

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Christmas Break / Week 2

WEEK 2

GOD LOVES WHO YOU ARE, AS YOU ARE.

But where
sin increased,
grace increased
all the more.

ROMANS 5:20b

DAY 1

LIVE // It isn't easy giving grace to others, especially toward family members during the holidays. But what if you tried loving your family the way God loves them, even when it's difficult? This is exactly the way God loves us. No matter how badly we mess up, God goes over the top with His grace for us. What if we extended that same grace to others? What would happen in your family if you extended grace in tough moments instead of extending sarcasm or a cutting comment? In other words, when there's tension or an argument looming, try "increasing your grace" toward the situation. And you don't have to do it alone! Ask God to help you approach every conversation — with siblings, parents, and relatives this week—with grace and forgiveness.



Don't be concerned
about the **OUTWARD
BEAUTY** of fancy
hairstyles, expensive
jewelry, or beautiful
clothes.

1 PETER 3:3

DAY 2

LIVE // Everyone likes getting a new pair of shoes, a new outfit, or a new watch. But in this verse, Peter tells us that what satisfies us or makes us feel good about ourselves shouldn't come from these things. And chances are, you already know that. You've noticed when you get the stuff you want—especially this time of year—the satisfaction doesn't last very long. We find ourselves wanting more and more. But what if, in a season that tends to just leave us wanting more, we spent time growing our gratitude for what matters and what we already have? This week, look for opportunities to show gratitude for what you already have. In time, instead of wanting more, you'll find yourself experiencing something new: contentment.



**Do not let any
unwholesome talk come
out of your mouths, but
only what is helpful for
building others up.**

EPHESIANS 4:29a

DAY 3

TALK // When family tensions are high or we aren't seeing our friends as much during a long break, it's easy to slip into an attitude of judgment and frustration. A sibling won't stop driving you crazy. A friend won't return your texts. And almost immediately we jump to conclusions. But in his letter to Ephesus, Paul reminds us to only speak what is helpful for building others up. That means we communicate our frustration in a way that's helpful, and we stop judging or assuming the worst. Because those things don't just hurt the other person—they hurt you, too. Use this time around the holidays to practice building up and cutting out unwholesome talk. You may be surprised the effect it has on others—AND you.



**Be completely
HUMBLE and GENTLE;
be PATIENT, bearing with
one another in LOVE.**

EPHESIANS 4:2

DAY 4

PRAY // You probably already know being humble, gentle, and patient with your family is hard. But have you ever noticed you can be less than gentle or patient with yourself, too? Sometimes we save our harshest words for the way we talk to ourselves when we mess up. This break, in addition to showing humility, patience, and gentleness toward others, try showing yourself the same grace. Show yourself some grace when you hear yourself railing on yourself in your mind—over how you look, over a frustration with friends, over a tough semester in a subject at school, or over repeated mistakes in an area. The truth is, God approaches you with gentleness and patience each and every day. Why not offer it to yourself?



**BE STILL,
and know that
I am God.**

PSALM 46:10a

DAY 5

HEAR // We all have busy schedules, even during Christmas break. And that busyness can make finding still, peaceful moments difficult. But despite busy holiday schedules, this break from school might be the perfect opportunity to find a few minutes throughout your week to be still. Be still, rest, and think. Think about what you know to be true about who God is and what He's like. Think about the things you're facing right now, remembering God's in it with you. And think about the great things you're experiencing, remembering that God is the giver of those good things. Moments like these can really change the course of your day as you mentally refresh, reset, and reconnect with God.

