



FAMILY NIGHT WEEK FOUR

*DO THIS FAMILY NIGHT AFTER COMPLETING WEEK 4 OF THE DEVOTIONALS.
IDEALLY BETWEEN DAY 29 AND DAY 30.*

MISSION

DEAR PARENTS,

God has uniquely gifted each one of us with time, talent and treasures to be used to love and spend ourselves for others. When we intentionally use the ordinary gifts He has entrusted to us, we are living a life that is not wasted! We're all interested in giving our kids the opportunity to become the best they can be, right? What a great investment you've made this month in creating space for your kids' hearts to grow larger with love! This is just the beginning. You've set the stage, now finish strong and continue the journey of cultivating love and generosity in your family!

++ Dinner Idea

Scavenger Hunt! This will take a little coordination, but it will be worth it and SO memorable. Your kids are learning so much this month; let's reinforce it with teaching them that **instruction is only helpful if it's followed up with action**. Give kids clues to different parts of the house, and they have to *do the hard work of following through* on the clues to get to the good stuff – in this case, dinner! Hide parts of dinner all over the house (or neighborhood!), or lead them clue-to-clue to one big, exciting dinner. Have fun!

Dinner questions:

1. *Were you embarrassed or happy to carry the burden (food, water, whatever you carried) around last week?*
2. *Did you have any interesting conversations with people about the burdens of poverty?*
3. *What stood out most about this week's daily devotionals?*
4. *Is following through with action hard or pretty natural for you?*

++ Mission Memory Verse

(You'll be reciting it together later in the Activity!)

James 1:27 // Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

FAMILY NIGHT ACTIVITY

++ Read to the Fam:

Guys, we did it! Our last *Compassion: 30 Days of Heartwork* Family Night! I'm proud of us. Let's read some of the chapter in James that leads up to our memory verse this week.

James 1:22-28

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

These are some strong words about how to live out our faith with action and wisdom. That's the biggest challenge moving forward - to act on what we believe. We believe that God is love and we are God's children, right? **Then in every way, large and small, let's act like it.**

You never know when the ordinary thing God's put in our hands will be turned into a miracle, like the boy in John 6.

John 6:9 - "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

We all have something ordinary to offer to Jesus to use in our lives. Sometimes it's the simplest thing. And sometimes it's big. But even when our path is "ordinary," we can do so many good things in our community and in the world, even from our own home.

**If you haven't all read it already, read the last day of Compassion: 30 Days of Heartwork (Day 30) together as a family. Either pull up the full version on someone's phone, or read the quick overview here!*

*Day 30 - It may seem intimidating, but the truth is, by God's grace, **you can** love well and serve God's kingdom rather than just building your own. **You can** do all of this as a child of God because in your weakness, He is strong. This is pure religion. It's giving life and receiving a greater life than you could have imagined in return.*

++ Family Activity:

How Can God Use Our Family?

Materials you'll need:

- Markers
- 3 Giant Post-it® notes or poster board(s)
- A stack of small Post-it® notes

The purpose of this activity is to get your family to evaluate your sphere of influence, time availability and space to allow the Lord to direct your steps.

Stick three giant Post-it® notes on the wall.

On the first, write "Where do we spend our time?" at the top.

On the second, write "Who do/could we influence?" at the top.

On the third, write "What are our family's gifts/ talents?" at the top.

Give each family member a marker (or something appropriate for the littles).

READ:

We're going to write the answers to these questions on little Post-it® notes and post them up on our boards. For instance, on the "Where do we spend our time?" board, we might write "school," "work" or "soccer."... For "Who do we influence?", a parent might write "friends at work." We're going to fill each board with as many words as possible!

Go for it!

**Once you've compared the notes, give space for the Lord to speak to your family. Pray over the notes and the words written down. Ask God what your family is called to do (hint: it's probably not EVERYTHING listed!!), or how you are called to serve, in the midst of your everyday lives.*

Great! Together, let's say this week's memory verse.

James 1:27 // Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

What does "pure religion" look like for our family, both individually and as a unit?

Who are the orphans and widows in our lives?

We may not personally know parentless kids or spouseless parents (*but if you do, there's a part of your answer!*) but who are the vulnerable ones in our lives? Who are the people who need a hand up?

What are some ways we, as a family, can be tempted to be "polluted by the world"?

We have worked really hard this month to live a little differently than the "normal." What have we loved about these new ways of living? What can we continue to do even now that our *Compassion: 30 Days of Heartwork* has ended?

++ Video

Check out sweet little Grace, who hosted a Compassion Sunday on her own! // Find video at Compassion.com/Week4/.

Pray with your people! AMEN! (You did it!)