

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.



day 2 — READ *Ephesians 4:3-5*

accepting our oneness

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



DRAW a simple picture of a body. **LABEL** the parts with different people or different roles. **CONSIDER** how each person, no matter how big or small, plays a part and has a function. God didn't create you to be someone else. **ALLOW** God to help you accept who you are and to grow into the person He wants you to become. **PRAY** for His guidance on the journey.

next steps

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