

"...in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul lays out the mystery of a people of God set apart as the dwelling place of God. He describes it as a mystery made known by the Spirit of God through the apostles and prophets. (Ephesians 3:5-9)

Paul explains God has revealed to him, through the Spirit that God has now, through the church, made His wisdom and plans known. (Ephesians 3:11)

Paul prays for the church that, through the Spirit, they can come to know the great spiritual riches Jesus has for them. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

What are God's good intentions for his people - the church?

Bearing with one another in love. -Ephesians 4:2

Build one another up. -Ephesians 4:12 & 19

Be kind and compassionate to one another. -Ephesians 4:32

How does this look?

Live as children of the light. -Ephesians 5:8.

Be filled with the Spirit. -Ephesians 5:18

Speak to one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. -Ephesians 5:19

Always giving thanks to God. -Ephesians 5:20

Submit to one another. -Ephesians 5:18-20

“Be made new in the attitude of your minds and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Ephesians 4:23-24)

This is the expectation of God for the church. To be His light and an example of His goodness and kindness.

We become clothed in Christ in order to be the hands and feet of Christ to one another. The very design of the church is a dwelling place for God to make His goodness and Mercies known.

PAUL'S PRAYER

Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 5 Word Search

FIND THE WORDS LISTED BELOW FROM EPHESIANS 5

CHILDREN
LOVE
CHRIST
HOLY
KINGDOM

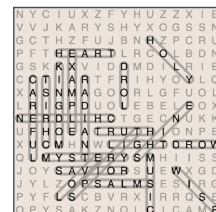
LIGHT
LORD
TRUTH
SHINE
CAREFUL

WISE
SPIRIT
PSALMS
HEART
SAVIOR

WORD
RADIANT
MUSIC
EXAMPLE
MYSTERY



ANSWERS



LESSON 2

Families Reflect Christ and the Church

Parent's Passage: Ephesians 5:21-33

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:32

"This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the Church."

Ephesians 5 gives us Paul's instructions for a home and family that reflects Christ:

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." -Ephesians 5:1-2

Much has been written about how godly families ought to look, and we have many good examples of how Christian families live.

I want to share with you a two-year window into our family life:

We had been married 36 years, and our children were now adults and were busy building families of their own. We were both working full-time and participating in ministry. Our lives were full.

In May, I was badly injured when another vehicle rear-ended my car on the freeway, and suddenly our lives teetered on a knife's edge. I believe the Lord saved my life and lifted me out of the wreck. But after the shock wore off and the dust settled, it became clear that I was not the same.

The brain injury I sustained required stillness and rest to heal, which was an entirely new experience for me. My husband took

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over all household responsibilities. The doctor instructed me to spend hours sitting on our deck, resting and taking in all the scenery and beauty that God had provided.

My friends from church came and visited me as I waited for my recovery, which lasted more than two years. I went through multiple therapies, trying to regain function. During that time, my husband kept our household running as smoothly as possible, and he even managed to move us into a new home.

Toward the end of my time in various therapies, I felt like I was making progress. I was working part-time and we were trying to move forward with our lives. One Sunday, on the way to church, my husband asked me, "Is this going to be another mean day?"

In that moment, I realized the weight he had been carrying. He had carried our marriage forward when I was unable to. I also realized that even though I was walking and talking again, there was still healing to be done in my life to recover what we had lost.

God continued to work in our lives as we ministered to each other and helped each other restore balance back into our lives, learning to care for each other as Christ cares for us.

Not many people realized the struggle we went through during those two years, but Ephesians 3:10-12 expresses the truth that our lives are not our own—even the heavenly realms are watching God's great plan unfold as we learn to imitate Christ.

"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."

-Ephesians 3:10-12

LESSON 3

Who Am I?

Parent's Passage: Ephesians 5

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:21

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

I find myself in this month that celebrates mothers wanting to shift out of the norm a bit. Should our mothers be honored? Absolutely! Be kind to your mommy, momma, mom, mother - however you refer to her! Think of big ways and small ways to show her how much you love and appreciate her!

Most of our mothers deserve the absolute best! And the others - well, kindness is still necessary because remember that they're image bearers of our Lord the most high and we are called to be His light.

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." -Ephesians 5:1-2

However, I'd like to focus not just on Moms, but on all of us. Who are you, anyway? The world might define you as a mom, a dad, a daughter, a son ... But if you live in this world for a while, these titles from the world can become confusing. What if you're a mom or a dad to a child who has passed away? Or what if your parent won't speak to you any longer because of some hurt or disagreement? Dear, sweet Mom, Dad, Son, Daughter ... you are still in those roles, but it can be hard to live under that label in difficult times.

So who are you? Even if you're feeling disconnected or perhaps you're just in a season of transition, we all want to understand who we are and why we matter.

Who are you? You are who your Father calls you to be! He is with you even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

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And THIS is who He says you are:

I am loved no matter what I have or have not done.	<i>“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Rom 5:8</i>
I am treasured	<i>“Do not be afraid, you who are treasured” Dan 10:19</i>
I am Jesus’s friend	<i>“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends” John 15:15</i>
I am free	<i>“...the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free...” Rom 8:2</i>
I am more than a conqueror	<i>“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Rom 8:37</i>
I am valuable	<i>“You were bought at a price.” 1 Cor 6:20</i>
I belong and am part of God’s family	<i>“Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God” 1 Pet 2:10</i>

The Bible tells us in John 10:10

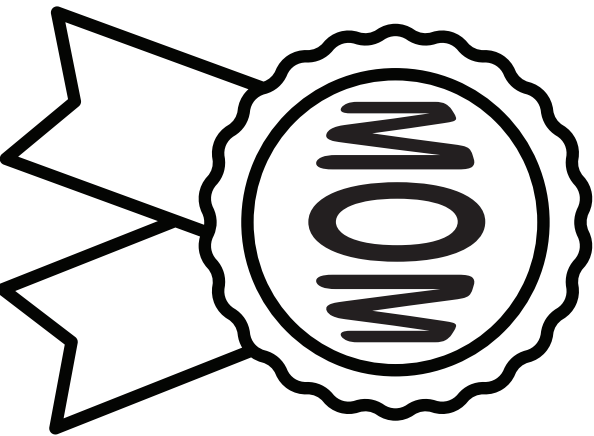
“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy”

But the verse doesn’t stop there! Because Jesus tells us

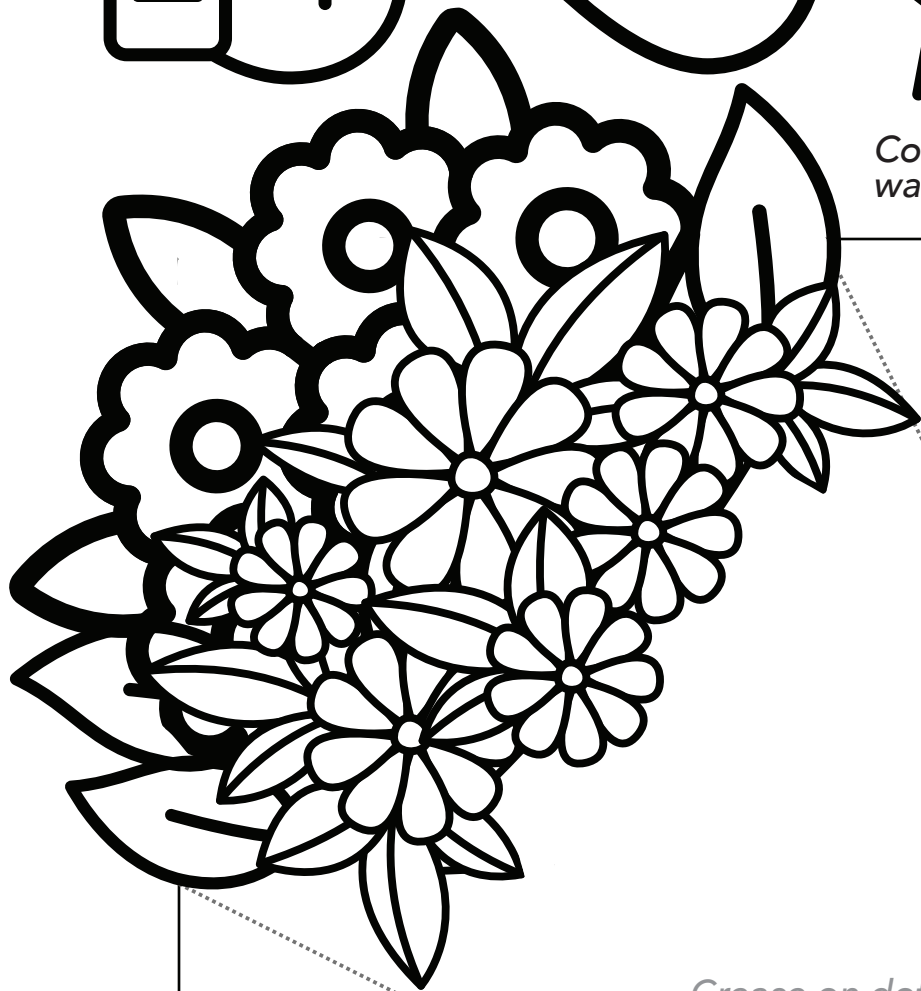
“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

So in this first full month of Spring, wake up and rediscover who you really are in Christ! And all of the other titles? They’re just stuff! Sometimes that “stuff” is sweet and wonderful (yaay to you great and caring parents!) and sometimes it’s just difficult. But remember that what really matters is your relationship with the Lord.

Pray as a family together, ***“Lord, help us to remember who we are in you. And please show us how we can honor other image bearers around us in a way that honors you.”***



Color the flowers and the seal you want to use, then carefully cut out.



Crease on dotted line and fold over. Then use the seal to close both flaps. Use glue stick or tape to hold in place



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