

Loving Your Siblings

Dear Parents,

Loving Your Siblings is a 6 week devotional series for children ages 6-12 to encourage your children to get along with each other. Strategies will be taught and Bible verses memorized that will help them form good relationships not only with siblings but throughout life. You can follow the suggested order or pick and choose the areas where your children need the most help.

These devotionals are meant to be done with your children at the beginning of each week. The remainder of the week, encourage your child to practice the action step learned. Your role as the parent is to remind them to do the action step throughout the week, praise them when you see them doing it well, and encourage them and pray with them when they are struggling. These traits take time to develop, so don't be discouraged. You may have good days and bad days- we all do, and we need God's grace and encouragement. Encourage your children to pray and ask Jesus for help each day; it's a great way to teach dependence on God!

If you feel your children would benefit from a sticker chart for a little external motivation, one is available below. Your kids can place a sticker on the chart for each time they do an action step successfully (there are 4 stickers per day) or one for each day they demonstrate the character trait well. You could also give a sticker each time they say their memory verse to you for the week. Memorizing scripture is a great way to hide God's word in their heart and remind them "why" they are working on the character trait. When they complete the weekly sticker chart, you could think of a special treat or event they can do with their sibling to celebrate their character! Remember to reinforce the reason you are doing this; to become more like Jesus, not to get a prize- that's just extra encouragement.

Praying God will use it to encourage your children in their relationship with each other!

Taylor Johnson

Loving Your Siblings



Week One: Empathy: Caring How My Siblings Feel

Read/Memorize Romans 12:15: *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ESV*



When my brother or sister is happy about something, how can I respond? How should I feel for them? What can I say? How should my voice sound?



When my brother or sister is sad or hurt, how can I respond? How should I feel for them? What can I say? How should my voice sound?



Closer to Home: Read these scenarios and answer how you should respond given the following strategies: how you should feel for your sibling, respond with care or concern in words, tone, and body language.

When my sibling won a game and I lost...

When my sibling did well at something...

When my sibling got hurt...

When my sibling lost a game and I won...



Action Step: Be aware this week how your siblings are feeling. When they are happy, rejoice with them. When they are sad, feel sad for them. Let them know you care.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for my brothers/sisters. Help me to show I care in the way I think, talk, and act towards them. Help them to feel loved by me this week. Amen.

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Week Two: Selflessness: Putting My Siblings First

Read/Memorize Phillipians 2:4: *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ESV*



Is it easy to think about my own interests?



When are some times I can think about blessing my siblings before myself?



Closer to Home: Read these scenarios and answer how you can put your sibling(s) first in each situation given the following examples: let your sibling choose first, give your sibling some choices, take turns choosing your favorite things.

When deciding what activity to do...

When playing a game...

When deciding what movie to watch...

When choosing what to eat...



Action Step: Be thinking of ways you can put your siblings first such as letting them go first in a game, giving them choices to choose from, or letting them pick their choice first. When we put others' desires before our own, we are having a selfless heart like Jesus!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for giving me my brothers/sisters. Help me to put their interests before my own. Please bless them this week. Amen

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Week Three: Sharing: Letting My Siblings Borrow My Things

Read/Memorize...: Share with God's people who need help. Romans 12:14



What is easy to share with my brother or sister?



What is hard to share with my brother or sister?



Closer to Home: Read these scenarios and answer how you can share with your sibling(s) in each situation given the following strategies: splitting, taking turns, playing with something together, sharing something for an allotted amount of time.

There is one piece of pie left and my sister wants it...

My sister wants to use my favorite markers while I am coloring with them...

My brother wants to play with my favorite toy...

My brother forgot his video games on our family vacation...



Action Step: Be aware this week of opportunities to share with your brothers and sisters. Pick one thing a day and offer to share it with a brother or sister to practice sharing.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for giving me so many things. I know that what is mine is really a gift from You, and you want me to share it with others. Help me to happily share with my brothers/sisters. Amen.

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Week Four: Tolerance: Letting the Little Things Go

Read/Memorize...: *Do not be easily angered...*



When my sisters/brothers do something that annoys me, how can I let it go?



What are some things I can think or pray to show I love them anyway?



Closer to Home: Read these scenarios and answer how you can best react given the following strategies: go along with, politely ignore, change the subject, ask nicely to stop. Then share how you can give your frustration to Jesus, and think of something you like about your sibling in the moment.

Your brother is singing that song you really don't want to hear again...

Your sister is acting silly and you don't feel like being silly right now...

Your brother is teasing you about something...

Your sister is telling you what to do...



Action Step: Be aware of your attitude with your siblings. When you start to feel annoyed, think of how you can respond. Talk to your parents for ideas. Give your frustration to God and focus on the things you like about your sibling.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I give you my frustration with my brother/sister. Help me not hold onto bitterness but to give it to you. Thank you for all the good traits my sibling has and help me to show tolerance to the things that annoy me.

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Week Five: Agreeableness: Getting Along With My Siblings

Read/Memorize: *Avoid foolish and stupid arguments because you know they produce quarrels.*



When my sibling says something I disagree with, how should I respond?



When my sibling disagrees with something I say, how should I respond?



Closer to Home: Read these scenarios and determine how you can respond so as not to start an argument given the following strategies: give a positive comment-not arguing back, ignore the comment, change the subject, find a compromise, think about your sibling's interest first

Your brother says he loves vanilla ice cream, but you can't stand it...

Your sister says she does not want to go to the park but you do...

Your brother is teasing you about something...

Your sister is telling you what to do and you already know what to do...



Action Step: Notice when you are wanting to argue and think of what you can say to be agreeable or stop an argument from occurring such as acknowledging your sibling's opinion, ignoring the comment and changing the subject, finding a compromise, or putting their interests first.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, please help me to be agreeable with my brother/sister. Help me remember that foolish arguments lead to nothing. Please give me wisdom to know how to react to every situation in a loving, agreeable way. Amen.

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Week Six: Peacemaker: Making Things Right With My Siblings

Read/Memorize: *as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone*



When I hurt my brother/sister's feelings how can I make things right?



When my brother/sister apologizes, what can I do and say



Closer to Home: Read these scenarios and answer how you can best respond using the following strategies: apologize when your sibling feels hurt by something you did or said, ask for forgiveness, ask what you can do to make things right, forgive your sibling if he/she offends you, give your sibling a hug, let go of your anger and give it to God.

You hit your brother because he was being mean to you...

You yelled at your sister because she wouldn't stop bothering you...

Your sister tells you she is sorry for being bossy to you...

Your brother took your game without asking...



Action Step: Any time you hurt your sibling, make sure to apologize right away. Say "I'm sorry for..." "Will you forgive me?" "I will make things right by..." When your sibling is the one who hurt you, tell them you forgive them. Let go of your anger and give it to God. Forget what he/she did and don't bring it up again.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help me to apologize when I am wrong to keep the peace. Help me to make things right with my brother or sister. When my brother or sister has hurt me, help me to easily forgive and give my anger to you. Amen.

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Week One: Empathy: Caring How My Siblings Feel

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday



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Week Two: Selflessness: Putting My Siblings First

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Week Three: Sharing: Letting My Siblings Borrow My Things

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Week Four: Tolerance: Letting the Little Things Go

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Week Five: Agreeableness: Getting Along With My Siblings

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