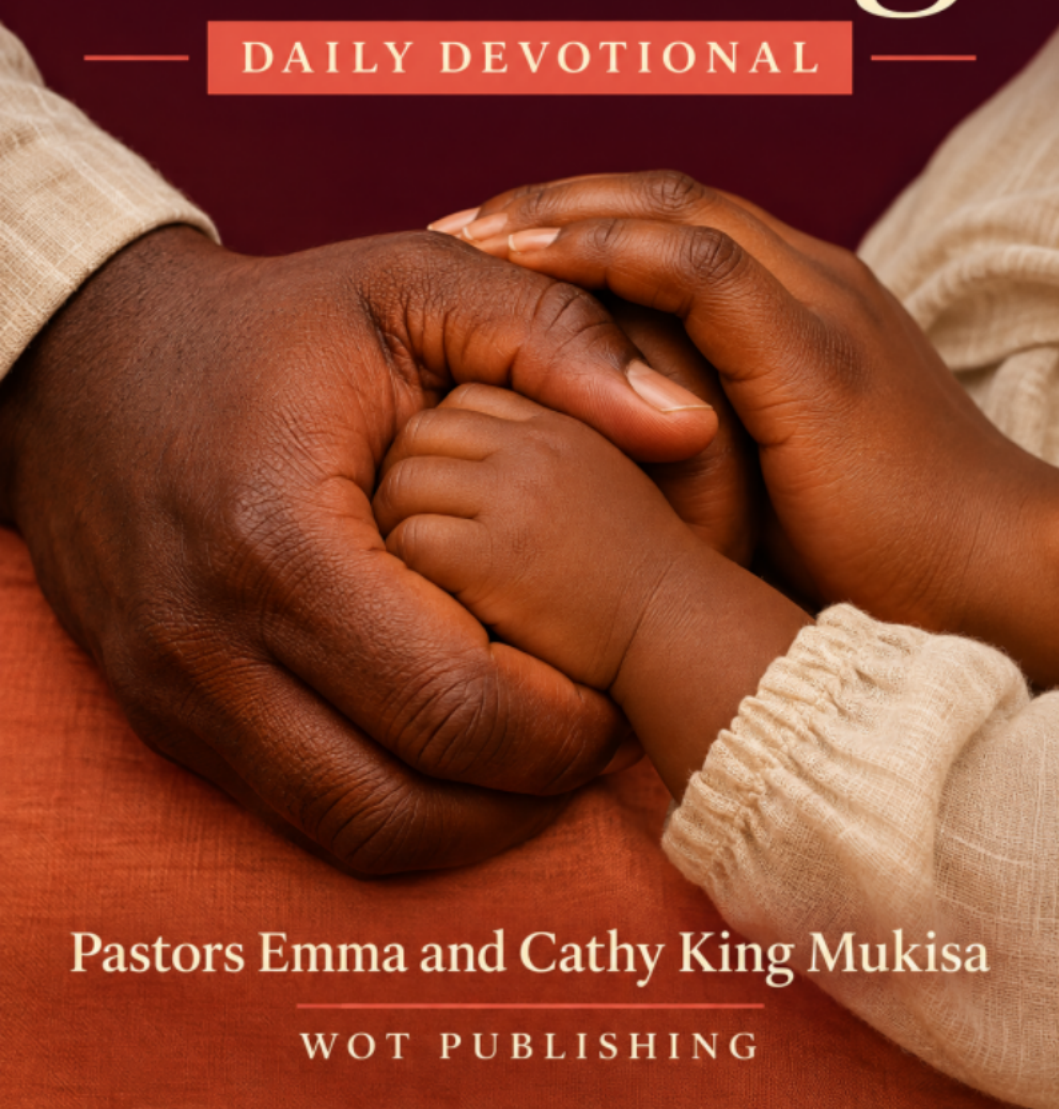
30 Days of Family and Parenting

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



Pastors Emma and Cathy King Mukisa

WOT PUBLISHING

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Introduction

Beloved, the family matters to God. Before a child learns a lesson in a classroom, there are words being spoken at home. Before that child understands a sermon, there is an example being lived before them. What we do with the Word in our homes matters. The way we speak, the attention we give, the correction we offer and the prayers we pray all have a place in the care of the people entrusted to us.

This book brings the Word into those daily relationships. We begin with God's design for the family and the place of Christ in the home. We give attention to prayer, worship and the Scriptures. Then we consider how we listen, speak, share responsibilities and resolve disagreements. The later readings turn to the care of children through different stages of growth. At every stage, the question remains practical: what does the Word say, and how will we act on it today?

If you have received Christ, you are approaching these responsibilities from the life you have received in Him. The Holy Spirit dwells in you. The love of God has been shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost. You can give expression to that love in your family. Let the Word govern your response when a conversation becomes difficult, when a child needs correction or when the day has been demanding. Take your place in Christ and act from there.

Using the daily readings

Read one devotion a day. Read the Scripture aloud and give attention to its meaning before moving to the teaching. Where possible, open your Bible and read the surrounding passage as well. A family can take turns reading; a parent or another trusted adult

can explain the principal thought in words a younger child understands.

After the teaching, speak the confession with understanding. The reflection gives you a question to discuss honestly. Allow each person time to answer without being interrupted or ridiculed. Pray to the Father in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and then agree on the practical action you will take. The further-study passages are there for you to read together or return to during the day.

There is no need to rush a child through every paragraph. Read with those who are present, explain what they need and help them take a meaningful part. A young child may give a simple answer or join a short prayer. An older child may read a passage and ask a question. Listen. You are caring for people as you teach them the Word.

Your household and your responsibility

Families do not all have the same circumstances. You may be reading as a married couple, a single parent, a grandparent, a guardian or an adult preparing for family life. Some of the readings address fathers, mothers or children directly. Receive the instruction that belongs to your responsibility and adapt the practical action to the people in your care. If relatives live elsewhere, you can still pray for them and maintain thoughtful contact.

Family conversation must be conducted with care. Do not compel someone to disclose a private concern before others. Where there is harm or danger, protect those affected and seek appropriate help. A call to love, forgive or pursue peace does not authorise intimidation, injury or the concealment of wrongdoing.

Begin with the people before you. Give them your attention. Open the Scriptures together. When you discover something you need to correct, act on it. When you recognise the fruit of the Word in your home, give the Father thanks. These thirty days are a beginning. The Word you receive is for the life you continue to live together.

DAY ONE

God Designed the Family

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it…'"

Genesis 1:27–28 (NKJV)

Beloved, before any city rose, before any nation was formed, before any church gathered, God built a family. He made a man. He made a woman. He joined them together. He blessed them. And then He gave them a mandate — be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, have dominion. The family is not a social invention. It is a divine institution. God invented it. God defined it. And only God can sustain it.

Here is the truth your family must lay hold of today: God designed you to win. The God who blessed Adam and Eve in the garden has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. You carry His image. You have His Word. Everyone who has received Christ has His Spirit. Your family is not an accident — it is an assignment. And God never sends anyone on assignment without fully equipping them. Lift your head, family of God. You were made for this.

CONFESSION

We are a family designed by God! We carry His image. We carry His blessing. We walk in dominion over every attack of the enemy. Our home is a Kingdom outpost, and the glory of God fills this house. We are not an accident — we are an assignment!

REFLECTION

What does it mean that our family carries the image of God? In what specific way does our family show God to the people around us?

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for this family. We were not thrown together by chance — You put us together on purpose. We dedicate this home to You afresh today. Let Your image be clearly seen in our lives. Let every person who encounters our family encounter You. Thank You for the mandate, the blessing, and the grace to fulfil it. In the Name of the Lord Jesus, amen.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Go around the room. Let each family member finish this sentence out loud: "I see God's design in our family when..." Celebrate what you hear.

FURTHER STUDY

Genesis 1:27–28; Ephesians 1:3