# family matters

harmony in the family

Where is there discord in your "family"?

Do you have a yeller, a nagger, a hider, a manipulator, a discourager?

Maybe someone has special needs or maybe someone has an addiction.

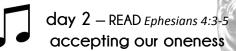
How can we learn to do the best with what we have?

How can we build each other up?

day 1 — READ Ephesians 4:1-2

## equalizing our walk

If you have chosen to follow Jesus, He calls you to walk alongside Him in a manner worthy of His calling. He promises to equip us for the journey (2 Cor 3:4-5). How does the scripture today give a picture of how we are called to walk with our family and friends? DESCRIBE what that walk looks like. REFLECT on what it means to walk with integrity.



Oftentimes it's easy to get caught up in our differences. In our culture, a simple disagreement can easily be perceived as hatred. MAKE an effort to practice peace this week in your family. For some this comes easily, but for others it will be more difficult. REMEMBER that we are one body with one Lord. As we become more comfortable with practicing peace in our family, it will come more easily in our surroundings. BITE your tongue. LOSE a disagreement. GIVE grace. BE peaceful.

### day 3 — READ Ephesians 4:7-11



#### using our uniqueness

Springtime in Wisconsin means we get to watch the earth come to life. We have a renewed sense of awe for God's creation as leaves bud and flowers bloom. THINK of the hundreds of varieties of trees, flowers, shrubs, herbs, veggies, fruits, and grass. Each has its own size, shape, color, and purpose. People are like that as well. Just as you wouldn't put parsley on a sunburn that needs aloe, so you wouldn't send a teacher to a patient who needs a pastor.

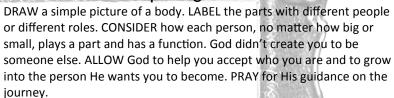
Your family and the church family works the same way. NOTE in verse 7 what we receive and how we receive it. WRITE down some ways that your family members are unique. APPRECIATE ways that God uses their individuality for His purposes. THANK God for the variety you see all around you in His people and His creation. ENJOY spring this week!



day 4 — READ Ephesians 4:11-13 maintaining our service

LIST all the purposes you see in these verses. Everything after "so that" is what our destination is. In verse 12 we see that serving is the journey to get there. So where are you on your journey? How are you serving? CELEBRATE ways that you're serving others, and REFLECT on ways that you can take a next step. What opportunities is God placing on your path today?

# day 5 – READ Ephesians 4:13-16 deepening our beliefs



#### next steps

- Pick a verse from Ephesians to memorize.
- Sign up to serve or look for a small group.