



The "Jesus Journey"

Week 4: Giver

A Weekly Parent And Family Guide
To Help Understand And Apply
Traits Of A Disciple

Throughout the next several weeks, the Bel Air UMC family is on a Journey: "The Jesus Journey." As we journey together during this time, families are encouraged to use this special devotional and activity guide to help all members of your family grow in their faith and understanding of God's Word and what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ. There are five specifically created activities and devotionals to use at your convenience during the week.

There are 7 traits, each week you will be introduced to a new one in worship and we ask that as you go throughout your week, you make time as a family to explore what it means to be a Disciple and how you can grow in your walk with the Lord. You've been invited on this special journey, take your first step on the path to an exciting adventure along with your family!

Created For Families By
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*All Scripture quoted is
from the New Interna-
tional Version unless
noted otherwise.*

DISCIPLESHIP TRAIT: GIVER

"A Giver manages ones life and creation for God's purposes."

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 1

Scripture: James 1:17 "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..."

Thought For The Day: When we look at our bank accounts or cars in our driveway, or toys in our toy box, we sometimes pat ourselves on the back for the marvelous success. True...but truly, all things are God's gift to us rather than our success stories!

Discussion: Go around the dinner table and each share what is the greatest gift you have ever received. Why do you call that "the greatest?" Who gave you that gift? How do you treat that person. Read James 1:17 and talk about those gifts in light of having received them from God. Talk about how you treat God.

Family Prayer: Dear God, thank you for all the great gifts you have given us, for life, health, a home, family. Help us to remember that those come from you and that we need to thank you for them each day of our lives. Amen.

Activity: Give each person a white piece of paper, get out the crayons and have everyone draw a picture of the "perfect" gift they have received. Write a thank you note to the person who gave you that gift!

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 2

Scripture: Malachi 3:10a "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house."

Thought For The Day: Through our giving we honor God.

Discussion: Tithing is simply sharing. Talk about how you feel when someone shares something special with you, a toy, a laugh. Ask, why do you think God needs our money? How much is enough? Talk about what you **actually** give to God. Why is it difficult to give our money to God? How do we see "God" using our money?

Family Prayer: Dear God, help me to be faithful in my giving, because I know in my giving I honor you. Amen.

Activity: Place 10 pennies in a zip lock bag for each person in your home. Label the bags with the names of your family members. Place a bowl in the center of your dinner table. As a part of your dinner prayer, have each person take one penny out of their bag and put it in the bowl, the bowl representing God. A tithe is 10% of what we have, talk about how giving a penny can't accomplish much, but when everyone gives what they are commanded, put together we can do great things for God's Kingdom!

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 3

Scripture: Matthew 22:37 *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*

Thought For The Day: What does it take to love God with all that we are?

Discussion: Talk about things each person in the family “loves.” How do you decide you love that object? How do you decide you love “someone?” What does it mean to love someone with your whole heart?

Family Prayer: Dear God, thank you that you love me always, thank you for the love of my parents. Help me to give my love to them and to you, for all that you have done for me. Amen.

Activity: Moms and Dads tell your children how you met and fell in love with the one who is the parent of your children. What was it like when you knew you loved each other? How did you know you loved each other? What did it mean to love each other? Share photos of those days with your family. **A NOTE TO SINGLE AND BLENDED FAMILIES: This is important even when the parent of your child(ren) is not currently in your home. The children are an expression of the love you once had for that other person, do not deny nor diminish that in discussing this with your children.**

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 4

Scripture: Galatians 5:16 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”*

Thought For The Day: How many “wish lists” do you currently have going?

Discussion: Dream together...ask each person, “What would you do with a million dollars?” Talk about how you would spend, save or invest it. Talk about what God asks you to do with money. Talk about why it is difficult sometimes to be obedient to what God wants over what we want.

Family Prayer: Dear God, help me to be more self controlled in my “spending” as a parent, and in my “wanting” as a child. Help us to be wise in our buying. Amen.

Activity: Make a “priority list” for each member of the family. Take a sheet of paper for each person, write their name at the top of the page and have them list the things in the next six months they would like to buy. Then, work together to help each other first prioritize the list then discuss which are needs and which are wants. Write a prayer asking God to help each person make wise choices in the spending of their money.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 5

Scripture: 1 John 3:18 *“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth..”*

Thought For The Day: Love is an action word!

Discussion: *“Words, words, words, I’m so sick of words...”* is the lament of Liza in the musical, “My Fair Lady.” It’s one thing to say you’ll do something, and quite another to actually **DO** it! Share with each other promises you’ve made and kept. Share with each other something that was promised to you and never fulfilled. How did you feel? Read 1 John 3:16-17. What does this verse challenge us to do? How are you going to make this a reality before the week is over?

Family Prayer: Dear God, help us to demonstrate your love to others. Help us to love with our heart and hands, not just with our voice. Amen.

Activity: Make an action plan to demonstrate your love of God before you attend church next Sunday. As a family, brainstorm some ideas of what would be possible for each of you to do individually and then as a family.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

What difference has studying about giving this week made in my actions?