

Here is a simple guide to help your family pray together.



Pray for **FAMILY MEMBERS.**



Pray for your **NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS.**



Pray for **OUR CHURCH.**



Pray for **OUR MISSIONARIES.**



Pray for **PEOPLE WE KNOW WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS.**



Pray for **OUR GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS.**



Pray for **OTHER CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD**—especially those who are treated badly because they are followers of Jesus.

For questions, contact:

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Church and Family Partnering Together



Today's Big Idea

The Church Showed Favoritism
James 2:1-13



The Main Point

James calls us to treat people with mercy because Jesus shows us mercy.



What Did We Learn?

- ▶ James wrote a letter to believers.
- ▶ Believers were treating some people better than others.
- ▶ James calls us to treat people with mercy because Jesus shows us mercy.

TODAY'S CHRIST CONNECTION

When believers in the early church treated some people as better than others, James told them they were wrong. He reminded them that Jesus commanded believers to love one another. Because He has shown great mercy to us, we can show mercy to others.



LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

Open your Bible to 1 John 3:10–18 and read together as a family about how loving others shows people we are Christians. Or read the children's version of the passage below.

As one of Jesus' closest friends, the apostle John had lived alongside Jesus. He knew who Jesus really was, and he wrote a letter to help believers understand that Jesus was—and is—the Son of God.

John showed that God is love. If believers truly love God, they will also love one another—and that love must be shown in what believers say and do.

John said that people who are God's children live differently than people who are not God's children. Others will know we are Christians because we show love to one another.

John explained that people who do not love others are controlled by the power of death. God has set every believer free from the power of death. He has loved us and has given us life, so we can love one another.

We know what love is because Jesus showed us. He laid down His life for us. Because of Jesus' power, we can—and should—love like that too. When we have something that our brother needs, we should give it to him. If someone has enough to help but turns away and does nothing, does that person really know God's love?

John said that we must not just talk about loving others. We must love them by our actions and by telling them the truth.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ▶ Where does love come from?
- ▶ What does love look like? How did God show His love for us?
- ▶ Why do you think Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"? (See John 13:35.)

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Look for volunteer opportunities that your family can participate in together, such as working at a soup kitchen, conducting a clothing drive, or doing yard work for a neighbor.
- ▶ Play dress-up with your kids. Discuss what costume props mark a sheriff, a karate warrior, or a pop singer. Talk about the way love marks Christians.

CHRIST CONNECTION

John wrote a letter to teach believers in the church about the importance of showing love. Love is more than feelings or words—it is an action. Jesus showed God's love for us when He died on the cross to rescue people from sin.

BIBLE READING THROUGH THE WEEK

Take time this week to read the Bible together as a family. Breakfast, dinner, or bedtime—you choose when and where.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 John 3:10–11	1 John 3:12–13	1 John 3:14–15	1 John 3:16–18	John 3:16

As you read, ask these questions:

- ▶ What is God teaching us?
- ▶ What does this show us about who God is?
- ▶ What do we need to ask God's help for to change?
- ▶ How would you share this with a friend?

UNIT MEMORY VERSE

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. —Galatians 2:20