



Seven—This Is Your Son!
John 19

March 19, 2023

DAILY DEVOTION

Find a rhythm in God's word this week! Follow this 5 day plan on your own or with your group!

<https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/29941>

INSPIRATION

Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

.....

May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!

The Wise, Proverbs 23:22, 25 (NIV)

ICE BREAKER

1. What are the challenges and joys of moving in with an elderly parent or relative, or having them move in with you to care for them?
2. If you've had the experience in the first question, what was the most important life lesson you learned?

DEEP DIVE

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

Jesus has been crucified, which was a horrific form of execution the Romans employed for the very worst criminals. As he hangs on a cross, suspended by metal stakes in his wrists and feet, several women, including Jesus' mother Mary, and one of his disciples, who most commentators agree was the Apostle John, stand nearby.



Read John 19:26–27 and answer the following questions:

3. Jesus was not just God's first (and only) son, but he was also Mary's first-born son, which meant he had the inherited responsibility to care for her as a widow and bereaved mother. Why would Jesus want his disciple John to care for her rather than his mother's sister to do so? Why wouldn't he ask his half-siblings? What does that say about the importance of the spiritual connections we make with one another?
4. When a loved one dies, who or what has helped you through the grief? If we have a friend who loses a loved one, what are some positive ways you can help that friend work through their grief?
5. The death of a friend or loved one isn't the only thing that can disrupt our lives. Things like pandemics, sickness, or injury may keep us from work or our usual routines; sometimes bad choices catch up to us or come back to haunt us or surprise us. What are some practical ways you've given or received help within your support network in such times? How does having a support network affect your outlook on life?

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

John says that when we place our faith in Jesus Christ for a right relationship with God, we are welcomed into a spiritual family and given a brand-new identity as children of God! And in this brand-new relationship, our Heavenly Father loves us and calls us his own!.... Isn't that incredible! See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children! So, John says that we have a new relationship. He also says that we have a new responsibility.

Read 1 John 3:1, 16–18 and then answer the following questions:

6. What does John say about our new relationships in God's kingdom? How do these relationships differ from those in your family? Your workplace? Your social circles?
7. How does John describe the new responsibilities we have in God's kingdom? What is the four-letter word he uses to sum up what these responsibilities are all about?
8. Do you have a relationship that needs some work? Or maybe you've been thinking about mentoring someone who is ready to take a next step. What can you do to make that happen? What help might you need to make a connection with someone who's been on your mind?

Additional Study

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- 1 Corinthians 13
- Romans 12, esp. vv. 9–18
- "Thirty Sayings of the Wise": Proverbs 22:17–24:22



NEXT STEPS

9. How are you going to apply the lessons learned in the message this week?
10. What can you do to encourage someone in your group to take their next step?

PRAYER

1. After sharing prayer requests, pray for the person on your right. Pray for that person throughout the week.
2. Is there someone in your group that you can grab coffee with and pray for this week?

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON - Local Mission Partner is ABIDE. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- MILLARD - Local Mission Partner is Heartland Hope. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- FREMONT - Local Mission Partner is LifeHouse. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- OMAHA - Local Mission Partner is Open Door Mission. Contact Lyndsey Deyoe for more information.
- Or get to know your community! Seek out service opportunities in your area.