

# *Family Devotional*

BY CORNERSTONE FAMILY MINISTRIES



*In the same way,  
let your light shine  
before others, that  
they may see your  
good deeds and  
glorify your Father  
in heaven.*

Matthew 5:16

# Week 1

## WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

**GAME:** Shine the Light. Get 1 flashlight and turn off the lights in the house so that everyone can hide. One member of the family has the flashlight and is trying to shine the light on the other family members. If the flashlight shines on the person hiding, they must follow the person holding the flashlight for the rest of the game. The last person found wins.

### READ BIBLE VERSE:

*Esther 4 (emphasis on 4:13-14)*



### EXPLANATION OF PASSAGE:

Esther was a beautiful young Jewish girl whom King Xerxes chose to be his queen. Esther did not really have a choice in this. King Xerxes could be a very harsh, violent ruler. When Haman plotted to murder all the Jews, Queen Esther's cousin Mordecai asked Esther to try to save her people. Risking her own life, she appealed to the king and rescued the Jews.

Imagine you and your family are attending your favorite concert or play. The crowd has gathered, the lights are dimmed, you can feel the excitement and anticipation in the room. The star steps out on stage, the spotlight follows their entrance and then... nothing! The star doesn't sing, doesn't open their mouth, doesn't make a move. How ridiculous! This isn't what you came to see! A singer's purpose is to sing, an actor's purpose is to act, a dancer's purpose is to dance. Esther's purpose was to use her position as Queen to save the Jews. Your purpose is to be who God created you to be. When God shines His spotlight on you, will you step up to your purpose He has called you to?

## APPLICATION OF THE LESSON:



### QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

1. When we played the flashlight game, what did it feel like to get caught in the light?
2. When God shined the light on Esther, this was her moment to step up and save her people. How do you think she felt? Did those feelings direct her actions? Why or why not?
3. Some people like to be in the spotlight, some do not. Which do you prefer?
4. As a part of the body of Christ, there are things we all can do for the Kingdom of God. Our actions matter in God's Kingdom. What action may God be calling you to take when the spotlight is on you?

### GENEROSITY CHALLENGE FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:

Throughout the SHINE initiative, children will be working on giving back to God through using their time and talents to glorify Him. Each "task" is written on a puzzle piece. Each puzzle piece children complete will be worth a certain amount of money for them to donate to the SHINE initiative. Talk together as a family and decide how much each puzzle piece will be worth.

### PRAYER FOR INFANTS:

Read Matthew 5:16 and pray that your child would grow up to shine their light into the world that others may see their good deeds and glorify God.

# Week 2

## DESENSITIZED

**GAME:** Hide and Seek. Pick something of great value to your kids, hide it and let them search and find the item.



**READ BIBLE VERSE:**  
*Matthew 6:19-21*

### EXPLANATION OF PASSAGE:

Talk about these verses as a family. What are “treasures” on earth, and treasures in heaven?

Student and Children’s Sunday school classes talked about consumerism and how many things we have and what they mean to us, as well as what our relationship with God means to us. We do get enjoyment from some of our things, but do things really bring lasting fulfillment? All good things come from God; how can we reflect that truth in our approach to giving?

We can probably all think about a time when we lost something that was very important to us. Maybe it was a phone, keys, a wallet, or a special gift. When you think back on this experience, you might start to feel anxious all over again! Perhaps our heart is too tied up in these items if losing them causes us such pain. This is a good heart check for us to consider. Our verse for this week tells us that “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Let’s make a family pact to treasure the Lord and the things of His Kingdom and keep our hearts tied to Him.

## **APPLICATION OF THE LESSON:**



### **QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS:**

1. What do you treasure? Why?
2. Which type of person shines brighter in this world: a person who saves as much money as they can or a person who seeks God first with what they've been blessed with?
3. Who in your family is the saver? Spender? Giver?
4. Would you rather get a million dollars right now or a get \$100,000 a year for ten years? Explain your choice.

### **GENEROSITY CHALLENGE FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:**

Lighthouse challenge.

### **PRAYER FOR INFANTS:**

Read Matthew 6:21 and pray that your child's heart will treasure Jesus above all.

# Week 3

## **BIGGER AND BETTER**

**GAME:** The balloon game. Blow up a balloon and release it so it flies around the room chaotically. The winner is the person who can catch the balloon while it is flying around the room.



**READ BIBLE VERSE:**  
*Ecclesiastes 5:10 & Psalm 24:1*

### **EXPLANATION OF PASSAGE:**

The love of money can be like filling a balloon with air, letting it go, and trying to catch it. You'll never be fast enough to catch it. Discuss as a family how all good things come from God. What are the best things we receive from God?

Remember the old cartoon of the coyote and road runner? No matter how hard the coyote tried to catch the road runner, the road runner was always faster. The coyote never seemed to learn his lesson—he continued to chase after something he could never catch and experienced a lot of pain in the process. The Bible tells us that the love of money is like that. When we pledge our love to money, we will spend our days discontent, chasing after more.

## **APPLICATION OF THE LESSON:**



### **QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS:**

1. What is the biggest thing you want right now? If you get what you want, how long will it make you happy?
2. What was the last thing you really wanted? How long did it bring you happiness before you moved on to the next thing?
3. Is there any chasing involved in being satisfied in God? How do you know?
4. What's one way you could grow your relationship with Jesus above everything else this week?

### **GENEROSITY CHALLENGE FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:**

Lighthouse challenge.

### **PRAYER FOR INFANTS:**

Read Psalm 37:4 to your child and pray that their heart will find delight in the Lord.



# Week 4

## DELAYED GRATIFICATION

**GAME:** Candy Challenge. Set a candy or some treat that is special to your child and tell them to wait until you get back to eat it. When you return, if your child was able to wait and not eat the treat, give them two treats. Talk about the benefits of waiting for good things until the time is right. With older children, talk about saving for things to avoid debt.

**READ BIBLE VERSE:**

*1 Timothy 6:17-19*



### EXPLANATION OF PASSAGE:

We are an impatient culture. We are used to ordering anything our hearts desire with a click and seeing the items magically appear on our doorstep. We get frustrated and annoyed when we cannot get what we want when we want it—and we want it NOW!

We are also a wealthy nation, compared to the rest of the world. Wealth is not bad and can be a gift from God. However, wealth is to be used for God's honor rather than to make ourselves proud. God richly provides us with things to enjoy, including Himself. When we are generous with these things, and we share the love God has shown us with others, by being "rich in good deeds", we are blessed.

## **APPLICATION OF THE LESSON:**



### **QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS:**

1. How many commands are in this Bible verse 1 Timothy 6:17-19?
2. Play out the literal meaning of 1 Timothy 6:19 in your mind, what is the treasure spoken of? Is it possible for a person to become bitter waiting for this treasure to come to pass?
3. What does it mean to be “rich in good deeds?”
4. Would you rather have a job you hate with a really high salary or have a job you love with a below-average salary? Why? Talk about the implications of each choice, what are the pros and cons of each?

### **GENEROSITY CHALLENGE FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:**

Lighthouse challenge.

### **PRAYER FOR INFANTS:**

Read Colossians 3:1-2. Pray that your child’s heart will be set on Christ, as his/her first love.

# Week 5

## GET TO GIVE

**GAME:** Minute to Win It Game. Two family members sit across the table from each other with a piece of paper on the table in between them. Set a timer for 1 minute. Each person blows on the piece of paper, trying to blow it to the other person's side. When the minute is up, the winner is the person able to blow the paper to the other side.



### READ BIBLE VERSE:

*1 John 3:16-18, Acts 20:35*

### EXPLANATION OF PASSAGE:

In Dickens's novel, "A Christmas Carol" Ebenezer Scrooge spent most of his life hoarding his wealth and making life miserable for those around him. By the end of the novel, Scrooge realized the power he had to make a positive impact on the world around him by simply being a giver. He discovered that giving not only was a blessing to the person he blessed, but it was actually a blessing to him—the giver.

These verses talk about the blessing that comes by giving to others. When you meet a giver, it's not easy to forget the encounter. Givers typically radiate joy and are constantly looking for even more ways to give. Who comes to mind? Can you think about times in your own life when you experienced the blessing of giving?

## **APPLICATION OF THE LESSON:**



### **QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS:**

1. Is there a time when someone asked you for something (or you knew there was a need) that was hard for you to give? How did you respond?
2. What would you rather experience: words of love or actions of love? Explain why.
3. How is God calling you to use your gifts to bless your family? Church? Neighborhood?

### **GENEROSITY CHALLENGE FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:**

Lighthouse challenge.

### **PRAYER FOR INFANTS:**

Read Acts 20:35 and pray your child will discover the blessing of giving early on in life.

# Week 6

## GOD HAS A HEART OF GENEROSITY

**GAME:** Give a little, to get a lot. Tell each child in your family that they need to give you some small amount of money, to play a game together (e.g., a dime or a dollar). Parent collects the money. Play a simple game, like “Rock, Paper, Scissors” or “Thumb War”, etc. Then, give each child that paid to play, a larger amount of money as a reinforcement (a dollar or \$10). Talk with your children about how they can trust you, you won’t ever take advantage of them. You will always be generous with them, and right now you know what is best for them. God will always be generous with us and knows what is best for us.

### READ BIBLE VERSE:

*2 Corinthians 9:6-7, 15 & Malachi 3:10*



### EXPLANATION OF PASSAGE:

What beautiful promises these verses paint for us! There is no risk in giving back to God. God promises to “throw open the floodgates of heaven” and “bless us abundantly” when we are generous, cheerful givers.

Talk about what generosity means and looks like, and the benefits of generosity. Talk about what “tithing” means. (Giving back to God 10% of all you earn). How does your family tithe? Talk about the greatest gift that has ever been given, Jesus Christ, who gave us everything and held nothing back. We give out of our gratitude for what God has given us.

## **APPLICATION OF THE LESSON:**



### **QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS:**

1. What is the best gift you ever gave?
2. How did you feel watching them open it?
3. What is the best gift we can share with those around us?

### **GENEROSITY CHALLENGE FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:**

Lighthouse challenge.

### **PRAYER FOR INFANTS:**

Read Matthew 6:33 and pray your child will seek God and His Kingdom all the days of their lives.



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