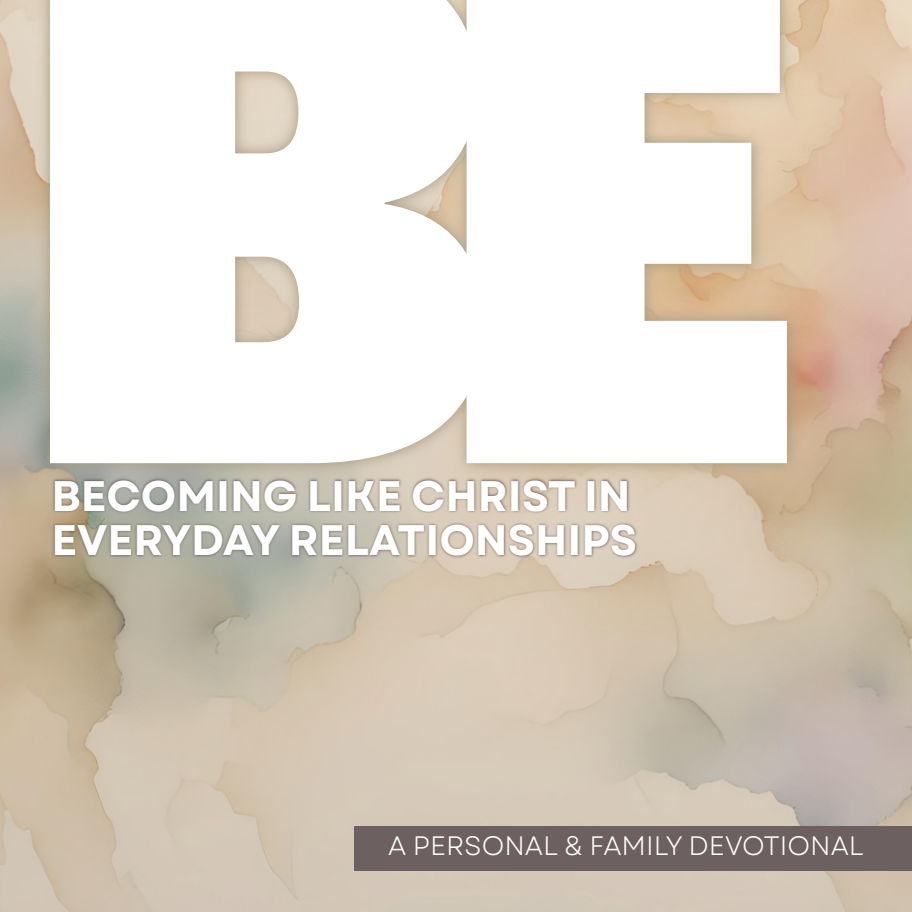


The background is a soft, abstract watercolor wash in shades of beige, cream, and light peach. Overlaid on the top half of the image are the large, white, sans-serif letters 'BEE'. The letters are cut out, revealing the watercolor background underneath. The 'B' and 'E' have a slightly irregular, hand-drawn feel, while the 'E' is more geometric.

BEE

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST IN EVERYDAY RELATIONSHIPS

A PERSONAL & FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

GETTING STARTED

Welcome to the **“BE” Devotional**. You’re about to discover an important key to cultivating healthy relationships: Becoming more like Christ.

Our behaviors and attitudes (who we are) powerfully impact the health of our relationships. When we become loving, kind, forgiving, optimistic, and encouraging, it dramatically improves our relationships with family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and classmates. It starts with us.

Each day of this four-week devotional focuses on a different character trait (as well as a few spiritual practices). All 28 traits will help you become more like Christ.

The format of each devotional is simple:

- **Read:** A Scripture or two focused on the character trait of the day. Each verse is from the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise noted.
- **Remember:** A simple thought to summarize the character trait.
- **Reflect/Discuss/Do:** Short questions and activities to help you apply each trait to your life and/or family.
- **Pray:** A prayer prompt to help you respond to the Lord.

If you're doing this devotional with your family, here are four tips to help you stay on track:

Pick a Time: Choose a time and place for family devotions that will provide the greatest consistency.

Adjust the Questions: Feel free to tweak the questions based on your kids' ages.

Don't be Rigid: Family devotions shouldn't be rigid or harsh. Maintain a positive and encouraging atmosphere.

Share the Reading: Take turns reading the Scriptures and asking the questions to foster greater participation.

As you engage in the devotional, be sensitive to each family member's responses. And if you're working through it alone, engage in the activities by reaching out to friends and family members. Together, let's become more like Christ in our everyday relationships.



WWW.7CITYCHURCH.COM

DAY 1 BE LOVING

READ:

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 *Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.*

REMEMBER:

Love never fails.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- Which part of Paul's description of love is easier for you, and in which part do you struggle?
- What is one way you could begin showing more love to others this week?
- Tell each member of your family how much you love them.

PRAY:

Ask the Lord to help you grow in love. Tell the Lord which parts of loving others you struggle with, and then ask Him to help you be more loving in your family or a specific relationship.

READ:

Nehemiah 8:10b *Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!*

Psalms 118:24 *This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.*

REMEMBER:

Joy is not based on outward circumstances but on inward hope and peace with God.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- How does the joy of the Lord give us strength each day?
- What can you have joy in today, even if the day seems hard?
- Plan a fun family activity to do together this week.

PRAY:

Take a few minutes and thank God for his joy and the strength it gives us. Then, ask the Lord to help you pursue the joy found in Christ rather than the temporary happiness found in the world.

DAY 3 BE PEACEFUL

READ:

Philippians 4:6-7 *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

REMEMBER:

Peace is produced when we acknowledge and believe that God is in control.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- What have you been worrying about lately?
- What can you thank God for during the worry you're experiencing?
- Write down what you've been worried about lately. Beside each item, write down one thing you can be thankful for instead.

PRAY:

Share what you've been worrying about. Then, pray together and ask God to work in your situation. Give God thanks and ask Him to guard your heart and mind with peace.

READ:

James 5:7-8 *Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.*

REMEMBER:

God is patient with us; therefore, we must be patient with others.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- How has God been patient with you?
- Patience implies delaying our anger. How could delaying your anger toward others improve your relationships?
- When is a time something good came into your life when you chose to be patient?

PRAY:

People often laugh at the idea of praying for patience; however, patience is part of the Fruit of the Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you be more patient in the relationships you struggle with the most.

DAY 5 BE SAVED

READ:

Romans 10:9-10 *If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.*

REMEMBER:

All of us have sinned, and our sin separates us from God. But Jesus died so that we could experience life. When we confess Jesus as our Lord, He saves us from our sin and makes us right with God.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord? If so, when did this happen?
- If you have not, would you like to place your faith in Christ now? If so, pray the prayer below and thank him for salvation in Christ Jesus.

PRAY:

"Jesus, I believe that you are the Son of God, and that you died, were buried, and rose from the dead. I repent of my sin and ask for your forgiveness. I place my faith in you and choose to follow you. In Jesus name, amen."

READ:

Acts 2:38 *And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

REMEMBER:

Jesus saves us from our sin when we repent and believe. After we're saved, we should be baptized in water. Water baptism is a public declaration that Jesus Christ is our Lord.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- Have you been baptized in water?
- What questions do you have about water baptism?
- Would you like to be baptized in water? If so, reach out to the church today to learn more and sign up for baptism.

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for his forgiveness and salvation. Then, thank him that through water baptism, you are able to make your faith public for the world to know.

DAY 7 BE GRATEFUL

READ:

Ephesians 5:20 *And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*

REMEMBER:

Give thanks to God and say thank you to others.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- What are you most thankful to God for right now?
- Name one thing you're thankful for in each member of your family.
- Have each family member take a note card(s) and write a thank-you card to a family member or friend.

PRAY:

Give thanks to God for Who He is and what He has done in your life. Then, ask God to forgive you for the times you have complained. Finally, thank God for your family and friends.

READ:

Ephesians 4:31-32 *Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

REMEMBER:

Kindness is not just our actions, but also our attitude behind our actions.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- How is kindness different from bitterness, anger, and harsh words?
- How could you show a kind action and a kind attitude toward those in your family?
- Pray for each other to be kinder toward one another.

PRAY:

Thank God for the specific ways He has been kind to you. Then, ask Him to show how you can be kind in your attitude and actions toward others.

DAY 9 BEFORGIVING

READ:

Colossians 3:13 *Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*

Matthew 6:14 *"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you."*

REMEMBER:

Forgiveness is one sinner offering grace to another sinner. Forgiveness sets you free.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- How does God's forgiveness of your sins give you hope for the future?
- Is there something you need to ask a family member for forgiveness? If so, take a moment and do so now.
- Who do you need to forgive? Though it's difficult, choose to pray and forgive them right now.

PRAY:

After asking a family member to forgive you, pray for each other. Then, together, thank God for His forgiveness.

READ:

Galatians 6:9-10 *So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.*

REMEMBER:

Being good is choosing to act in a helpful and holy way toward others.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- What are three ways God has been good to you?
- Who is someone you could be extra-good to this week?
- Share with your family the name of the person you want to be good to and brainstorm some ideas of how you can express goodness to them. When will you show goodness to them?

PRAY:

Give God thanks for the ways He has been good to you. Then, pick a specific person, and ask the Lord to help you be good to them today.

DAY 11 BE FAITHFUL

READ:

Luke 16:10-12 *"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?"*

REMEMBER:

When we are faithful in the small things, God can trust us with larger things.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- What do you think it means to be faithful?
- What stands out to you in Jesus' words about faithfulness?
- Brainstorm together how your family can be more faithful followers of Jesus.

PRAY:

Thank God for what he has already chosen to trust to you. Then, ask God to help you be faithful with the small things.

READ:

Acts 1:8 *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

REMEMBER:

To be a witness means to share the good news about Jesus with others...the good news that Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead so we could be forgiven and made right with God.

Reflect/Discuss/Do:

- Who shared the good news about Jesus with you?
- Who is someone in your neighborhood, school, or work that needs to hear the good news about Jesus?
- Who could you invite to church this week?

Pray:

Ask the Lord to help you be a witness to those who need Christ. Take time to pray for them by name.

DAY 13 BE GENTLE

READ:

Proverbs 15:4 *Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.*

Ephesians 4:2 *Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.*

REMEMBER:

Gentleness means “power under control.” In the same way a dam holds back flood waters, gentleness helps us hold back angry words when we’re upset.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- On a scale from 1 to 10 (10 being the best), how gentle are the words you speak?
- What do you need to “hold back” when you’re feeling upset or angry?
- Work together to come up with a list of practical ways you can be gentle with others.

PRAY:

If you have not used your words in a positive and helpful way, ask God to forgive you. Then ask Him to help you be gentle in your interactions with your family and friends.

READ:

Proverbs 16:32 *Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city.*

1 Peter 1:13 *So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.*

REMEMBER:

Self-control means to have “power over ourselves.” It’s choosing to control our unhealthy and unholy desires and behaviors.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- In what areas of your life do you have the most, and the least, self-control?
- How does a lack of self-control hurt our relationships?
- Ask your family members when your lack of self-control hurt them. Then ask for their forgiveness.

PRAY:

Self-control doesn’t begin by trying harder; it begins with full surrender to Jesus. In prayer, surrender yourself fully to the Lord. Then, ask the Lord to give you the desire and power to please Him.

DAY 15 BE A SERVANT

READ:

Philippians 2:3-4 *Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*

Mark 9:35 *He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."*

REMEMBER:

To be a servant means to take a genuine interest in helping others.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- When was a time that your selfishness hurt your relationship with someone else?
- Have each family member share one way they'd like to better serve the family.
- Come up with one thing each of you could do right now to serve around the house, and one thing you could do together to serve someone in need (outside your home).

PRAY:

Ask the Lord to help you put others first. Then commit to selflessly serving a family member or friend in a practical way today.

READ:

James 1:19 *Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.*

Proverbs 12:15 *Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.*

REMEMBER:

Quick listening leads to wise learning.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- How does listening make our relationships stronger and healthier?
- Are you more of a talker or a listener? How can you be a better listener at home, work, and school?
- Put on a set of headphones and see if you can guess what a family member, friend, or someone on TV is saying. What can you learn about listening from this simple exercise?

PRAY:

Ask the Lord to help you follow James' words: "to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."

DAY 17 BE COURAGEOUS

READ:

Joshua 1:9 *This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

REMEMBER:

Courage doesn't wait for fear to disappear. Courage acts in the face of fear.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- When was a time you were afraid, and how did you get past your fears?
- What are you afraid of right now, and what could be your first courageous step to move forward?
- Write a two-sentence prayer to God, asking for his help to be courageous in the face of fear. Then ask your family or a friend to pray with you as well.

PRAY:

When the early church was persecuted, they prayed and asked God for boldness to preach the Gospel (Acts 4:23-31). God answered their prayers. Ask God to do the same for you.

READ:

Proverbs 12:22 *The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth.*

Proverbs 10:9 *People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed.*

REMEMBER:

Honesty makes you trustworthy. Be honest, even when nobody else is looking, and tell the truth, even when it's hard.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- When was a time somebody lied to you, and how did it hurt your relationship with them?
- What do you think it means that “people with integrity walk safely”?
- Take a moment to commit to always telling each other the truth.

PRAY:

Ask the Lord to help you be honest, trustworthy, and to always tell the truth. If the Lord brings to mind a lie you have told, be honest and make things right with that person.

DAY 19 BE HUMBLE

READ:

James 4:6 *And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

Luke 14:11 *For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."*

Remember:

Pride is man's path to pursue favor, but humility is God's path to give it to you. Pride is the exalted path that, in the end, is brought low; humility is the low path that, in the end, is exalted.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- What lessons do these verses teach us about the importance of humility?
- How does pride show up in our relationships?
- What can you do to be more humble in your interactions with people?

PRAY:

Take a moment to pray and repent of your pride. Then, humble yourself and ask God to show you his grace and mercy.

READ:

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.*

Ephesians 4:29 *Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

REMEMBER:

The word “encourage” means to “put courage in.” When we encourage others, we put courage in their hearts.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- When was a time someone said something encouraging to you, and how did it help you in that moment?
- Who is someone our family can encourage this week?
- Take a moment to speak a word of encouragement to one another, or reach out to a friend who's struggling and encourage them today.

PRAY:

Ask the Lord to help you encourage someone each day.

DAY 21 BE DISCIPLINED

READ:

Proverbs 10:17 *People who accept discipline are on the pathway to life, but those who ignore correction will go astray.*

1 Corinthians 9:25 *All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.*

REMEMBER:

Discipline is doing what you don't feel like doing because you know it's the right thing to do.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- What are the hardest areas for you to be disciplined in?
- What happens to us when we ignore or resist discipline?
- What is one area you'd like to become more disciplined in? How can your family help you?

PRAY:

Ask the Lord for his help to be more disciplined. Then pray for your family to grow in discipline in the areas where they are struggling.

READ:

Romans 8:28 *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

Philippians 4:8 *Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*

REMEMBER:

Optimism is choosing to be positive when everyone else is negative. Attitudes are contagious...is yours worth catching?

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- How does God use hard times to bring about good in our lives?
- What is one way you can have a more positive attitude at home, school, and work?
- Which of the qualities in Philippians 4:8 do you need to begin “fixing your thoughts” on?

PRAY:

Surrender your attitude to the Lord. Ask Him to help you see the good even in difficult circumstances.

DAY 23 BE RESPECTFUL

READ:

Matthew 7:12 *Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.*

Romans 12:10 *Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.*

REMEMBER:

We respect others by showing them dignity and honor and by treating them as people made in the image of God.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- How does it feel to be respected or disrespected by others?
- What does it look like to show respect to your family members?
- Work together to create a list of five ways to show respect toward each other, and then commit as a family to put it into action.

PRAY:

Ask the Lord to help you see every person you meet as someone made in His image, and to treat them with the highest dignity, honor, and respect.

READ:

Proverbs 24:16 *The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again.*

James 1:12 *God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

REMEMBER:

Resilience helps you bounce back after a setback...and God is with you every step of the way.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- When was a time you failed or experienced a setback in your life, and what helped you get back up?
- How can we learn and grow from tests and hardships?
- Look up some other Bible verses that talk about endurance and perseverance. What can you learn from these verses?

PRAY:

Share with your family or a friend a difficult time you are going through right now. Then, pray together and ask the Lord to help you endure and grow in resilience.

DAY 25 BE GENEROUS

READ:

Matthew 6:24 *"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."*

Hebrews 13:16 *And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.*

REMEMBER:

Generosity frees our hearts from greed and makes us more like Jesus.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- How has God been generous to you?
- Why do we struggle to be generous with others?
- What's a specific step you (and your family) can take to be more generous?

PRAY:

Ask the Lord to search your heart and show you any place where greed is setting in. Repent, ask for His forgiveness, and then trust the Lord by being generous.

READ:

Matthew 7:7-8 *“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

REMEMBER:

There are many things we must do, but prayer is the main thing.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- When would be the best time for you to pray each day?
- How can we continue to pray together as a family when this devotional concludes?
- Make a family prayer list (something each of you can pray over each day).

PRAY:

Take time to pray for one another's needs.

DAY 27 BE HARD-WORKING

READ:

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV) *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

REMEMBER:

Hard work honors God, and we must never turn work into a god.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- How hard would you work if God were your boss or teacher?
- How can we keep our work or school from becoming an idol in our lives?
- Together, come up with a list of what it means to be a hard worker at home.

PRAY:

Take time to pray for each family member's work or school, and then ask the Lord to help you be faithful stewards of the opportunities God has given you.

READ:

1 Kings 8:61 *And may you be completely faithful to the Lord our God. May you always obey his decrees and commands, just as you are doing today.”*

Romans 12:10 (NIV) *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

REMEMBER:

As followers of Jesus, we are devoted fully to God and to one another in love.

REFLECT/DISCUSS/DO:

- What does it mean to be fully devoted to God, and is there any area of your life that you need to surrender to Him?
- As this devotional comes to an end, how can our family remain devoted to one another in love?
- Pray a blessing over each member of your family.

PRAY:

After praying a blessing over each member of your family, pray for one another, and then ask the Lord to help you grow your devotion to Him.



WWW.7CITYCHURCH.COM