



REZKIDS FAMILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE

Pentecost II, 2012



A PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who set test the solitary in families:
We commend to they continual care the homes in which they people dwell.
Put far from them, we beseech thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory,
and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness.
Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made of flesh.
Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents;
and so kindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly
affectioned one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(BCP, p. 829)

RezKids Family Devotional Resource
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Written by Amy Patton and Brandon Michael Burdette
Design: W. Trevor McMaken

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A NOTE FROM AMY

Dearest Resurrection Families,

This fall has brought many new blessings for our children at Resurrection. With the launch of RezKids, children are encountering Christ on Sunday through live worship music, creative Scripture presentations and Shepherding groups. In the home, families are managing a new school year, new activities and a full calendar. Amidst all of this change, Pentecost offer the unique opportunity to reflect on God's unchanging faithfulness to his children. This edition of RezKids Family Resource focuses on the saints that have gone before us. I hope their stories are an encouragement to your family to continue on in faith. We are continuing in the great tradition of the saints – what an exciting adventure!

The Family Resource is designed to orient your family towards the sacred while going about the ordinary. The Resource is divided into two sections; Family Worship and Family Life in the Church. Family Worship includes devotionals, prayer, activities and advice for creating a worship environment at home. Family Life in the Church explores our traditions, emphasizes the liturgical season, highlights upcoming events and introduces you to some your brothers and sisters in Christ.

My prayer is that this resource would assist your family as you draw near to Christ and each other. As you learn and worship, may God bless your family this fall.



Blessings and joy,

Handwritten signature of Amy Patton in cursive script.

Amy Patton
RezKids Director

FAMILY WORSHIP

Setting aside time for the Word, prayer and fellowship are essential for your family's life together. Worshiping together knits you together as a family and together with Christ. Although there is not a "right" way to worship together, I encourage you to always include Scripture, prayer and fellowship. The following devotionals coincide with the lectionary to keep your family within the liturgical season. We also give several suggestions for how to create a worship environment in which to do the devotionals. Use what works best for your family and enjoy the adventure of building a life with Christ!

Worshiping at Home

Family Devotional for Evening (Adapted combined version of At Close of Day & Compline, BCP)

Use this devotional to structure the family devotionals provided. Gather in a circle facing a cross. Have a parent or reading child lead the devotion while letting other family members lead sections.

Leader: Father, we thank you for protecting us today. Give us a peaceful night and a refreshing rest.

Leader: Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

Family: The maker of heaven and earth.

Family: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Complete family devotional questions and scripture reading.

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer;

Family: And let our cry come to you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Pray together as a family.

Family: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

- Adoration of the cross: Simply touch the cross and say, "Thank you, Jesus." Preschoolers do this each Sunday, so they can lead your family!
- Create a prayer wall for the week. Designate a wall and put out papers and pens. Encourage your family to put up prayer requests during the week. Then family members can spend time at the prayer wall praying for each other's concerns.

Devotionals

*Each devotional contains different components to enrich your worship. The **Anticipate** question builds anticipation and curiosity. **Going Deeper** provides additional context or resources to supplement the passage. The **Explore** discussion questions target multiple age levels and encourage your family to apply the Scripture to their lives. The **Concrete Connection** at the end of each devotional is a fun activity including service opportunities, games and outings.*

The Ancients: A Foundation of Faith

Anticipate

Who is your favorite person found in the Bible?

HEBREWS 11

1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him

of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, 18 even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." 19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.

23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the

destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Deeper

Check out Exodus chapters 3 and 4. You can see Moses did not always have faith. He even made excuses for becoming what God was calling him to be. Yet, God still used Moses. Moses still was able to have faith and lead God's people!

Explore

- Who stands out to you from this passage of Scripture?
- Who is someone you have seen living by faith like these people in the Bible?

- In what way could your family practice living by faith this month?

Concrete Connections

As a family, dress up like your favorite person from this passage. Then create a timeline of all the people in this passage. Use the HIStory app (more details in resource section) to complete your timeline.

Paul: The Great Missionary

Anticipate

Have you ever told someone about something God has done in your life?

ACTS 22:1-21

1 "Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense."

2 When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.

Then Paul said: 3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. 4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, 5 as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

6 "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'

8 "Who are you, Lord?' I asked.

" 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. 9 My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

10 "What shall I do, Lord?' I asked.

" 'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.' 11 My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

12 "A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. 13 He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him.

14 "Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. 15 You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

17 "When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance 18 and saw the Lord speaking to me. 'Quick!' he said. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.'

19 "'Lord,' I replied, 'these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. 20 And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.'

21 "Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.' "

Going Deeper

Check out Romans 15:14-21. There you can see an explanation of Paul fulfilling his call to the Gentiles. Paul also wrote approximately 1/3 of the New Testament and his primary focus was the Gentiles who were spread all across the Roman Empire.

Explore

- How far do you think God sent Paul? How many Gentiles do you think Paul was able to tell about Jesus?
- Do you know anyone that God has sent far away to tell people about Jesus (to be a missionary)?
- What is something your family could do to help a missionary this month?

Concrete Connections

Find a blank map from the time of Paul (try <http://www.pacificlife.edu/online/actshtml/images/pict0001.gif>).

Make copies for everyone in the family. Find a map of Paul's missionary journeys (try http://www.ephesuskusadasi.com/images/paul_s_missionary_journeys.jpg or in the back of a Bible that has maps). Make your own map of Paul's journeys and see how far Paul traveled to tell Gentiles about Jesus!

Priscilla & Aquila: Leaders of the Early Church

Anticipate

What are ways that you have served others in the church?

ACTS 18:1-4, 18-19, 24-26

1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.
2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, 3 and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. 4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

18 Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken. 19 They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

Going Deeper

Priscilla and Aquila are mentioned several times through out the New Testament. They served the Church in Corinth and Ephesus. They would open up their home to let other Christians gather together and worship God. They served the church in a way that it was able to grow because of their ministry as ordinary people loving God. Check out Romans 16:3-4 to see Paul's appreciation for this couple!

Explore

- What way did the early church benefit from the service of Priscilla & Aquila?
- How have you seen someone serve the church? In what way could your family serve the church this month?

Concrete Connections

Priscilla and Aquila were tentmakers like Paul. Grab whatever you can and make the best tent you can as a family. As you make your tent, talk about your favorite Bible lessons or what you have been learning about God lately.

James: Bishop of Jerusalem

Anticipate

How have you seen God answer prayer in your life?

JAMES 5:7-20

7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

19 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Going Deeper

The author of this passage, James, was the brother of Jesus and became the Bishop of Jerusalem. In Acts 15, you can see James leading those who are part of the Church. The people were in an argument and we see God use James in his position of Church leadership. James is also known as "James the Just" because he was a righteous and fair man!

Explore

- Are there some prayers that you have had to wait for God to answer?
- What have you learned by waiting on God?
- What prayers are you currently waiting for God to answer?
- What are ways that someone might suffer because they are a Christian?

Concrete Connections

As we see in the first verses of this passage, we must be patient like a farmer is patient. As a family try planting some herbs inside. You must be patient as they grow! When they have grown, you can use them while cooking as a family.

Prayer

The formation of a rich prayer life primarily happens within the family. Children, regardless of age, look to their parents as prayer models. Strive to pray together each day and include prayer in each worship time.

Responsive Prayer

Do your kids struggle with praying together? Is all of your time silent prayer? Try a responsive prayer to engage the entire family. Have one member be the leader and the rest respond. This prayer is adapted from Evening Prayer; feel free to adapt words for your children.

Leader: That this evening may be holy, good,
and peaceful,

Family: We ask you, O Lord.

Leader: That your angels may leads us in peace
and goodwill,

Family: We ask you, O Lord.

Leader: That we may be forgiven for our sins,

Family: We ask you, O Lord.

Leader: That their may be peace in your Church
and the whole world

Family: We ask you, O Lord.

Leader: That the Holy Spirit would unite this
family and all Christians together as we
trust in Christ,

Family: We ask you, O Lord.

Morning Blessings

May God bless you, (Name), and keep you in His love. Amen.

May the grace of Christ, Our Savior, and the Father's boundless love, with the Holy Spirit's favor, rest upon you from above. Amen.

Evening Blessings

May God bless you and guard you through the night. Amen.

May the light of God shine over you and may you sleep in peace. Amen.

FAMILY LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Living Liturgically

Church of the Resurrection cherishes the traditions, symbols and rituals the Church has practiced for centuries. These traditions greatly enrich our faith and help us live within the common life of the Church. Although children notice these traditions, they can be confusing if not clearly explained. By explaining colors and calendars, rituals and rites we are acknowledging children's place within the Great Tradition. Enjoy pointing out the traditions together on Sunday!

The Mystery of the Eucharist

Did you know that every Sunday, a miracle happens? God comes to us in bread and wine so that we can know him better and become more like him. Sometimes this miracle is hard to believe because it's so amazing and because we can't see it with our eyes. Since we can't see this miracle, God gives us some things that we can see to teach us more about it.

We Can See the Altar

Do you ever wonder why we have an altar? Why not just a cross? All through the Bible, God's people build altars to offer sacrifices to Him. We have an altar because when we come to worship, we are making a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God. This means we give ourselves to God as a gift in worship!

But there is another reason why we have an altar. We aren't the only ones giving a gift. The altar is the place where God gives his whole life to us! Every Sunday we pray, "Sanctify these gifts [bread and wine] by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food of new and unending life in him." This food that comes

from the altar is not like any other meal. It comes from heaven!

Something to Think About

The next time you sit down to eat your oatmeal for breakfast (or whatever you like to eat for breakfast), think about how your body needs food to give you energy for the day. In the same way that our bodies need food for energy to play, learn, and serve, our hearts need God to give us energy to love him and love others. When we see the altar, we are reminded that God always gives us his food of love.

We Can See the Water

Did you know that before we all sing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," the deacon does something to the wine? It's easy to miss, but every time we have Eucharist, water is mixed in with the wine. This is a very important act. The Church has been doing this since the very beginning.

The Bible often talks about God's people being like water springing out of the ground or flowing to him. Therefore, the water that goes into the wine is a picture of us! And the wine becomes Jesus' blood! In baptism, God mixes our life in with his by the power of the Holy Spirit. The next time you see the deacon add water to the wine in the chalice, remember that Jesus has mixed your life in with his.

Try at Home

With your mom and dad, fill a cup with water. Then take some food coloring (choose your favorite color) and mix in a few drops. Then try to take the coloring back out of the water.. God has mixed his love into you by the Holy Spirit, and you can't undo this love, just like you can't take the food coloring out of the water! That's why we add water to the wine for Eucharist.

Meet the RezKids Sunday Hosts

Each Sunday, the RezKids hosts welcome your children into worship. They are the leaders of each room and work along with our shepherds to ensure your children build relationships with each other and the Lord.



Lane Severson, a northern Illinois native, hosts our 2 year olds during the 9am service. Currently he is a salesperson and lives in Gilberts, IL. He has attended Church of the Resurrection for 2 years along with his wife and 5 children: Annabelle,

Charlotte, Jude, Eugenie, and Bennett. When he was a little boy he was horribly afraid of being a salesperson when he grew up.



Ridgeway Burns hosts our 3s during the 9am service and is the fantastic storyteller. You might recognize “Mr. Ridgeway” from the Children’s library at Glen Ellyn Public Library, where he rules all books, be they board or pop-up, with a gentle

hand. Mr Ridgeway has been at Church of the Resurrection for 7 years, but Wheaton is not his natural habitat. He grew up in Southern California on a camp called Forest Home. He spent his summers helping put on camp programs for middle and high school students. There were no neighbors and plenty of bears, deer, and rattlesnakes to chat with.



Jenn Ranter is a child/adolescent therapist from Woodstock, Ontario. Jenn moved to Wheaton 3 years ago and she has been attending Rez for 2 1/2 years. She hosts our 4s & 5s during the 9am service. If you’d like to bring her a

thank-you cupcake, she likes vanilla the best. Please be sure to wish her a Merry Canadian Thanksgiving this month.



Michelle Young has been at Rez the past year and she now hosts our elementary kids at the 9am service. Before Rez she and her husband, Lane, served as dorm parents at a school for missionary kids, where she cooked 100 pancakes each Saturday morning. She loves

making Sunday run smoothly and caring for our shepherds. (She also won a greased pig contest at the ripe age of eight.)



Becky Field has been a part of the Rez family for a year and was baptized at Easter Vigil in 2012. She hosts our 2s during the 11am service and loves reading the Bible and playing with the children. Her favorite animals are penguins.



Mark Peterson has been part of the Rez family for fifteen years. He’s served in children’s ministry for almost as many years and he’s currently the host of the 3s during the 11am service where he leads worship...on banjo. He and his wife, Amy, have five

with another soon to join the clan. Mark dreams of one day biking across America and reading the complete works of G.K. Chesterton.



Brandon Michael

Burdette hails from the great state of West Virginia. He hosts our 4s &5s during the 11am service where he is also the marvelous storyteller. Brandon Michale has been at Rez

over a year and is currently the RezKids intern. If he could have any super power, he would choose teleportation.



Sheryl Nuygen hosts our elementary kids during the 11am service and has been attending Rez for fifteen years. Serving is a family affair, with her husband Vu shepherding the 1st graders while their daughter, Lan, enjoys worshiping with her

parents! Growing up as a missionary kid in Taiwan, Sheryl spent her days with her identical twin. The fun-loving and adeptly swimming otters are her favorite animals.

Enriching Resources

Saints Lives & Illuminations by Ruth Sanderson: Beautiful illustrations bring the saints to life for children. Descriptions are great for intermediate readers or to be read as a family. Available online and at Wheaton Religious Supply Store.

Teach Me About Saints by Paul Plum, Joan Plum, and Catherine Odell: Perfect for preschoolers and beginning readers! This activity book had simple descriptions and fun activities to learn about the saints.

The Bible History Game App by Rob Rienow: A fantastic game for learning how Biblical and ancient history flow together! The Bible HIStory game is the perfect for families to teach the timeline of Bible and ancient history. Available on iTunes for iPhone and iPad.

