

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Take this home with you and do it with your family during the week!

Read: “Let’s Go” on page 208 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, or Luke 5:1-11 in your Bible.

**Reflect:** In today’s story we heard about 12 of Jesus’ closest friends. What is a friend? As a family listed some characteristics of a true friend.

We could summarize our list by saying true friendship C.A.R.E.S:

C - Challenges one another to make Godly choices and decisions

A - Accepts one another - John 13:20 “Whoever accepts anyone I send accepts Me; whoever accepts Me, accepts the One who sent Me.” Friends reach out to others in Jesus’ name with love and compassion.

R - Respects one another - 1 Peter 2:17 - “Show proper respect to everyone...” Each person is uniquely created by God with a special purpose.

E - Encourages one another - Hebrews 3:13 - “...encourage one another daily.” A friend encourages others - daily! This goes hand in hand with respect, as we encourage each other in living God’s unique plan for us.

S - Sticks with you - Proverbs 18:24 - “...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” - Be a forever friend - Jesus is our example!

A true friend C.A.R.E.S. How can we S.H.A.R.E. our friendship with others? Jesus told us to go and make disciples - let’s look at 5 ways we can S.H.A.R.E with others:

S - Show kindness! Kindness may mean taking homework to a sick friend, not saying mean words when we don’t agree with someone; Kindness is shown in little things like a friendly hi or a smile... even to classmates we don’t know yet or have heard mean things about.

H - Honor one another! To honor a friend is to care about them at all times - not only when they invite you to a water park or share their candy. Do we show honor to one another in our words, thoughts, and action? Romans 12:10 - “Honor one another above yourselves.”

A - Always forgive! To forgive can be hard to do when someone hurts us, but Jesus is our example and He gives us the strength to forgive. Colossians 3:13 - “Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

R - Remember to pray together. God commands us to pray for one another because He knows it will help us become better friends in His family. Deuteronomy 4:7 - “...The Lord God is near to us when we pray to Him.” God moves in response to the prayers of His people.

E - Encourage friends to do right! One person can have difficulty making a right choice, but when 2 or 3 friends stand with him or her, the choice is much easier. Let’s encourage our friends to make holy, Godly choices and decisions. Let’s lead by example!

How can we S.H.A.R.E. our friendship with others? The Lord Jesus Christ gave us the definition of a true friend: “Greater love has no one than this; that he lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” John 15: 13-15

Jesus is the pure example of a true friend, for He laid down His life for His “friends”. What is more, anyone may become His friend by trusting in Him as their own personal savior, being born again, and receiving new life in Him

**Remember:** Pick one of the Bible verses listed above to focus on this week. 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 being our friend and a wonderful example of true friendship. Help us to be a true friend that C.A.R.E.S. Help us also S.H.A.R.E. your message of love with everyone we meet ..... Amen!”

Adapted from a devotional by Debbie Stevens of Family Worship Center of Lansdale, PA

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# The Apostle's Creed

I believe \_\_\_ God the Father Almighty,  
maker \_\_\_ heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His \_\_\_\_\_ son, our Lord.  
Who \_\_\_ conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under  
Pontius Pilate, \_\_\_\_\_ crucified, dead and  
buried. He descended into hell; the third  
day He rose from the dead; He ascended  
\_\_\_\_\_ heaven, and sitteth on the right  
hand of God the Father Almighty; \_\_\_\_\_  
thence He shall \_\_\_\_\_ to judge the  
quick and the dead.

I believe \_\_\_ the Holy Ghost; the Holy  
catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, \_\_\_ resurrection of  
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

You can find the answers on page 14 of the hymnal.

# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory, for ever.  
Amen.



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