

# Effective Youth Ministry

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*Ken and Julie Moser*

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# Effective Youth Ministry

written by  
Julie Moser

## **Family devotions:**

Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5-7

*What we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. Psalm 78:3-4*

Here are some devotions for you to use as a family on selections from the Sermon on the Mount. They are designed to use around the dinner table and should take about 15mins. If you use them twice a week they will last for about month. If you want to do more than two a week you can read the sections of Matthew 5-7 not covered in these notes.

To get the most out of family devotion time:

- Try set a regular time (i.e., Every Monday and Thursday dinnertime.)
- Have one family member volunteer to lead the devotion time. The devotion leader asks the questions etc., on the devotion sheet.
- Devotions should be flexible – feel free to alter these devotions to suit your own situation and not limit discussion to these notes.
- You will need a bible with these notes.

# DEVOTION #1

[DEVOTION LEADER – the oldest person at the table]

**Share:** Each person share one highlight from their day.

**Volunteer reads:** Matthew 5:13-16

What do you think it means for a Christian to be like salt?

How can a Christian be like a city on a hill?

How could a Christian put their light under a bowl?

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 5:16

Read this verse and see if you can each memorize it over the next few weeks – review it during the next devotions. It may be helpful if one person writes it out (with verse reference) and puts it on your fridge or notice board.

**Pray:** Share some things to pray for. Have an open time of prayer. The devotion leader will pray last.

## DEVOTION #2

[DEVOTION LEADER – the second oldest person at the table]

**Share:** Each person share one thing that happened to them today.

**Volunteer reads:** Matthew 5:38-42

What is the general attitude Jesus wants us to have towards others in verses 38-42?

**Volunteer reads:** Matthew 5:43-48

What do you think we should pray for someone who treats us badly? (verse 44)

Why is loving our enemies so unusual? (verses 46-47)

**Memory Verse Review:** Matthew 5:16 – can anyone say the memory verse with the reference?

**Pray:** Share some things to pray for. Have an open time of prayer. The devotion leader will pray last.

## DEVOTION #3

[DEVOTION LEADER – the oldest child at the table]

**Share:** Each person share the best thing about their week so far.

**Volunteer reads:** Matthew 6:1-4

In what ways can we “give in secret”?

What are some important areas/projects that this family would like to give money to? Share suggestions.

OR

Share some important areas/projects that this family already gives to.

**Memory Verse Review:** Matthew 5:16 – can anyone say the memory verse with the reference?

**Pray:** Share some things to pray for. Have an open time of prayer. The devotion leader will pray last.

## DEVOTION #4

[DEVOTION LEADER – the youngest child at the table – can have help]

**Share:** Each person share one highlight and one lowlight of the day or week.

**Volunteer reads:** Matthew 6:5-14

What is the attitude Jesus wants to have when we pray?

What kinds of things does he want us to pray about?

**Memory Verse Review:** Matthew 5:16 – can anyone say the memory verse with the reference?

**Pray:** Share some things to pray for. Have an open time of prayer. The devotion leader will finish by reading the Lord's prayer from today's devotion (verses 9-13.)

## DEVOTION #5

[DEVOTION LEADER – anyone at the table who has not had a turn. If everyone has had a turn it can be the first person to volunteer.]

**Share:** Each person share something he/she has learned from church or in their Christian group or personal bible reading.

**Volunteer reads:** Matthew 6:19-24

How do people store up treasures on earth?

How can what you look at and desire (verse 22) bring temptation?

What is the warning Jesus is giving us in verse 24?

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 6:33

Read this verse and try to memorize it over the week – review it during the next devotion. It may be helpful if one person writes it out (with verse reference) and puts it on your fridge or notice board.

**Pray:** Share some things to pray for. Have an open time of prayer. The devotion leader will pray last.



## DEVOTION #6

[DEVOTION LEADER – first person to volunteer]

**Share:** Each person share one highlight from their day.

**Share:** Each person share what he/she thinks most people worry about.

**Volunteer reads:** Matthew 6:25-34

What is Jesus teaching us about worry?

The alternative to worrying about treasures on earth is to seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness (verse 33). What do you think that means?

**Memory Verse Review:** Matthew 6:33 – can anyone say the memory verse with the reference?

**Pray:** Share some things to pray for. Have an open time of prayer. The devotion leader will pray last.

## DEVOTION #7

[DEVOTION LEADER – family votes for who will lead]

**Share:** Each person share one interesting thing about their day.

**Volunteer reads:** Matthew 7:7-12

What is Jesus teaching us about praying?

What is Jesus teaching us about the one we are praying to?

**Memory Verse Review:** Matthew 6:33 – can anyone say the memory verse with the reference?

**Pray:** Share some things to pray for. Have an open time of prayer. The devotion leader will pray last.

## DEVOTION #8

[DEVOTION LEADER – family votes for who will lead]

**Share:** Each person share one great thing about their day and one annoying thing about their day.

**Volunteer reads:** Matthew 7:24-29

What is the important difference between the two builders?

What is an example of the first builder?

What is an example of the second builder?

How can we imitate the first builder (and build on the rock)?

**Memory Verse Review:** Matthew 6:33 – can anyone say the memory verse with the reference?

**Pray:** Share some things to pray for. Have an open time of prayer. The devotion leader will pray last.