



Family Devotions – Series 1

Introduction

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Welcome to the great adventure of opening up God’s word with your family. We know that you and your family will be blessed as you dig deeper into God’s word together. We also believe that you’re going to love the *Friends and Heroes* episodes as they bring timeless Bible stories to life. It is our prayerful hope that God pour out his blessings on your family as you seek him together.

Please read through this introduction before you begin the devotions with your family.

Note: These PDF materials were designed with the option of grayscale printing if you so choose. Simply select the “grayscale” option from your printer menu.

What supplies does the family need for each devotion?

For the most of the devotions, all you need is a Bible, the devotion guide, and the corresponding episode (via DVD or streamed on a compatible device). From time to time, pencils, crayons, scissors, or other simple school-type supplies are needed. Most of the items in the optional *Extra, Extra!* activities also need pencils, crayons, or other simple supplies.

How often should the family do a devotion?

We recommend doing one devotion a week, preferably at a regular time you set aside (for example, Thursday nights). At the rate of one devotion per week, the Series 1 materials will last about six months. There are thirteen episodes; each episode includes two devotions for a total of 26 devotions.

How long should each devotion last?

Not counting the time spent viewing the episodes (which are each about 25 minutes long), the devotion will last about 15-20 minutes.

Note: this time estimate also does not reflect time spent on the optional memory verse nor time for the optional *Extra, Extra!* activity that is meant for the children to enjoy at a later time.

Does the family need to watch the entire episode each time?

The first time the episode is being used, yes, we recommend watching the entire episode. However, the second time an episode is used, it’s up to you to decide if you watch the entire episode again or just watch the portion of the episode containing the Bible story that is the focus of that devotion.

Here’s an example:

For Episode 1 — Devotion 1 (“Daniel and the Lions’ Den”), we recommend that your family watch the entire episode. This helps your family understand what is happening in the adventure story (with the fictional characters of Macky, his family, and the others) and places the Bible story in context to help your children understand its meaning and application. Then, for Episode 1 — Devotion 2 (“The Miraculous Catch of Fish”), your family may simply view the episode segment containing the Bible story (from about 16:22 to 19:00) or watch the entire episode again. Experience has shown us that most families enjoy *Friends and Heroes* so much that they watch it over and over again!





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Each devotion includes:

- **Optional Memory Verse:** Printable memory verse cards are included in your materials. You will also find incentive charts to mark your children's progress in their memorization.
- **Watch Together:** This is usually how you will start your devotional time. There are thirteen episodes, each lasting about 25 minutes. Each episode is used for two devotions. Feel free to open in a brief prayer, if you choose. The first time you use an episode, watch the entire episode. The second time you are using the same episode, you can choose to watch only the Bible story segment or watch the entire episode again—it's up to you!
- **Read Together:** During this time, your family will read through a Bible passage together that is central to the devotion. If family devotions are new for your family, we suggest you, as the parent, read the scripture for the first few devotions. As your children get more comfortable with the devotions, you can ask different family members to read, as appropriate.
- **Explore Together:** These questions are intended to ensure your children understand the basic facts of the Bible story. Brief answers are provided in italics.
- **Share Together:** These questions are designed to get your family involved in sharing what is in their hearts and thinking about how to apply the Biblical truths they have learned to their own lives. Encourage and model participation, but don't force it.
- **Pray Together:** Praying together will close the devotion. We suggest, in the beginning especially, that you set the tone and lead the prayer for the first few devotions. Having mom or dad pray will help your children learn how to pray and allay any fears they might have about praying aloud. Often, children are very nervous about praying aloud, so it's helpful for you to teach and lead by example. When you feel the time is right, you can begin to transition them over gently to contributing even a sentence or two during your prayer time. Encourage your children's efforts and progress in praying aloud. What a wonderful blessing to get to pray both *with* and *for* your children.
- **Extra, Extra! (Optional):** These fun activities are meant for the children for a later time. Most are found in the children's printables section of your materials. Usually, simple school supplies are needed (pencils, crayons, etc.). Occasionally, some of the *Extra, Extra!* activities will be found on our children's website, www.friendsandheroes.tv.

Friends and Heroes Music CD (Optional)

We have produced a music CD called *What about Love?* which has 13 Bible songs based on stories from Friends and Heroes Series 1, plus six additional bonus tracks. You will occasionally see it mentioned as an optional item in the devotions. To learn more about this resource or to order, go to www.friendsandheroes.com/music-cd.

It is our prayerful hope that through these devotions, your family draw closer together and closer to God. God bless you and your family as you begin this journey together.