



JULY & AUGUST

5 STEPS TO CREATE A RHYTHM OF DISCIPLESHIP IN THE HOME



5 STEPS



Start your day with Jesus and the Word! This time of year is the perfect time to start a rhythm of a daily family devotion time. It doesn't have to be very long, or even super spiritual most days! Taking even 5 to 10 minutes each day will create and establish a rhythm of placing Christ as the center of the home! In other words, it is a simple way to begin practicing discipleship with your family and model for your kids what daily time with the Lord looks like! So on the following cards you will find 5 steps to creating a family devotion time!

1. Don't overshoot. Start with a manageable time frame. Think 10-20 minutes, tops. Most of us are aware that kids have a short attention span. The idea is to create a time that is something they look forward to, not dread. Pull everyone together as a start to the school day. I let my kids snuggle up on the couch, but you can also sit at the dining room table or wherever they will do school.
2. Set the tone for the day. You have the power to set the tone by expressing a positive attitude and expectation and by laying out the structure of the day. Tell your children that Jesus made today and you are grateful to have this time with them to talk and pray and learn together.





3. Pick one or two of the following strategies each day:

- Weekly Media - Bible Story Video, 2 worship songs (find links on our Parent Cue App)
- Use the Secret Sauce Cards each week - They will provide you with a daily dose of scripture and thought provoking questions that coincide with that week's Bible story.
- Word - Use Secret Sauce cards each week to read the word! Enjoy answering questions from scripture. Take time to discuss what the scripture is saying, what can be learned from it and decide on any action steps to be taken. Let everyone participate. Kids can learn to look up verses. Kids benefit from dissecting a sentence and really contemplating what each word or concept means.
- Memorize scripture - You can pick your own or use the one provided at the bottom of the card each week. Be creative and make memorization fun.
- Devotional - Mom or Dad, prepare a devotional to share with the kids. Periodically challenge each child to come up with their own devotional to share. You will treasure these rich times.
- Gratefulness - Take turns saying things you are grateful for. Fun twist, take turns saying things you are grateful for about the person to your right or left and go around the circle!
- Mission - Prayerfully consider how your family can tangibly meet a need and then take steps to follow through. The serving bug is contagious and kids can catch it from YOU!
- Worship together - Lead a few songs or let your musically inclined kids lead. You can also worship with the spoken word by writing out a psalm to Jesus and then sharing it aloud. Read scripture out loud to declare God's attributes and character.



5 STEPS



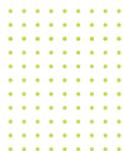
4. Bless your kids - remind them how much you enjoy being their mom or dad, how important this time together is, how special and unique they are, how much you believe in their abilities to work hard and understand fractions and work together, how this day has the potential to be the best day. End with a blessing from scripture like Numbers 6:24-26.
5. End your time with a prayer - Thank God for who he is, let your kids hear you ask God to help you with the task of parenting and teaching, and ask the Lord to help your kids in the tasks set before them. Keep a prayer journal of requests and answered prayer! This is a fun activity and will help keep track of the ways God has been faithful and answered your family's prayers.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY



JUL. 5-7



Life App: CONFIDENCE - Learning to see yourself the way God sees you!

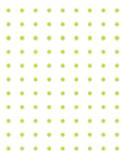
Weekly focus: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego | Daniel 3

Bottom Line: Trust that God is always with you.

- MON:** Read Isaiah 41:10. God thinks you're awesome because you are made in His image. Grab a piece of paper and trace your right hand. Around your hand, write the words of today's verse, weaving the words of the verse around each finger. Write ISAIAH 41:10 in the center and decorate your hand any way you choose. Cut out your handprint carefully along the outside of the words to include the verse and display somewhere in your room.
- TUES:** Read Psalm 40:11. With the help of an adult, look up definitions of the words: mercy, love, and faithfulness on your device or dictionary. After looking up the words, talk about how God shows us mercy, love, and faithfulness and how you can too! How can you show mercy, love, and faithfulness to someone this week?
- WED:** Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

"BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS" PHILIPPIANS 1:6





Life App: CONFIDENCE - Learning to see yourself the way God sees you!

Weekly focus: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego | Daniel 3

Bottom Line: Trust that God is always with you.

THUR: Read Philippians 1:6. The “good work” this verse talks about is the work of making you more and more like Jesus. We will fail and be forgiven but with every mistake, we learn. And as we learn, we realize the good work God is doing in us to change the world around us. Write the words “God will finish what He’s started” on a strip of paper and decorate it. Tape the paper to the door frame of your bedroom. Every time you walk out of the door, tap that note and pray the following prayer. “God, show me what you want me to learn today so I can be more and more like Jesus. I love you. In Jesus’ name I pray, amen.”

FRI: Read Daniel 3:16-18. Can you imagine what it must have been like for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to stand before King Nebuchadnezzar knowing they would be thrown into a fiery furnace? Can you imagine speaking these words in the face of something so scary? Share with each other a time when you felt scared. End your time in prayer.

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JUL. 12-14



Life App: CONFIDENCE - Learning to see yourself the way God sees you!

Weekly focus: Peter Walks on Water | Matthew 14:22-33

Bottom Line: Stay focused on Jesus.

MON: Read Philippians 4:12-13. As you read the verse, replace the word “I” with your name. Remember, this verse doesn’t mean you can do anything you want to do. Rather, it reminds us that we can do anything that God calls us to do. We can do anything that lines up with His will and His plan for us! And the best way you can know what those “anythings” are is to focus on and follow Jesus.

TUES: Q & A Time! Ask Kids: What is something easy for you to focus on? What is something difficult? Ask Parents: What helps keep you focused on Jesus?

WED: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

“BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS” PHILIPPIANS 1:6



JUL. 15-16



Life App: CONFIDENCE - Learning to see yourself the way God sees you!

Weekly focus: Peter Walks on Water | Matthew 14:22-33

Bottom Line: Stay focused on Jesus.

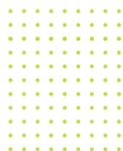
THUR: Read Isaiah 26:3. Is there something you're worried about? Something you're facing that you're not quite sure how it will work out? Stop what you're doing right now and write it down. Pray together as a family and ask God to help you stay focused on Jesus and to trust Him with the situation you're worried about. God hears you when you pray. He cares about the things you care about. Ask God to help you and He will.

FRI: Read Psalm 86:11. One of the best ways to stay connected to God is to spend time with Him. You're doing that right now as you read His word. Today's verse is a great one to use as a prayer. What if you started every day with these words, "Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." Talk about what might divide your heart from God.

"BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS" PHILIPPIANS 1:6



JUL. 19-20



Life App: CONFIDENCE - Learning to see yourself the way God sees you!

Weekly focus: Armor of God | Ephesians 6:10-17

Bottom Line: Use what God has given you to stand strong.

MON: Read Ephesians 6:13-14. When it comes to confidence, we can stand strong with the belt of truth and breastplate of righteousness! The belt of truth is what we know to be true about God! Create your own set of “armor” this week. Grab a belt and tie it around the back of a chair. Find your favorite hoodie or jacket and zip it up around the back of your chair as the breastplate. Pray today and thank God for giving you what you need to face the enemy.

TUES: Read Ephesians 6:15. Paul is reminding us today to cover our feet so we’re ready to share the good news about Jesus. He wants us to be ready to talk about Jesus and what He’s done for us, everywhere we go, with everyone we meet. Grab a pair of shoes you don’t wear every day and set them on the floor underneath your chair with the hoodie and belt from yesterday. Thank God for the ability to share His love everywhere we go!

“BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS” PHILIPPIANS 1:6



JUL. 21-23



Life App: CONFIDENCE – Learning to see yourself the way God sees you!

Weekly focus: Armor of God | Ephesians 6:10-17

Bottom Line: Use what God has given you to stand strong.

WED: Read Ephesians 6:16. Think about those flaming arrows like untrue thoughts. Have you ever had untrue thoughts sneak in? Thoughts like: God won't love me if I mess up. I'll never be able to do the right thing. I'm not good enough. Strong faith is like a shield that protects us when these wrong thoughts creep in. When you remember God's promises—that He loves you no matter what and that He is with you, always—you can stand strong against the enemy. Grab something to use as a shield. It could be a piece of cardboard or a cookie sheet from the kitchen. Prop it up on the seat of the chair in front of your hoodie or jacket.

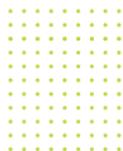
THUR: Today, we read about the last two pieces of armor as described by Paul. We start with the helmet of salvation. Helmets protect our head and our brain. And finally, we need to grab the sword of the Spirit. Soldiers needed a sword to strike down the enemy, to fight back! Our sword is God's word. As we read and memorize God's word, we'll be able to defeat the enemy. Grab your bike helmet or favorite hat and hang it from the back of the chair. Grab your sword (your Bible) and read the entire passage, Ephesians 6:13-17. Touch each piece of "armor" as you read about them. Then, thank God for the reminder that He is with you and that He will help you use what you have to stand strong against the enemy this week.

FRI: Q & A Time! Ask Each other: Fill in the blank, "I need God's armor when _____." You don't have to ask the question just once. Keep coming up with answers.

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JUL. 26-28



Life App: COMMITMENT – Making a plan and putting it into practice.
Weekly focus: Nothing Can Separate Us From God | Romans 8:38-39
Bottom Line: God loves you no matter what.

MON: Read Romans 8:38-39. Grab two different colors of Play-Doh. Pull a small piece from each of the different colors and roll them up and smash them together until you can't see 2 colors. Now try to separate the colors. Can you do it? God's love for you is like that Play-Doh. God loves you, always. And because of Jesus, there is nothing that can separate you from His love! God's love isn't conditional. That means, His love for you doesn't change based on anything you do or don't do. You can depend on God to love you, no matter what.

TUES: Q & A Time! Ask Kids: Is there anything you can think of that might separate you from the love of God?

WED: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

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JUL. 29-30



Life App: COMMITMENT – Making a plan and putting it into practice.
Weekly focus: Nothing Can Separate Us From God | Romans 8:38-39
Bottom Line: God loves you no matter what.

THUR: Read Romans 8:31-32 slowly out loud and let it sink in. Are you ready? Okay, focus on these three important words. God. Loves. you. God loves you, always. How do we know this? Because of Jesus. God sent His only Son, He gave Him up for you. Jesus came to face the worst possible death so you could have life. Jesus rose again to prove that nothing, not even death, could separate us from God's love. Pray together and thank God that you can have confidence in the truth that God loves you no matter what.

FRI: Read Romans 8:34-35. When you understand what Jesus did, that He died on the cross for you, you can have a relationship with Him forever. When you trust Jesus as your savior, nothing can separate you from Him. Trouble, Hardship, Persecution, Danger, Your own mess ups, Death, None of these things and nothing you might want to add to this list, can separate you from God's love. How does this make you feel? Have you trusted Christ with your life?

“BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS” PHILIPPIANS 1:6

**NEW CITY
CATECHISM
QUESTIONS
FOR REFLECTION**



NCC QUESTIONS



**27: Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?
Romans 5:17**

No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith.

28: What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith? John 3:16-18, 36

They will be cast out from the presence of God, into hell, to be justly punished, forever.

29: How can we be saved? Ephesians 2:8-9

Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross.

30: What is faith in Jesus Christ? Galatians 2:20

Receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST





Life App: WISDOM – Finding out what you should do and doing it.
Weekly focus: Jesus Grows in Wisdom | Luke 2:41-52
Bottom Line: Wisdom is worth searching for.

MON: This month is all about wisdom which is finding out what you should do and doing it. Every day, as you're growing physically, you also have the opportunity to grow in wisdom. And as today's verse reminds us, the same was true of Jesus. Every day, as you're growing physically, you also have the opportunity to grow in wisdom. And as today's verse reminds us, the same was true of Jesus. Make a growth chart together. Write down your height, today's date, and Luke 2:52 next to the line. Recheck your height in six months to see how you've grown. Thank God for the truth that you are growing in wisdom and stature just like Jesus!

TUES: Q & A Time! Ask Kids and then parents: "Who is the wisest person you know? What makes them wise?"

WED: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

"IF ANY OF YOU NEEDS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD FOR IT. HE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU. GOD GIVES FREELY TO EVERYONE AND DOESN'T FIND FAULT." JAMES 1:5, NIRV



Life App: WISDOM – Finding out what you should do and doing it.

Weekly focus: Jesus Grows in Wisdom | Luke 2:41-52

Bottom Line: Wisdom is worth searching for.

THUR: Have you ever searched for treasure or created a treasure map just for fun? What if we thought about wisdom this way? Create a treasure hunt for your family. “Bury” your Bible somewhere in your home and then create a treasure map for the rest of your family that will lead them to your hiding spot. Once they find it, read Proverbs 8:11 together and talk about why wisdom is more valuable than any hidden treasure!

FRI: Wisdom protects us from making the kind of choices that can hurt us and others! That’s why it’s so important to learn what God says in His word. Write out the words of Proverbs 4:5 on a piece of paper. Draw a box around the words wisdom and understanding. Mark an “X” over the word “forget.” Then draw a circular arrow around the word turn. Place your verse in a spot where everyone in the family can see it every day.

Ask God to help you listen to His word and follow Him as you make decisions this week.

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AUG. 9-13



Life App: WISDOM – Finding out what you should do and doing it.

Weekly focus: Solomon Asks God for Wisdom | 1 Kings 3:4-2

Bottom Line: Trust God to give you wisdom.

MON: Q & A Time! Ask Kids: “What is a foundation? What do you think mom and dad’s foundation is?”
Ask each other: “What should our foundation be?”

TUES: Read Matthew 7:24. Have you ever built a sandcastle at the beach or in a sandbox? What happens to your beautiful creation when the tide rolls in or a big rainstorm hits the playground?
When we look at the life of Jesus, at how He treated people, the things that He said and the way that He lived, we find wisdom at every turn, He is our solid foundation. Talk together about ways to practice living with Jesus as your foundation, end your time in prayer together.

WED: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

THUR: Read Psalm 107:43. How do you know that your parent or caregiver loves you? Can you feel it? How do you show love to others? Do they feel your love for them? Love requires action. It’s more than simply saying, “I love you.” God demonstrated His love for you, talk about ways that you can see God’s love for you in action!

FRI: Have you ever asked a friend for help and they gave you bad advice? While our friends might sometimes give us bad advice, God never will! He is the source of all wisdom. Is there a decision you need to make that you’re struggling with? Have you prayed about it? Read Proverbs 2:6 aloud and then talk to God about what’s going on. Ask God to help you see what you should do and to give you the confidence to follow through.

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AUG. 16-18



Life App: WISDOM – Finding out what you should do and doing it.

Weekly focus: Wise People See Danger | Proverbs 22:3

Bottom Line: Think before you act.

MON: Have you ever done something wrong and tried to cover it up with a made-up story to avoid getting caught? Words can definitely get you into trouble! It's better to stop yourself before you let that story fly from your lips. Because adding more and more words won't help the situation. Only the truth can do that. Read Proverbs 10:19. Talk about the value of telling the truth. End your time in prayer together asking God to give you courage to tell the truth.

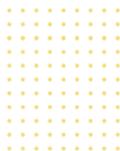
TUES: Read Psalm 94:8-9. Did you know? The human eye can see approximately 10 million different colors. The hardest bone in your body is the temporal bone in your inner ear. The eye muscles are the fastest muscles in your body. Our eyes and our ears are amazing parts of our bodies! God gave us our eyes and ears that we could hear and see the world around us. God doesn't want us to live like foolish people. He wants us to be wise! Remember this week to use those eyes and ears to pay attention, to stop and think before you act.

WED: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

"IF ANY OF YOU NEEDS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD FOR IT. HE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU. GOD GIVES FREELY TO EVERYONE AND DOESN'T FIND FAULT." JAMES 1:5, NIRV



AUG. 19-20



Life App: WISDOM – Finding out what you should do and doing it.

Weekly focus: Wise People See Danger | Proverbs 22:3

Bottom Line: Think before you act.

THUR: Q & A Time! Ask Kids: Why do you think it's important to think before you speak? Ask Parents: What happens when we aren't careful with our words?

FRI: Read Proverbs 4:25. Raise your hand if you like to ride a bike? You can put your hand down now. When you ride a bike, where's your focus? On your feet as you pump the pedals? On your friend riding next to you? No way! To safely ride your bike, you must keep your eyes forward. When it comes to living wisely, we have to pay attention to what's ahead of us. Grab a white crayon and an index card. Write the words EYES FORWARD in big letters on the front of the card. Color over the white crayon with a marker to reveal the words you've written. Write "Proverbs 4:25" on the back. Place this card somewhere your family will see every day!

"IF ANY OF YOU NEEDS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD FOR IT. HE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU. GOD GIVES FREELY TO EVERYONE AND DOESN'T FIND FAULT." JAMES 1:5, NIRV





Life App: WISDOM – Finding out what you should do and doing it.

Weekly focus: Rehoboam Listens to Fools | 2 Chronicles 10 (supporting: Proverbs 13:20)

Bottom Line: Hang out with wise people.

MON: Play “Walk in Wisdom” together. One person will close their eyes at one end of a safe space. The other two will stand at the other end. One person will give good directions, the other bad on how to get across the room. Have them take turns giving a direction. The one with closed eyes has to decide who to listen to. Will you make more wise decisions or more poor decisions? Read Proverbs 14:7. Talk about how to look for ways to follow the wisest voices in your life, to get you where you need to go.

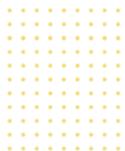
TUES: Q & A Time! Ask Kids: How important are the commandments to wisdom? Ask Parents: Can you name the commandments that require wisdom?

WED: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

THUR: Read Proverbs 13:20 together and go for a little walk. Every few steps, read your verse out loud again. Talk about how to grow in wisdom! Remember others can help you grow in wisdom.

FRI: Talk as a family about what you have learned about wisdom this month. Can you think of some wise Bible characters? What makes them wise?

“IF ANY OF YOU NEEDS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD FOR IT. HE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU. GOD GIVES FREELY TO EVERYONE AND DOESN'T FIND FAULT.” JAMES 1:5, NIRV



Life App: WISDOM – Finding out what you should do and doing it.

Weekly focus: Renew Your Mind | Romans 12:2

Bottom Line: Never stop growing in wisdom.

MON: Did you know that there are three parts of your body that never stop growing? Any guesses? It's your ears and nose! They will keep growing long after the rest of your body has stopped. Just like your ears and nose keep growing, we should never stop growing in wisdom! Read Proverbs 9:9, talk about some ways you can practice growing in wisdom. Pick your favorite and do it at least 3 times this week.

TUES: Read Proverbs 1:5. When it comes to wisdom, you should never stop looking for it. You should never stop asking God to give you more. You should never stop learning and growing. Wise people pay attention so they never stop gaining wisdom. Wise people look for other wise people hoping some of that wisdom rubs off on them. Take turns praying for each other, asking God to help you gain wisdom.

WED: Choose a memory verse activity and do it together as a family.

THUR: Q & A Time! Ask each other: Who are the wisest people you know? What makes them wise?

FRI: Have you ever studied how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly? It's a process called metamorphosis. Just like that beautiful butterfly, when we become followers of Jesus, we are completely changed on the inside! You are a new creation. As Jesus followers, God doesn't want us to think and act like the world around us. God wants us to grow in wisdom so we can live differently. Read Romans 12:2 and talk about what we will learn if we do what this verse says.

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NCC QUESTIONS



31: What do we believe by true faith? Jude 3

We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

32: What do justification and sanctification mean? 1 Peter 1:1-2

Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.

33: Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else? Galatians 2:16

No, everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ.

34: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word? 1 Peter 2:9-12

Yes, so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

35: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from? Titus 3:4-6

From the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES



MEMORY VERSE



- Use your best handwriting to write the verse on poster! Use your creative brain (and maybe some crafts) to decorate it and hang it in a room where everyone will see it for the week.
- Create skits that show how the Word might be applied to a real life situation. Or play a good 'ole game of Charades with your memory verses.
- Create a crooked path to walk on. You can set up obstacles to jump over, use yarn or tape to create a crazy zig-zag pattern on the floor, whatever you choose! Then write out the words of today's verse on scraps of paper and set them out along the path. As you walk, pick up the words and repeat the verse. Time yourself to see how long it takes to say the verse. Then, create a straight path or remove all the obstacles. Lay the cards along the new path and say the words of the verse as you pick them up. Was it faster on the straight, blameless path?
- Hang the memory verse on the frig and everybody has to say it before they can open the door.

MEMORY VERSE



- Replace the words to a familiar tune with the verse you are memorizing and sing it together repeatedly each day!
- Create hand motions for the verse you are memorizing.
- Practice saying the memory verse with different voices. For example, opera style, slow motion, squeaky, robot, etc!
- Write the verse with expo marker on different places around the house: bathroom mirror, inside the car window where your kid sits, bedroom window, etc.
- Write it on post-it notes and stick it all over the house.
- Make a fun video
- Write the verse on a chalkboard or dry erase board. Say it together. Erase one word. Say it again. Keep going until the whole verse is erased.

MEMORY VERSE



- Write the verse in a journal leaving some blanks to be filled in until you can recite the entire verse without any words written.
- Write each word of the verse on a separate card. Shuffle the cards and practice putting them in order.
- Say the verse while you are doing jumping jacks. See how long it takes you to say the verse from memory while jumping.
- Plank and say the memory verse and see if you can finish before you give out.
- At a family dinner, teach the memory verse to dad or grandma.
- Break the verse up and write it on different pieces of paper and hang on the wall. Each day, take down a page and recite the verse in full. Repeat until memorized.
- While driving in the car, recite the verse as many times as you can while waiting at every stoplight.