

# Little Hands, Big Hearts

## *Devotionals for the Family*

### *Week 2: Stir One Another Up*



Bridgewood Church of Christ  
and [DadisLearning.com](http://DadisLearning.com)

Welcome back! I hope that your family was blessed by last week's study. I am excited that so many families have let me know that they are using this material. There are a few churches that are distributing this material to their congregation for free. What a blessing!

### Getting Started

Take time as a family to clear out all the distractions that might get in the way of a focused time of study and prayer. Make sure to turn off any cell phones or other devices that might be distracting. I encourage adults and kids to read from a physical copy of the Bible to avoid the distractions that can occur on a phone or other electronic device.

Once you are as distraction free as possible and in a good physical location for your study, spend time together as a family in prayer. Consider asking for prayer needs among your family. This is a great time to find out how you can help minister to your kids and their friends.

### Devotional Thought

Today we are going to be studying a very important concept for the church and our family. The small things that we do can have a huge impact - both for good and bad - on our family and church. The Bible talks about how "a little leaven leavens the whole lump." (1 Cor. 5:6) Leaven is similar to the yeast that we use today. Anyone who has baked any kind of bread knows that it only takes a little bit of yeast and some heat to set off an amazing reaction.

As I was reading this passage, I was reminded of making some green Rice Krispie treats over the holidays. I made a double batch with 12 cups of Rice Krispie cereal and 2 bags of marshmallows. It only took SIX drops of green food coloring to turn that entire batch of treats a lovely shade of green. Our own actions can have a quick and profound impact on those around us - changing things completely.

Have someone read *Hebrews 10:23-25*.

Following are some phrases and words that you will want to make sure your family understands:

- "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope" - I recently covered this passage in the Junior High and High School



class at our church and no one could tell me what this phrase meant. Today we might say something like, 'Let us stay faithful to God's word' or something to that effect. It is always good to ask anyone you are studying with to rephrase what the Bible is saying to insure proper understanding.

- wavering - a term most adults would understand but little kids might not know. Synonyms include unable to decide, change, and hesitate. (Little kids especially can have trouble understanding some words and phrases that we commonly use. In our study last week, our daughter took me literally when I said, "Let's go around the table and say some good things we could do for other people." She got up, walked around the table and said something nice she could do for someone. That's how a 5 year-old interpreted that common saying.)
- good works - give some examples of good works that we can do as individuals, a family and a church. Some examples include - visiting the sick, sending cards, raking leaves, etc.
- neglecting - synonyms include ignore, forget and the very basic "don't do"

The teaching in Hebrews 10 is very clear that we must "meet together" so that we can encourage each other. It is important for the church to meet together for worship and other activities so we can build each other up through worshipping God together, praying with and for each other, sharing struggles and joys, and being a part of each others lives. Anyone who says they can worship God without attending worship services has missed the clear teaching to the church in Hebrews 10:24-25.

How does coming together as a church to worship God encourage each person in attendance?

How does your attendance at Bible class "stir up" your classmates and the teacher to good works?

What are you doing (or could you be doing better) to be an encourager to the church?

The same lesson could be applied to the family. How does your participation with the family help encourage the family as a whole? What are you doing (or could be doing better) to be an encourager to your family members?

### **For Older Kids**

Families with older kids might tie in some aspects of team sports with this devotional thought. Many teams have traditions, huddles, chants or other activities they use to 'fire up' the team before an event. Tie in some lessons learned from teamwork on the field with how they could apply in the church and at home.

### **Action**

Think of 5 words that can encourage others in your family and church. Write them down and focus on using them this week. Think of 5 words that can discourage, write them down and try to stop using those words in conversation and correspondence.



Photo by Gary Scott - [www.garyslens.ca](http://www.garyslens.ca)

*Close your Bible study with a family prayer.*

*See you next week!*