

# THE FAMILY BUILD

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE BEGINS IN OURS

## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY BUILD!

The early church was built around tables, in homes, through hospitality, generosity, prayer, and the small faithful “yeses” of ordinary people who became **Living Stones** in the house God was building.

That hasn't changed.

God is still building His Church and He's still doing it through people like you. Through parents showing up, through siblings sharing, through roommates praying, through families building rhythms of faith that shape the next generation.

This devotional is a simple invitation:  
To **build your home** in a way that strengthens **His house**.

## Here's How It Works:

Each **Tuesday and Friday** during the 25-Day Spiritual Journey of our Living Stones campaign, you will have access to a fresh devotional designed to be shared together. You can gather around the dinner table, on the couch, or even in the car...wherever you do life together.

Each devotional includes:

- **Scripture:** A short, easy-to-read Bible passage connected to the Living Stones theme.
- **Devotional Thought:** A short story or reflection that unpacks the Scripture in a fun and meaningful way.
- **Family Activity Options:** Choose from 3–4 interactive options to bring the theme to life. These range from creative projects to simple object lessons that are fun, flexible, and impactful.
- **Chat Prompts:** A few questions to help everyone share thoughts and process together. This is great for all ages.
- **Prayer:** A short prayer to pray aloud together as a family.
- **Wrap-Up Statement + Action Prompt:** A final encouragement and a small, actionable way to respond together.

## **How Long Does It Take?**

You can do this in **15–20 minutes** (or longer if your conversation flows). Some families may keep it short and sweet, others may linger. The win is just *showing up consistently and opening the door* for God to move.

## **Why This Matters**

The story of God's Church has always been written **through families**, biological and spiritual. From Priscilla & Aquila hosting church in their home, to Paul and Timothy sharing a spiritual father-son bond, to the early believers breaking bread together daily, the house of God has always grown through the faithfulness of everyday people.

This season, as Freedom Church steps into **a new chapter of multiplication and mission**, let's anchor our families in the truth of 1 Peter 2:5:

**“Like living stones, you are being built into a spiritual house...”**

The Church isn't a building. It's us.  
And it's built one family, one prayer, one small yes at a time.

Let's build it together.

# The Family Build — Devotional 1

**Date:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:4–5

*“As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

## God is Building His House

When Peter wrote this, he was speaking to people under pressure. Many had been scattered. Some were afraid. All were figuring out how to live out their faith in a changing world.

And Peter tells them something surprising:  
You’re not scattered. You’re being gathered.

Every life, every household, every story is being shaped by God into something sacred. A house. His house. Not one made of bricks. A house made of people.

When we come to Jesus, we become part of that house. We’re not observers. We’re not visitors. We are living stones in the foundation God is laying for the generations to come.

The Church starts with what we build together, right here, in our homes.

## Family Activity Options

Pick one (or two!) to do together after reading the devotional:

### 1. Stacking Stones:

Grab some blocks, LEGOs, rocks, or pillows. As you stack them, say out loud things your family can build together: trust, prayer, encouragement, generosity, forgiveness, joy.

### 2. Build the Blueprint:

Draw a “spiritual house” together on a big sheet of paper. Label each room or level with something that makes your family strong in faith — or something you want to grow in.

### 3. Name the Builders:

Take turns naming people in your life who help build your faith — teachers, pastors, friends, neighbors, family. Talk about how you might be someone else’s “builder” too.

### 4. Stone Hunt:

Each person finds a rock or something solid around the house. Sit in a circle and share how God might be using each person to build something strong.

## Chat Prompts

Choose 2–3 to talk through as a family:

- What's something God is building in our family right now?
- What do you think it means to be part of His “spiritual house”?
- Where have you seen someone else build with faith?
- How can we make our home stronger in faith this week?

## Prayer

God, thank you for choosing us to be part of what You're building.  
Shape our lives into something strong and beautiful.  
Make our family a place where Your Spirit feels at home.  
Help us build with love, with purpose, and with joy.  
Amen.

## Wrap-Up Statement + Action Prompt

Each person shares one way they can help build a stronger home this week (something simple and real): an attitude, a habit, a word, a prayer, an act of service.

Then say together:

**“We're living stones. We're building something that lasts.”**

## The Family Build — Devotional 2

**Date:** Friday, February 6, 2026

**Scripture:** Acts 4:36–37

*“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means ‘son of encouragement’), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.”*

### Encouragement Builds the House

Barnabas didn’t preach the sermon at Pentecost. He didn’t perform miracles in public. But he was one of the first people the early church remembered by name. Why? Because he encouraged the ones who did.

He saw a need. He met it. Quietly. Generously. Faithfully.

The apostles called him *Barnabas*, which means “son of encouragement.” Did you know that wasn’t even his birth name? His real name was Joseph. But the life he lived was so full of kindness and courage that people started calling him something new. His faith, his generosity, his encouragement... it became his *spiritual legacy* — the way people remembered him because of what God did through him.

The Church isn’t built by big personalities. It’s built by people like Barnabas who choose to lift others up, believe the best, give what they have, and stay faithful behind the scenes.

God builds with every kind word, every thoughtful gift, every voice that says, “You matter.” That’s what makes a strong home. That’s what builds the Church.

### Family Activity Options

Pick one (or two!) to do together after reading the devotional:

#### 1. Encouragement Cards:

Make simple cards or notes for people you know — neighbors, teachers, friends at church. Write or draw something encouraging. Deliver them as a family this weekend.

#### 2. Barnabas Awards:

Give out homemade “awards” to each family member for something they’ve done to help or build someone up this week. Keep it light and fun, but make it meaningful.

#### 3. Build a Blessing Chain:

Cut strips of paper and write one encouraging word or phrase on each. Link them together to make a chain you can hang in a visible place all month long.

#### **4. Secret Encourager:**

Draw names and spend the next few days secretly doing kind or helpful things for that person. Reveal your identity at the end of the weekend.

### **Chat Prompts**

Choose 2–3 to talk through as a family:

- What does encouragement mean to you?
- Who in your life makes you feel seen or supported?
- When was a time someone’s words helped you keep going?
- How can our family be more encouraging this week?

### **Prayer**

Jesus, thank you for people like Barnabas.  
Help us see the people around us with Your eyes.  
Make us encouragers. Help us speak life, lift burdens, and give joy.  
Let our home be a place where people feel seen, known, and loved.  
Amen.

### **Wrap-Up Statement + Action Prompt**

Each person shares one specific way they will practice encouragement this weekend — a note, a word, a gift, a prayer, or a quiet act of love.

Then say together:

**“Encouragement builds the house. We’re building it together.”**

# The Family Build — Devotional 3

**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026

**Scripture:** Acts 6:3–5

*“Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them... They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip...”*

## Everyone Builds Something

As the Church grew, new needs started popping up. Some people were getting overlooked. Others were starting to burn out. But instead of panicking, the apostles did something wise. They invited others to help carry the load.

One of those people was Philip. He wasn't famous. He didn't write letters like Paul or preach like Peter. But he was *faithful*. And when he was asked to help care for widows and serve meals, he said yes.

That simple yes became the beginning of a powerful ministry. Philip would go on to preach the gospel in Samaria, share Jesus with the Ethiopian official, and help the early Church spread across borders and cultures.

He didn't start big. He started willing.

In God's house, no job is too small to matter.

Every act of service is a building block.

And every willing heart can be part of something much bigger than themselves.

## Family Activity Options

Pick one (or two!) to do together after reading the devotional:

### 1. Serve Together Tonight:

Pick a simple way to serve *each other*. Clean someone's space, do someone else's chore, make a snack, or set the table with extra care. Talk about how even small acts build love.

### 2. “Yes” Jar:

Place an empty jar on the table. Each time someone says “yes” to helping or serving this week, they drop a coin, rock, or paper heart in the jar. Watch how the “yeses” stack up.

### 3. Build a Role Map:

Draw a house and write down roles each family member plays that help the home run — from cooking and cleaning to praying and protecting. Celebrate how everyone contributes.

#### **4. Helper Highlight:**

Name someone outside your family who helps in quiet ways. It could be a neighbor, a teammate, a teacher, someone at church. Take time to thank or pray for them together.

#### **Chat Prompts**

Choose 2–3 to talk through as a family:

- What’s one small thing someone did for you that made a big difference?
- Why do you think Philip’s simple “yes” mattered so much?
- What kind of roles do we sometimes forget to thank others for?
- Where can each of us serve more this week?

#### **Prayer**

God, thank You for using every gift — big and small.

Help us notice the needs around us.

Give us hearts that say yes to serving others.

Let our home be a place where no one is overlooked, and everyone matters.

Amen.

#### **Wrap-Up Statement + Action Prompt**

Each person shares one way they’ll say yes to serving this week — something small, thoughtful, or unseen.

Then say together:

**“Every yes matters. Every gift builds the house.”**

# The Family Build — Devotional 4

**Date:** Friday, February 13, 2026

**Scripture:** Acts 9:26–27

*“When [Saul] came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But **Barnabas** took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him...”*

## **Theme: Build With Belief**

Paul (who used to be called Saul) had once been a man who hurt and hunted Christians. So when he tried to join the disciples after meeting Jesus, no one trusted him.

Except Barnabas.

Barnabas had seen something in Paul that others couldn't see yet. He stepped in. He stood beside him. He believed that God was doing something new. Because of that belief, Paul was welcomed. And from there, his ministry changed the world.

In God's house, encouragement isn't extra. IT IS ESSENTIAL.

When we believe in someone — really believe in them — we help them grow into who God is calling them to be.

We're not just building a place. We're building *each other*.

## **Family Activity Options**

Choose one (or two!) to do together after reading the devotional:

### **1. Name Builders:**

Go around and share one way each person in your family encourages others. Then, speak words of encouragement over each other, naming what you see God doing in them.

### **2. Make Encouragement Cards:**

Use paper, markers, and stickers to make a few homemade notes. These can be for each other or for people at school, church, or work who might need a little belief spoken over them.

### **3. Who Needs a Barnabas?**

As a family, think of someone who might feel left out, discouraged, or forgotten right now. Come up with a plan to include or encourage them this week.

### **4. Encourage Post-Its:**

Write one encouraging sentence for each person in the house and hide it somewhere fun for them to find later — inside a shoe, on a water bottle, under a pillow.

## Chat Prompts

Pick 2–3 to talk through as a family:

- Why do you think Barnabas chose to believe in Paul?
- Who has believed in you when others didn't?
- How does encouragement build us up?
- What happens when we include someone who's been left out?

## Prayer

Jesus, thank You for seeing the best in us even when others don't.  
Help us speak life into the people around us.  
Give us courage to stand beside someone who needs a friend.  
Make our family a place of encouragement and belief.  
Amen.

## Wrap-Up Statement + Action Prompt

Each person shares someone they want to encourage this weekend, a name and how they'll do it.

Then say together:

**“We believe in each other. We build with our words.”**

# The Family Build — Devotional 5

**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026

**Scripture:** Acts 9:36–37, 39–40

*“In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor... All the widows stood around [Peter], crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made... Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.”*

## Make Room to Serve

Tabitha lived in a seaside town called Joppa. Tabitha wasn’t a preacher or a prophet. But she loved people and changed lives with her hands and her heart.

She sewed clothes. She served the poor. She made widows feel seen. She was always doing good, always finding ways to care.

Then one day, Tabitha got very sick... and died. The whole town was heartbroken. People gathered in her home. They sent for Peter and when he arrived, the widows wept and held up the robes she had made for them, pointing out the stitches, telling stories, remembering her kindness. Her house was filled with tears... and love. **Her life of quiet service had left a loud impact.**

Peter prayed over her and through the power of the Holy Spirit, she was raised back to life! The story of what God had done spread like fire through the city and the church grew even stronger.

In God’s house, every act of love builds something that lasts.

## Family Activity Options

Pick one (or more!) to do together:

### 1. Serve Night:

As a family, find one small way to serve together this week. Help a neighbor, clean a space at church, drop off a meal, or make a donation. Talk about what it felt like afterward.

### 2. Hidden Helpers:

Each person secretly does something helpful for someone else in the house today, no credit, just kindness.

### 3. Story Stitch:

If someone in your family sews or creates, do something creative together. If not, look through your closets and donate items to help another family.

#### **4. Build a Helping Jar:**

Fill a jar with small papers that each have a serving idea. Each day this week, pull one out as a surprise act of love.

#### **Chat Prompts**

Pick 2–3 to talk about together:

- How can we build a life that leaves a legacy like Tabitha?
- What are some ways we can make sure no one feels forgotten?
- What's one way we can use what we're good at to help someone this week?
- How can serving help us grow closer as a family?

#### **Prayer**

God, thank You for inviting us to be part of Your work.

Teach us to notice people who need help.

Make our hearts willing.

Make our hands ready.

Fill us with Your Spirit and wisdom.

Amen.

#### **Wrap-Up Statement + Action Prompt**

Each person shares one way they'll serve someone this week — big or small, at home, school, or church.

Then say together:

**“We're helpers in God's house. We're ready to serve.”**

# The Family Build — Devotional 6

**Date:** Friday, February 20, 2026

**Scripture:** Acts 4:32–35

*“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had... God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them.”*

## Open Hands, Big Hearts

The early church did more than just pray together. They *shared* together. They gave freely. They took care of each other. They looked at what they had and said, “Who can this bless?”

Some even sold fields or homes to make sure no one went without.

That’s how God’s house grows, when His people give with open hands and big hearts.

This kind of love was and is never forced. It flows from *grace*. The believers in the early church were so overwhelmed by what Jesus had done that they couldn’t help but live generously. And the result? “There were no needy persons among them.”

When a church lives like this, the world takes notice. And families can live like this too, ready to share, quick to give, looking for ways to love one another well.

We build God’s house not just with prayers, but with provision. Not just with words, but with generosity.

## Family Activity Options

Pick one (or more!) to do together:

**1. Blessing Basket:**

Fill a basket or box with food, supplies, or a gift for someone in your life who might need encouragement. Deliver it together as a family.

**2. Give Something Good:**

Each person chooses one thing they own that’s still in good condition to give away to someone who needs it or to donate.

**3. “Mine!” Jar:**

Put a small jar on the table. Anytime someone says “mine!” in a selfish way during the week, they drop a coin or a note of kindness into the jar — at the end, decide how to use it to bless someone else.

#### 4. **Family Altar Card:**

Gather as a family and take a few minutes to talk about what it means to give *together*. Then set a timer for 2 minutes of quiet prayer. Afterward, each person draws or writes something on an index card or piece of paper that represents what they feel led to give. It could be money, time, a habit, a prayer, or an attitude. Put all the cards in a special envelope or bowl and place it somewhere visible for the week. On Commitment Sunday, bring the envelope with you or pray over it as a family before church.

### **Chat Prompts**

Pick 2–3 to talk about together:

- Why do you think the early church was so generous?
- What's something we can share as a family this week?
- How does giving help make our faith stronger?
- Is there someone in your life you think we could bless?

### **Prayer**

God, You've given us so much.

Help us to be generous like Jesus. Help us to share, to give, to care.

Show us where there's need, and help us meet it with joy.

Build our house on love and open hands.

Amen.

### **Wrap-Up Statement + Action Prompt**

Each person shares one way they'll live generously this week — something they can give, share, or do for someone else.

Then say together:

**“We're builders in God's house. We live with open hands.”**

# The Family Build — Devotional 7

**Date:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026

**Scripture:** Acts 10:1–2, 30–33, 44

*"At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion... He and all his family were devout and God-fearing... he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly... So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us... While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message."*

## Make Room for the Unexpected

Cornelius was a Roman centurion, a soldier in charge of many men. But he was also a man of prayer, generosity, and faith. He wasn't Jewish, and he didn't know the full story of Jesus, but he honored God the best way he knew how.

Then one day, everything changed.

God gave Cornelius a vision and told him to send for a man named Peter. At the same time, God gave Peter a vision too, preparing him to visit Cornelius' house and share the Gospel.

That day, two people said "yes" to God without knowing what would happen next. And when Peter began to preach, something amazing and historic happened. The Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius, his family, and his whole house. It shocked Peter and everyone watching, because *this was the first time the Spirit had filled people outside the Jewish community.*

That moment was a door swinging open...and a house being filled with God's presence.

When we open our homes and our hearts to God, He does more than we expect!

## Family Activity Options

Pick one (or more!) to do together:

### 1. Surprise Yes:

Everyone writes down one thing they're willing to say "yes" to this week. It should be something that stretches their faith. Fold the papers and keep them in a spot where you can return to them next week.

### 2. Holy Spirit Stories:

Each person shares a time they felt God speak to them or do something unexpected. If no one has a story yet, imagine what that might look like and what it would feel like.

### 3. **Make Room Challenge:**

Choose a space in your home and clean or prepare it with love as if you're inviting God to come visit. Light a candle or play worship music as you do it.

### 4. **Hospitality Game:**

Plan one simple way your family could welcome someone else — a new neighbor, a church friend, or someone who needs encouragement.

## **Chat Prompts**

Pick 2–3 to talk about together:

- Why do you think God chose Cornelius' house?
- What does it look like to welcome the Holy Spirit into our home?
- What do you think Peter felt when he saw God move like that?
- Has God ever surprised you?

## **Prayer**

God, thank You for speaking to Cornelius and to Peter.

Speak to us too. Surprise us with Your goodness.

Fill our home with Your Holy Spirit.

Make us ready to say yes to You, even when we don't know what's coming.

Amen.

## **Wrap-Up Statement + Action Prompt**

Each person shares one way they can be open to God this week in prayer, in listening, or in loving others.

Then say together:

**“We make room for God, in our house and in our hearts.”**

# The Family Build — Devotional 8

**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2026

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 1:5–6

“I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...”

## Build the Flame

Timothy was a young leader in the early church, full of potential but still growing in confidence. Paul, his mentor, wrote him a letter to encourage him.

But Paul didn't start by talking about Timothy's strengths or talents. He started with Timothy's family.

Before Timothy ever led a church, he was shaped at home. His mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, passed down their faith to him. They prayed with him. Taught him the Scriptures. Believed in what God could do through him.

Paul reminded Timothy of all that, and then told him to *fan it into flame*. That means to stir it up. To keep it burning bright. To take the small sparks of faith and grow them into something strong.

God starts His work in families. In ordinary days. In quiet prayers. In bedtime blessings and dinner table talks. That's where the flame is lit.

And when we fan that flame with love, encouragement, and faith, it can burn bright for generations.

## Family Activity Options

Pick one (or more!) to do together:

**1. Pass the Flame:**

Light a candle and pass it carefully around the family. As each person holds it, have them say one thing they've learned about God from someone else in the room.

**2. Faith Family Tree:**

Draw a simple family tree. Include people who helped you learn about God. Then add names of people *you* want to encourage in their faith.

**3. Letters of Fire:**

Write a short note or draw a picture for someone who has helped build your faith. Mail it or give it to them as a thank-you.

#### 4. **Fan It Into Flame:**

Each person picks one small “faith spark” to grow this week — a prayer habit, reading the Bible, encouraging someone, helping at church, giving to the capital campaign, or learning something new about God.

### **Chat Prompts**

Pick 2–3 to talk about together:

- Who has helped build your faith, like Lois and Eunice did for Timothy?
- What’s one gift or strength you think God has put inside of you?
- How can we “fan the flame” of faith in our house?
- Who can we encourage this week?

### **Prayer**

God, thank You for the people who have helped us know You.

Grow our faith like a flame.

Help us to pass it on, in what we say, what we do, and how we live.

Make our family part of Your story.

Amen.

### **Wrap-Up Statement + Action Prompt**

Each person shares one way they’ll grow their “faith flame” this week.

Then say together:

**“We’re part of God’s family. We’re fanning the flame.”**