



DAILY DEVOTION

Hey, North Ridge Family! Here are this week's Daily Devos. Our hope is that you will process each of these devos according to how you can respond and love on your family and our city.

DAY 1

READ GENESIS 1:27

We have the courage to create. (Creativity matters.)

Who do you think of when you hear the word creative? Do you think of yourself? You should! We are all creative. It is in our DNA. We have been hardwired for creating by God Himself.

The One who created the universe made you in His own image. God, the one who created the sky and put the stars in their place, also made you.

You have creative gifts. Whether you are a musician, or an artist, a dancer, teacher or welder, God has wired you to impact His created world and shape it to reflect his goodness.

John Piper writes, *"If you are God, your work is to create out of nothing. If you are not God, but like God - the is, if you are human - your work is to take what God has made and shape it and use it to make him look great."* (Don't Waste Your Life, 139)

Your church needs your gifts.
Your family needs your gifts.
You have gifts that no one else has.

So think of yourself when you think of creativity, and start impacting the world around you for the glory of God.

DAY 2

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

Images are made to reflect, to point. Created in the image of God, we are all designed to show God, to point to God.

We have been thinking this week about creativity and how God has wired us all to create. Clearly we cannot all be artists or writers of poetry, so how can we point to the greatness of God in the everyday stuff of life? In this verse, Paul gives us an idea of how this can be done.

This must mean that whatever we are doing, there is a way to do it that opens our eyes to see the beauty of our God. From the mundane to the magnificent, from eating a cheeseburger at Paw Paws place, to sharing a coffee at The Table. Whether doing the laundry or your homework, there must be a way to do it that has a purpose beyond the ordinary.

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine that men may see your good deeds and bring glory to your Father in heaven."

We can do the things we do in a normal day, and we can do them so that they have a kind of brightness so that when people look at them, they see more than just us. They see the one who created us.

DAY 3

READ DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7

We care for the Next Generation. (Family matters.)

We are committed to helping every child and student understand their place in God's story, and how it is redeeming them. We believe that parents are spiritual leaders for their children and their role is to impress God's love and character by modeling a life that is in authentic relationship with God.

We base this off of Deuteronomy 6:4-7, which says, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

We want to be disciple-makers, and we want your kids to become them as well. A disciple-maker is someone who takes it on themselves to help someone else find and follow Jesus. We believe that being FOR our kids means teaching them about who Jesus is, putting them in relationship with each other as they grow and learn, and placing leaders in their lives who model Christ and point them to a relationship with God

So, we use a Curriculum called Orange. The idea behind Orange is that the church is seen as a light to the world and is represented by the color yellow; the home is seen as the heart and represented by red. Mix those 2, you get Orange!

DAY 4

READ JEREMIAH 29:7

Here's what the kids in your life need: a really big God. They should grow up knowing God can handle whatever they may face. One of the key phrases our curriculum uses is that "we can trust God no matter what" and that's what we need them to know beyond all doubt.

Kids need friends who encourage them to grow in their faith (our GROUPS) our Student ministry has already seen such an impact from this idea.

As kids grow up, it's important to have other spiritual mentors besides their parents, teaching and displaying how to be a Christian. Not only are our students growing deeper in their friendships with their GROUPS, but they are also learning and being disciplined by their adult leaders.

Uncommon sense, God's truth should become a filter for how kids view life decisions. In today's culture, our kids no matter their age are able to have access to many views and beliefs. We need to make sure that God's truth is what they are seeking. Again, this is most effectively done by example.

Finally, our kids need nosy parents. Parents should be intentional about knowing the state of their children's spirituality. Ask questions and don't be afraid to share first. How is God working in your life? What is He teaching you right now? Be open, be honest

DAY 5

READ PSALM 90:12

As parents and ministry leaders in our families, we need to visualize our time. This past weekend, Emily Leach taught us to do this by using a jar full of marbles.

When a child is born, you start out with 936 marbles, which represents the amount of weeks you have until their high school graduation. So, 936 weeks to start with, but you remove a marble each week. Literally losing your marbles. It's so strange to visually watch your time disappear, but it's also a strong reminder to value the time you have left. It makes each week mean a little more, and reinforces this simple principle:

When you see how much time you have left, you tend to do more with the time you have now.

As we look at these marbles, we need to not just visualize the weeks going by, but we also need to be aware of the phases and milestones along the way..

These milestones help us celebrate the various phases of our children's lives and they also remind us of the time we have left.

What are a few things you want to do with the time you have left?