

Family Devotional

From January 15, 2017



Try this: Get 3 pieces of paper (8.5x11), tape, and several children's books. Tape one piece of paper so it makes a cylinder. Fold and tape another so it makes a triangle pillar and the third to make a square pillar. Set each pillar on one end and place 1 book on top as seen in the picture.

- Do you think the pillars can hold another book?
- Do you think one pillar can hold more than the others?
- Which one do you think can hold the most?
- How will you find out?



The same is true of us we never know how strong we are until we are tested.

Read: James 1:1-6

Reflect: What does James tell us we should consider trials?

- Is that how people normally respond when they face a difficult situation?
- What does James say we develop when our faith is tested?
- Are we alone when we face trials?
- Who should we turn to when we lack wisdom?
- How does God promise to respond?

The Apostle Paul was no stranger to facing his weaknesses and, like him, our first response is often to ask God to take it away. Read the following verse to see how God responded to this request.

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

How did Paul respond to what God said?

Our greatest strength doesn't come from ourselves, but from relying on God to be our strength. Just like we strengthen our muscles through exercise, we strengthen our faith as it is tested through life's struggles. As we see God show up time and time again, it becomes easier to trust in His faithfulness and wisdom.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on 2 Corinthians 12:9b this week.

*Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses,
so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for always being with me even when things are hard in life. Help me remember you are my source of strength in all circumstances. Amen!"