



PARENT DEVOTIONS

SUMMER 2023



IN HIS IMAGE

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INTRODUCTION

Parents,

You did it! After weeks of anticipation and preparation, your student is now off to camp for what we hope will be a life-changing time for them. God has already been at work preparing them for what He wants to teach them—and you!

We have created these devotions with you in mind. While your student is bonding with their youth group, experiencing great worship, being discipled by their leaders, and having fun, we wanted you to have a chance to see a little bit about what they're learning this week. We hope this will help you draw closer to God and closer to your student as you discuss what you've learned at the end of the week.

Although you might have mixed feelings about being away from your child for a few days, God can use this time to draw you both closer to Him. Lean into this quiet time with Him. Listen. Rest. Learn. Allow the Lord to strengthen you this week. We are praying for all of you!

The FUGE Camps Team

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DEVOTION #1: IN HIS IMAGE

We are so thankful that you have chosen to open these Parents Devotions. We know that even when your student is not with you, you continue to have a lot of daily responsibilities as a parent. We hope that you will continue to open this guide every day this week so you can join your student on a journey of spiritual growth through these quiet times with the Lord. He wants to meet with you so He can encourage you!

At FUGE Camps, our tagline is “life-changing” camps, because we desire for students to go home different than when they arrived at camp. As your student engages in all the activities that camp has to offer, we want you to be a part of their experience by helping you understand what they are learning and by praying for them along the way.

What are some hopes and expectations that you have for your student while he/she is at camp this week?

What are some hopes and expectations that you have for yourself while your student is away?

Like most parents, you probably have also had some fears cross your mind when you’ve thought about your student being away from you. Will they make friends? Will they remember to brush their teeth or take their medicine? Will they be OK without you?

Even though these fears are common, as believers it’s good practice to hand over each one to the Lord in prayer every time those thoughts try to creep in and take over. Take some time right now to sit at the Lord’s feet and share with Him any fears you have concerning your student. Ask Him to handle each situation and to replace each fearful thought with His perfect peace.

Breathe a deep sigh of relief that your loving Father is sovereign over everything! Now, let’s jump into this year’s camp theme together: “In His Image.” At some point in our lives, we have all struggled with our image—what we look like, who we really are, how we fit in, what we stand for. As humans, we are uniquely created in the image of God.

As you ponder what it means to be created in God’s image, what does that mean for your life and others around you?

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If we are Christians, then we are called to bear this image like Christ did on earth. Therefore, we are called to live as a new creation—people who are set apart. We are a reflection of the God who created us and loves us.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18.

When you look in the mirror, what thoughts come to mind? Are you hard on yourself? If so, why?

God wants you to know that He thinks you are beautiful. You were created in HIS IMAGE. He knit you together with intention and purpose. He takes pride in His work, which is YOU! This should give you hope and encourage you to want to live differently for Him.

Read that verse one more time. How does it make you feel to know that God is transforming you into His glory to be more like Him?

How does this change how you might have viewed yourself negatively in the past?

PRAYER

In God's great goodness and mercy, He continues to pursue a relationship with you that will refine you and bring Him glory. Take some time right now to ask God to pursue you right where you are. Ask Him to reveal any negative thoughts about yourself that you need to repent of and replace with truth. Ask Him to show you the potential you have through His power and love this week and throughout the rest of your life.



DEVOTION #2: IMAGE OF GOD

Open this quiet time in prayer. Ask God to show you what it should look like for you to live with the knowledge that you are created in His image.

When you were a kid, what were some of the ways people thought you resembled your family? Did you ever have someone say you looked just like one of your parents? Or that something you did was just like one of your other family members? Family resemblance can be a way to honor someone, so as children of God, wouldn't it feel good to know that people see a resemblance to your heavenly Father when they interact with you?

Read Genesis 1:27.

What does it personally mean to you to know you were created in the image of God?

What do you hope others see when they observe you and interact with you?

“God created us in His image so that we would display or reflect or communicate who he is, how great he is, and what he is like. So I think being created in the image of God means that we image God. We reflect God. We live in a way, we think in a way, we feel in a way, we speak in a way that calls attention to the brightness of the glory of God.”

— John Piper

[Source: <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-does-it-mean-to-be-made-in-gods-image>]

Read Psalm 139:13-16.

Fill in the blanks below. Use the CSB version of the Bible for this.

Verse 13: For it was you who created my _____; you _____ in my mother's womb.

Verse 14: I praise you because I have been _____ and _____ made; your works are _____, and I know this very well.



Verse 15: My bones were not hidden from you when I _____ in secret, when I was _____ in the depths of the earth.

Verse 16: _____ saw me when I was formless; all my _____ were written in _____ and planned before a single one of them began.

If there is ever a day when you feel less than or you question your purpose, turn to Psalm 139, and read God’s truth out loud. You were known by God before you were born. You were formed by Him with uniqueness and purpose. He knows you because nothing is hidden from Him. He sees you right now and looks on you with such love. Be confident that He has numbered every one of your days and filled those days with purpose.

Your child was also known by God before he/she was born. Whether your child was born into your family or entrusted to you through adoption or foster care, God knit them together with purpose and beauty.

What are some of the attributes of your child that make you beam with pride?

What are some of the godly attributes and actions that you hope your child will pick up from you and pass on to future generations?

The truth is, God wants His children to be set apart from the world, and He gives us instructions for what that looks like. As we learn to be set apart, we can teach our children as well.

Read Deuteronomy 7:6-9.

Verse 6 tells us that the Israelites were holy, chosen, and loved. He chose them to be His “treasured possession.” They were not chosen because there were in the majority or great warriors. They were chosen because God loved them and wanted to keep the covenant that he made with Abraham many years ago when he was obedient and

followed God’s directions. Verse 9 indicates that He will keep this covenant going for a thousand generations for those who love Him in return and obey Him.

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Today, we are set apart because of what Christ did for us on the cross. When we come to Him in repentance, He takes on our sin, shame, and our broken past and He presents us before God as holy. We just need to come to Him in faith and honor Him by being obedient. When we do this, we are a beautiful reflection of His character in this dark world.

Look up each of the following verses, and write down your personal takeaways from each one:

1 Peter 2:9:

Deuteronomy 14:2:

Psalms 4:3:

Jeremiah 1:5:

Romans 12:2:

You were made in the image of God, and you have a purpose: to live a holy life that is set apart for Him!

PRAYER

Spend some quiet time with God right now. Ask Him to help you see yourself as He sees you. Ask Him to help you be holy and set apart. Ask Him to speak to your child today in a way that lets them know they are loved and seen.

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DEVOTION #3: IMAGE DISTORTED

Open this quiet time in prayer. Ask God to show you how sin results in a broken relationship with Him and distorts His image within you.

Yesterday you read in Genesis that you were created in the image of God. Genesis is also where we can read about the beautiful garden that God created for the first people He made in His image, Adam and Eve. The garden of Eden was lush and contained everything they needed to live, but God did give them one restriction. He commanded them to refrain from eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He warned them that this would lead to their death.

What are your thoughts on this command? Was it just to tempt them? Or was God trying to teach them something about their relationship with Him?

When have you been tempted to do something even after someone told you not to do it?

Read Genesis 3:1-7.

Satan was quick to bring trouble into this perfect garden. And even if it's hard for us to picture what it was like to listen to a talking serpent, we do know what it's like to be tempted to listen to the voice of our enemy today.

In this story, how was the serpent able to distort God's good intention behind His prohibition against the forbidden fruit?

What are some modern-day examples of how Satan can distort God's good intentions behind His other warnings about sin in His Word?

Read Genesis 3:8-19.

When Adam and Eve chose to sin against God, their relationship immediately changed with Him and with each other. The garden was no longer perfect. Everything was changed because sin comes with consequences.

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According to these verses, what were some of the other consequences for Adam and Eve, and subsequently us?

What consequences have you suffered from disobedience in the past?

What are some of the things you are learning as a parent as you try to teach your child obedience and consequences?

Many years after this life-altering incident in the garden of Eden, God's chosen people, the Israelites, seemed to be caught in a vicious cycle of following God, turning against Him, repenting, and returning to Him. Even though God was right there with them as they wandered in the desert for 40 years, they didn't seem to be learning from their mistakes.

Read Exodus 32:1-8.

In Exodus 19, the Lord had just appeared to Moses and the Israelites in a dense cloud at Mount Sinai. He did it so the people could know that He was present. And yet here they are a few chapters later ready to make a physical idol of another god to worship. They felt like God was taking too long while He was giving instructions to Moses, so they took matters into their own hands very quickly!

When have you taken matters into your own hands when you felt like God was taking too long to answer you?

What was the end result? How did it damage your relationship with God? With others?

“God made man in his image to display, reflect, and visibly represent the invisible God in his created world. Yet the very nature of sin is that his creatures rejected this high calling by instead seeking to ‘make for themselves’ an image of God (Romans 1:22-23). What was so tragically wrong about the golden calf was not that the invisible God does



not choose to manifest himself in images in the world but that his people are ‘made in his image.’ To make our own images of God for worship is to reject our calling and dignity as his imagers. They made an image for themselves instead of embracing that they themselves were made in God’s image.” — John Piper

[Source: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/worship-in-the-image-of-me>]

Read Romans 1:22-25.

It might be easy to sit back and think that there is no way you would be tempted by a talking snake. Or maybe you think there is no way you would help build a golden calf when you had just seen God in a dense cloud. But the truth is, we have all sinned and fallen short of God’s best for us. We have all at some point traded the truth for a lie because it felt good at the time. We have all put something before God when we felt He wasn’t answering quickly enough or in the way we wanted Him to.

PRAYER

Spend some time in prayer asking God to reveal to you anything that is keeping you from a close relationship with Him, and then respond to Him with repentance as you ask for forgiveness. Ask Him to draw near to you as you seek a closer relationship with Him. Ask for His continued mercy as you try to live this life in a way that gives Him the most glory.

To hold yourself accountable for this important commitment to God, write down some things He revealed to you during your time together.

God is not done with you. Far from it! If you continue reading in Genesis 3:21, you find out that God made clothes for Adam and Eve. In Joshua 3:14-41 you can read about God delivering the wandering Israelites into the promised land. And for us, He offers His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins (John 3:16). We’ll read more about that tomorrow!



DEVOTION #4: IMAGE RENEWED

Open this quiet time in prayer. Ask God to show you how His new covenant with you impacts your daily life.

Yesterday, we learned how sin wrecked perfection in the garden of Eden and distorted humanity's relationship with God. But today, we're going to see how God had a rescue plan from the very beginning to reconcile us back to Himself. He wants to restore our image.

Read Isaiah 53:1-12.

Isaiah was a prophet who was ordained by God to share with His people what He was going to do in the future. During this time period, the Israelites were living in exile in Babylon. They had once again disobeyed God and suffered the consequences of trying to live apart from Him.

How is the coming Messiah described in these verses?

How are we described in these verses?

What was God's plan before the Messiah was even born?

Just as God made a covenant with Abraham to bless his family for generations to come, God made a new covenant with all His people when He presented the plan to rescue us from our sins and provide a way back into a restored relationship with Him. In the Old Testament, sin required an animal sacrifice to atone for that sin, and in the new covenant, Jesus became that sacrifice for all of mankind to heal us (see verse 5).

Isaiah made several prophecies in his book, and the New Testament reveals that these prophecies came true! **Look up each verse of the New Testament and match it with the prophecy from Isaiah.**

**Verses 5
Verse 6
Verse 7
Verse 9
Verse 10**

**1 Peter 2:24
2 Corinthians 5:21
John 1:29
1 Peter 2:22
Romans 8:3**

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Glory to God that He provided us a way back to Him! He loves us that much. He desires for us to be healed and whole and in a close relationship with Him. At times, the thought of that might seem daunting, but we are not expected to figure out how to live this life for Him all alone. It is a continual process of sanctification until we see Him face to face in heaven. And oh, what a glorious day it will be to see the One who sacrificed everything for us so that we can live for eternity with Him in paradise!

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-17.

Sanctification is a big, churchy word, but it means “the state or process of being set apart and made holy as a vessel, full of the Holy Spirit.” Once we are saved from our sin, the Holy Spirit is deposited as a gift in us so that we can commune with our heavenly Father. He’s the one who helps us do what these verses talks about. He’s the one who helps us not give up and to keep working on our renewal.

Spend a few moments writing about your journey with the Lord. Sometimes putting words to where we’ve been and knowing where we are headed helps us to stay grounded and focused on our life goals.

What was your life like before you were introduced to Jesus?

What were some of the changes that took place once you submitted your life to Him?

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus right now?

What are some areas of your spiritual life that you know need intentional work?

What are some practical things you can do to help your student walk through this process as you raise your child to be the Christian that God calls us to be?

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“And in salvation, two things happen. The mirror gets turned around, and we see the glory of God again, and the defilement that had gone over the face of it gets wiped off gradually, and we begin to reflect God. So I think being created in the image of God means that we image God. We reflect God. We live in a way, we think in a way, we feel in a way, we speak in a way that calls attention to the brightness of the glory of God.”

— John Piper

[Source: <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-does-it-mean-to-be-made-in-gods-image>]

Write down your thoughts after reading this quote. How do you feel about what God has done for you? How does it make you feel to know that you can be restored in such a way that you can bring Him glory?

PRAYER

Spend some time today praying and asking the Holy Spirit to show you what you need to focus on at this point in your spiritual journey. Ask Him what steps need to be taken to stay on track in the sanctification process in your life. Ask Him to be near always so He can guide you in wisdom and comfort you on your journey.

In closing, take some time to write out a new commitment to the Lord. Tell Him how you can submit to Him more consistently as He works out His sanctification in you. Thank Him for never giving up on you!

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DEVOTION #5: IMAGE SHARED

Open this quiet time in prayer. Ask God to show you how to you can share with others the message of hope through the gospel.

So far this week, we have learned that we were created in God's image, that sin distorted that image and our relationship with God, and that Jesus came to restore our relationship with God. Today, we are going to talk about how and why we should tell others this amazing and encouraging news.

Jesus came to earth as a sacrifice for our sins, but before He finished that important work on the cross, He spent time being an image-bearer of God to those around Him. He showed the people He interacted with what God is like, and His Word gives us stories of those interactions so that we can learn too. Jesus spent a lot of time loving on people who needed compassion, and now it is our job as His followers to do the same.

Read Matthew 9:36-38.

Verse 36 says that Jesus felt compassion for the crowds of people. What does compassion mean to you or look like to you?

It would be so easy for us to live in our self-perceived "safe" bubbles where we don't venture out much or come in contact with people who have needs, but if we are going to follow the example of Jesus, we have to step out of our comfort zones at times and really see and respond to the people He places around us who need to know they are loved.

Take a few moments and think about those you interact with on a daily or weekly basis. Who is one person you know right now who needs compassion shown to them?

What is one extra thing you could do this week in order to come in contact with someone who needs to know that Jesus loves them through an act of kindness or provision?

In verse 36 we read that Jesus felt compassion for the people because they were " 'distressed' and 'dejected' like sheep without a shepherd." That's what happens to

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people who have no hope or direction for their lives. They wander around looking for meaning and purpose in people, places, and activities that don't fill that deep longing in their souls. They end up becoming distressed and dejected as they seek thrills that don't last. But Jesus needs us to get out there and spread the good news that He is our Shepherd. He is the only One who can fill that deep longing in the human soul and lead us into everlasting life. But people won't know the good news unless we love them through compassionate acts and tell them. He calls us to be His harvesters.

Who first told you about Jesus?

How did they minister to you and help you see that you were missing something in your life that you desperately needed?

If you were to be a harvester today, in what way would you show compassion to someone so that the door would be opened for that important gospel conversation?

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

Why do you think this passage is referred to as The Great Commission?

What is our responsibility according to The Great Commission?

Verse 20 assures us that we are not alone in this mission. He is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit who will guide us and speak through us when we are given those opportunities to make His name great!

If there has ever been a time when you felt a prompting from the Spirit to pray for someone, to say something to someone, or to demonstrate an act of compassion, then you probably felt empowered in that moment.

Write about that experience. What did it teach you about your spiritual life? What did it teach you about your purpose in this life?



Read Acts 1:6-8.

In verse 8, what does Jesus say will be given to us so that we can be a witness for Him?

What are some practical ways you and your student can be on mission together in the community in which you currently live?

Now, dream big. What would you love to see your family do together to reach “Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”? No dream or desire for Him is too big to accomplish for Him!

When you live for Christ, His image is magnified in you and God receives glory! What a great gift to give back to the One who has loved us and given us so much!

PRAYER

Spend some time thanking God for giving your life a mission and a purpose. Ask Him for supernatural help to see those around you who need compassion and who need to be told the good news that Jesus wants to share with them. Ask Him to help you to be bold enough to follow through in the things He asks you to do for His kingdom.

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DEVOTION #6: IMAGE OF GOD

Open this quiet time in prayer. Thank the Lord for meeting with you this week and for showing you more of who He is. Ask Him to keep working in your student's life in the days ahead and to keep everyone safe on their way back home from camp.

It's the last day of camp, and you can guarantee that these students will have some stories to tell when they get home! God has been moving in their lives this week through deep spiritual moments and also through a lot of fun activities. Hopefully, they will be coming home with that "mountaintop" feeling that comes after a great week of FUGE Camp. So, how can you help keep the spiritual momentum going at home?

You don't have to be a Bible scholar to discuss biblical principles with your family. The most important thing is for you to keep learning and abiding in the Lord, and He will help you teach your family how to do the same. If you don't already, take time to pray together each day. Purchase a devotional book for each one of your kids or find one that you can read as a family. Consider incorporating Bible trivia into dinner time a couple nights a week. And make corporate worship a priority for your family. When they see that something is important to you and see you following the Lord with joy, they will want that for themselves as well.

One of the ways that you can work on keeping yourself spiritually minded throughout the week is to learn the practice of abiding. What does the word "abide" mean to you?

Read John 15:4-5. (Use the ESV version.)

Jesus loved to use parables and analogies to explain concepts to His followers. In this passage Jesus compares Himself to a vine and us to its branches. In order to "bear much fruit," He says that we have to abide in Him.

What would it look like for you to truly abide in and follow God every day?



What kind of “fruit” would you like to see produced by you and your family in the days ahead?

Read John 15:7-11. (Use the ESV version.)

This is such a beautiful passage. Jesus has already asked us to abide in Him so that we can produce fruit for Him, but here He tells us some of the other benefits of abiding.

Verse 7: What does Jesus say is possible “If you ABIDE in me, and my words ABIDE in you”?

Verse 8: If we “bear much fruit and so prove to be [His] disciples,” what does this give back to our heavenly Father?

Verse 9: What is the promise from Jesus in this verse?

Verse 10: If we keep His commandments, what do we get in return?

Verse 11: What is the promised benefit in this verse?

There are several other verses in the Bible that talk about how to abide and what we receive from abiding. Take some time this week to either look up that word in your concordance or do an internet search and read each verse that is linked to “abiding.” Allow His abiding presence to encourage you in your walk with Him!

One thing you can count on as you learn the practice of abiding is that you will be changed. You will have more wisdom and be more confident. You will have more hope, which will lead to more joy. And others will start to notice! As you have learned all week, you are an image-bearer of God, and you have the perfect example to follow by imitating Jesus Christ. As the old saying goes, “You might be the only Jesus some people will ever see.”



What do you hope other people will see in you as you choose to follow the example of Jesus more intentionally?

What positive changes do you hope will happen in your student's life and in your whole family as you work together to be image-bearers?

PRAYER

Pray that all the things you learned this week will abide in your heart and mind. Thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us remain in Him. Ask Him to speak to your student and to guide your student as they grow to know and love Him more.