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DEVOTIONALS — WEEK 2



**WEEK
TWO**

**THE
LANGUAGE
OF THE
HOME**



DAY 1: The Voice We Carry Within

October 12, 2026

Proverbs 12:18 GNT

Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as a sword, but wisely spoken words can heal.

Some voices stay with us long after we stop hearing them.

We remember our mother calling us to dinner, a word of encouragement from our father, advice from our grandparents, or a phrase someone repeated whenever they saw us.

It is curious how memory works. We may forget what we ate three days ago, yet clearly remember something someone said 30 years ago.

Some words did us good: they gave us security, awakened confidence, or helped us believe we could accomplish something. Others left memories we would rather not have.

Proverbs reminds us that **some words wound like a sword**. Though they leave no visible scars, they can cause pain that lasts for years. Yet the same proverb shows us that our words can also do something wonderful: they can **bring healing**.

A word can hurt deeply, but it can also lift someone who is discouraged, restore lost confidence, or comfort a wounded heart.

THE SAME MOUTH THAT CAN HURT CAN ALSO BE USED TO HEAL.

That is why it is important to learn to speak wisely.

It is not only about what we say, but the wisdom with which we choose our words. Proverbs 15:28 NLT says, “*The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking.*” This is saying that a wise person does not need to say immediately everything that comes to mind.

SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT SPEAKING, BUT RARELY DO THEY STOP TO THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE SAYING.

James 1:19 NLT says, “*You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.*” Have you thought to think about **how many conversations at home would be different if we practiced this advice?**

Hurtful words do not always come from malice; they may come from haste, anger, or lack of self-control.



Many of us enter adulthood carrying words we heard as children. Some strengthened us; others shaped how we see ourselves. Without realizing it, we may repeat in our homes the language we grew up with.

Perhaps we heard shouting and now we shout.

Perhaps affection was rarely expressed, and today it is difficult to say what we feel.

Or perhaps we grew up blessed hearing loving words and now we want our children to experience the same.

Our history influences us, **but it does not have to determine the story of the home we are building.**

With God's help, we can keep the good we received and begin changing what we should never have had to hear and do not want repeated.

REMEMBER

**WE CANNOT CHANGE ALL THE WORDS WE HEARD
YESTERDAY, BUT WE CAN CHANGE THE WORDS
OUR FAMILY WILL HEAR TODAY.**

THINK

What words from your childhood do you still remember? Which would you like to preserve in your home, and which do you need to stop repeating?

APPLY

Identify a negative expression you have often heard or used. Replace it with words that communicate truth with respect and love. Before responding impulsively, pause and ask: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is this the best way to say it?

PRAY

Lord, thank You for the people whose words left beautiful memories in my life. Heal the wounds that may remain from words spoken in the past. Give me wisdom to think before speaking, self-control when I am upset, and grace to use words that bring life to my home. Amen.



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Lined writing area with horizontal lines.



DAY 2: Words That Leave A Mark

October 13, 2026

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

When I was a child, my grandfather had a pastor friend who greeted me in a special way. Every time he saw me, he would say, **“How are you, champ?”**

I don’t remember having to win a competition or receive an award for him to call me that. He simply greeted me that way, and the weird thing is I believed him. It made me happy to hear him call me champ.

Many years have passed, but I still remember those words and how good they made me feel.

Today, when I greet a young child, I often do the same. I say, **“How are you, champ?”** And there is something that fills me with satisfaction when I see a smile appear on their face.

Perhaps because, seeing them smile reminds me of myself—of that boy who, one day, also felt special upon hearing those words.

That pastor probably never imagined his greeting would stay with me so many years later, much less that I would one day use it to brighten other children’s days. This reminds us of something beautiful about our words: **The good we do with our words can reach much farther than we imagine.**

Proverbs 16:24 NIV says, *“Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”* It is a beautiful image of the power our words have to bring joy and well-being to those who hear them.

And the apostle Paul encourages us to build one another up.

The word **“edify”** speaks of building, of constructing a structure. Just as one stone is placed on another to build a house, our words can help shape our children, strengthen the heart of our spouse, and lift the spirits of those we love.

Sometimes we do not realize what we are building in someone’s life with one word of encouragement.

And when I think about that pastor that called me champ, I realize that he didn’t need to do anything extraordinary to leave a mark on my life.



He simply had a kind word for a boy who was happy to hear it. Perhaps he never imagined how much that greeting meant to me.

And that makes me think about how many opportunities we have each day to do something similar with the people God has placed by our side.

Sometimes we are so accustomed to our family that we stop noticing things that deserve to be acknowledged.

The effort of a child who is learning.

The dedication of a wife who does so many things we rarely mention.

The responsibility of a husband who, even after a hard day, continues to look out for his family's well-being.

Small acts of love, silent sacrifices, and gestures of kindness that are part of our daily lives. We see them and appreciate them in our hearts, but we do not always express that appreciation.

In Proverbs 31:28, we find a beautiful family scene: "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

What is interesting about the writer's account is that the family did not simply receive the good she did for them; both the children and the husband took the time to acknowledge her with their words.

And that is precisely where there is a lesson for us to learn.

**THE PEOPLE WE LOVE DO NOT ONLY NEED TO KNOW
THAT WE VALUE WHAT THEY DO. THEY ALSO NEED
TO HEAR US SAY IT.**

We do not need to wait for a special occasion or an extraordinary achievement to express our appreciation. Sometimes, **a sincere word spoken on an ordinary day is enough.**

"I am proud of you... Thank you for everything you do... I admire the person you are becoming... I am so glad to have you in my life."

These are simple expressions, yet we never know how much they might mean to the person hearing them.

Today, I fondly remember the pastor who used to call me "champ." Although he passed away some years ago, **his words live on in my memory.** And whenever I use that same expression to greet a child and see a smile light up their face, I think of him and how much those words meant to me.

For there are words that continue to do good, even after the voice that spoke them is no longer heard.



REMEMBER

**A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT MAY LAST
AN INSTANT ON OUR LIPS, BUT A LIFETIME
IN SOMEONE'S HEART.**

THINK

Who has left a positive mark on your life through the way they spoke to you? Is there someone who needs encouragement from you today?

APPLY

Look for an opportunity to help someone in your family feel seen and valued. Recognize something specific about their character, effort, or growth. And if you remember someone whose words helped you, consider calling or writing to thank them.

PRAY

Lord, thank You for those who encouraged and strengthened me. Open my eyes to recognize the good You are forming in those I love. May my words leave beautiful memories, awaken hope, and build up their lives. Amen.

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Handwriting practice lines consisting of 30 horizontal lines. Each line set includes a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.



DAY 3: The Joy Of Returning

October 14, 2026

Luke 15:20 NLT

So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

There is something special about returning to a place where we know we are welcome.

Perhaps you remember a visit to your parents' or grandparents' home. The moment you arrived, someone was delighted to see you.

"It's so good you came! Come on in! We were waiting for you! Have you eaten yet?"

Sometimes, a long conversation wasn't necessary. A smile, a hug, or that particular way of being welcomed was enough to make you feel you belonged there.

That welcome had everything to do with the hearts of the people who lived there.

Jesus told a story about a son who decided to leave home.

After squandering what he had and enduring a painful ordeal, the young man decided to return home.

He did not return proud of his choices. He returned ashamed, prepared even to ask to be taken on as just another worker.

But Jesus says that while he was still a long way off, his Father saw him... and ran to him... embraced him... and kissed him.

Jesus told this parable to reveal God's heart toward sinners who repent and return to Him. In the context of Luke 15, Jesus was responding to those who criticized Him for welcoming sinners.

The Father in the story allows us to witness the mercy and joy with which God welcomes the one who returns.

But there is a detail that also invites us to reflect on our own relationships. That Father's love did not remain hidden in his heart; it became visible in his actions.

He ran.

He embraced.

He kissed.



His son did not have to guess whether his father was glad to see him.

In 1 John 3:18 GNT we find an exhortation that complements this truth, *“My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.”* May our love not remain merely in words, but manifest itself in deeds and in truth.

And in Romans 12:10 NIV it urges us express, *“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”*

Now... I think about our own homes.

About that child coming home from school with so much to tell, looking for someone willing to listen.

About the wife who has spent the day tending to responsibilities and, at day's end, also needs to feel cared for.

About the husband who arrives home tired after work and finds relief in a smile, a hug, or simply hearing: *“I'm so glad you're home.”*

Because we all—regardless of age—**need to feel that our presence brings joy to someone's life.** And how sad it would be if the people we love most began to feel like visitors in their own home. If they lived with us but felt that no one noticed when they arrived. If they shared our roof but missed our closeness.

Because sometimes, routine steals those small moments from us. **We are so busy with what we have to do that we forget to enjoy the very people for whom we do so much.**

And perhaps today, we need to reclaim something as simple as the joy of greeting one another.

Looking up again when someone walks through the door.

Pausing what we are doing for a moment.

Hugging without waiting for a special occasion.

Saying sincerely: *“I'm glad you're here.”*

Because the day will come when our children grow up and begin to walk their own paths. And even when they no longer live under our roof, I know that we—as parents—want them to always hold the certainty in their hearts that **there is a place where their arrival is always a cause for joy.**

That is part of the beauty of a home.

It is not just having a place to return to, but **having people who are happy when we come back.**



REMEMBER

**THE LOVE OF A HOME DOES NOT
ONLY GIVE US A PLACE TO LIVE,
BUT A PLACE TO BELONG.**

THINK

How do you welcome the people you love when they arrive home? Does your welcome communicate joy, indifference, or irritation?

APPLY

When someone in your family arrives home, pause what you are doing. Look at them, greet them warmly, and let them know you are glad to see them. If you live alone, offer that welcome through a call or a visit with someone close.

PRAY

Lord, thank You that in You we find mercy and a love that welcomes us when we return in repentance. Help me reflect Your goodness at home. May those who live with me find affection, acceptance, and the joy of knowing their presence matters. Amen.

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DAY 4: After Closing The Door

October 15, 2026

Matthew 5:23–24 GNT

²³ So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God.

There are silences that bring rest. The silence of a house at the end of the day. That of a quiet morning. That of two people enjoying each other's company without the need for words.

But there are other silences that weigh heavily. A conversation ended badly. Voices were raised. Words were spoken that should not have been said. And now, each person is in a different room.

The house is silent, yet neither person is at peace. Perhaps one is thinking, "I shouldn't have said that." The other is waiting for an apology. And as the minutes tick by, pride begins to find reasons not to take the first step: ***"I'm hurt too... It always falls on me... Let them come to me first."***

Does this sound familiar?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught something surprising. He said that if someone were presenting an offering to God and remembered that their brother had something against them, they should seek reconciliation first.

Jesus was showing that **our relationship with God cannot be separated from the way we treat others**. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:26 GNT, *"If you become angry, do not let your anger lead you into sin, and do not stay angry all day."*

Notice that Paul acknowledges the reality of anger but warns us not to let it lead us into sin. He further adds that we must not leave anger unaddressed and thereby give the devil a foothold.

This reminds us that conflicts need to be handled responsibly. **We may not always be able to resolve a disagreement in a matter of minutes, but we can avoid fueling resentment, aggression, or the desire to hurt others.**

I think, too, of our homes—of those moments when a conversation **begins like any other but ends by leaving behind an unexpected sadness**. For even though we may stop arguing for the moment, more often than not, we continue to feel the pain of the words we exchanged.

The conversation is over. No one is raising their voice anymore. Everyone has gone back to their daily tasks, yet something has changed within the house. Perhaps they are sitting at the same table but barely speaking to one another. Or they are lying in the same room, separated by a silence that seems to fill the entire space between them.



And the saddest part is that, deep down, neither of them wants things to be this way.

They love each other. They need each other. They miss the closeness they shared just hours before. But something stands in the way: pride, the fear of rejection, or simply not knowing how to start over. That is when I remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:23–24.

He speaks of someone standing before the altar, ready to present an offering, who suddenly remembers a relationship that needs mending. And Jesus tells him: ***“Go first and be reconciled to your brother.”***

It is interesting that Jesus invites us to draw near to God without ignoring the people we have hurt. For us, that first step might not mean walking from the altar to someone else’s home.

Perhaps it simply means walking a few steps down the hallway of our own home. Approaching a door and knocking; and when it opens, finding the humility and the courage to say: ***“I’ve been thinking about what happened... I shouldn’t have spoken to you that way... Please forgive me.”***

They are small words, yet sometimes they require immense courage.

For asking forgiveness means acknowledging that our words hurt someone we love. And although we cannot erase what we said, we can take responsibility and begin to repair the damage.

Paul says in Ephesians 4:32 NLT, *“Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”* And I think that is precisely what we need to remember when pride keeps us from drawing near: **we, too, have needed mercy.**

**SOMETIMES THE PEACE WE ARE WAITING
FOR AT HOME BEGINS WITH THE HUMILITY
WE HAVE NOT YET PRACTICED.**

And how beautiful it is when someone decides to stop defending their need to be right or their pride, and begins to nurture the relationship once again.

Perhaps tonight, in some home, there are two people who love each other but haven’t spoken for hours. And perhaps everything could start to change when one of them decides to reach out. Because sometimes:

**THE HARDEST DISTANCE TO CROSS
IS NOT THE ONE BETWEEN ROOMS,
BUT THE ONE PRIDE HAS BUILT
BETWEEN TWO HEARTS.**



REMEMBER

**PRIDE KEEPS US AWAY FROM PEOPLE
OUR HEARTS LONG TO EMBRACE.**

THINK

Is there a conversation that ended badly and still needs your attention? What part of what happened do you need to acknowledge?

APPLY

If you hurt someone, find an appropriate time to acknowledge it without making excuses or blaming the other person.

If more time is needed, begin by expressing your willingness to listen and repair the harm.

PRAY

Lord, examine my heart. Show me where I have allowed pride to become stronger than love. Give me humility to acknowledge my mistakes, courage to seek reconciliation, and wisdom to treat those I love with respect. Amen.

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DAY 5: A Father's Hand

October 16, 2026

Genesis 48:14–16 GNT

¹⁴ But Jacob crossed his hands, and put his right hand on the head of Ephraim, even though he was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, who was the older. ¹⁵ Then he blessed Joseph: "May God, whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac served, bless these boys! May God, who has led me to this very day, bless them! ¹⁶ May the angel, who has rescued me from all harm, bless them! May my name and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac live on through these boys! May they have many children, many descendants!"

Hands tell stories.

The hands of a mother holding her baby.

Those of a father teaching his child to walk.

Those of a grandfather who has worked for many years.

Over time, those hands change. They lose strength. Wrinkles appear. Movements slow down. Yet, they can still offer something deeply valuable.

In Genesis 48, we find Jacob in the final days of his life.

He had traveled a long road. He knew the joys and sorrows of family life.

He had made mistakes, navigated conflicts, and experienced God's faithfulness amidst them all over the course of many years.

Now Joseph, his son, brings his two boys—Ephraim and Manasseh—before him.

Jacob was an old man by then. His eyesight had grown dim. Yet, he still had something to impart.

So, he asked for the boys to be brought near, laid his hands upon them, and blessed them.

I am deeply moved when I picture that scene.

A man who had lived so much, placing his hands on the next generation and speaking words that acknowledged God's faithfulness.

Yet, there is something significant about the blessing Jacob pronounced.

He did not begin by speaking of his own achievements. In Genesis 48:15, he recalled the God before whom Abraham and Isaac had walked—the God who had been his shepherd throughout his life. And in verse 16, he remembered the God who had delivered him from evil. Through his prayer, **Jacob was passing on the memory of God's faithfulness to the next generation.**

His blessing was rooted in the promises God had made to his family and in the history of Israel.

We do not repeat those patriarchal promises as if they were automatic declarations over our own children, but we can certainly learn from the importance of passing on a legacy of faith.



Psalm 78:4 GNT *"We will not keep them from our children; we will tell the next generation about the Lord's power and his great deeds and the wonderful things he has done."* The generations coming after us need more than just our possessions. **They need to know the God who has sustained us.**

Jacob had already experienced God's faithfulness in his own life. But now, as he blessed Ephraim and Manasseh, Jacob was passing that testimony on to a new generation. **He did not want the story of God's faithfulness to remain only between himself and his son.**

And that makes me think about our own homes.

Our children know many things about us. They know our habits, our joys, and even some of our worries.

But have you ever stopped to consider: ***how much do our children know about our history with God? Have we told them about the times we were afraid, yet God gave us the strength to press on? Do they know about the times we prayed without receiving an immediate answer and learned to wait on the Lord?***

They might forget much of our advice someday. But how beautiful it would be if, when facing their own struggles, they remembered how their parents trusted in God.

That they remembered seeing us pray.

That they knew our family also went through difficult times, but that the Lord was with us.

And may those memories encourage them to seek that same God for themselves. For we cannot live out the faith on our children's behalf, but we can show them—through our words and the way we live—what it means to trust in Him.

I remember when my children were small and learning to take their first steps. I would help them walk from one armchair to another. I wanted them to overcome their fear and dare to take those little steps on their own, yet I also made sure to stay close by, just in case they stumbled.

How beautiful and exciting it was to see them discover that they could walk!

Let us not wait until our hands grow old to begin doing this.

**WHILE WE CAN STILL TAKE THEM BY THE HAND,
LET US TEACH THEM NOT ONLY TO WALK TOWARD GOD,
BUT ALSO TO WALK WITH GOD.**

For the day will come when our hands can no longer accompany them at every step, but we can teach them to trust in the hands of the One who will never cease to uphold them.



REMEMBER

**MAY GOD'S FAITHFULNESS BE MORE
THAN A STORY WE TELL; MAY IT BE A
TRUTH OUR CHILDREN LEARN TO LIVE.**

THINK

What have you learned about God's faithfulness that you would like to pass on to your children, grandchildren, or someone from a younger generation?

APPLY

Share a true experience today in which you saw God's help. If appropriate, pray personally for someone in your family, asking the Lord to guide and strengthen their life.

PRAY

Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness throughout our story. Help me pass sincere faith to new generations, not only through words but through the way I live. May those who come after us learn to know You, love You, and trust You. Amen.

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DAY 6: What Is In The Heart

October 17, 2026

Luke 6:45 NLT

A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

There are times when we say something and, the moment we finish speaking, we wish we could take our words back. Perhaps it was an overly harsh response. A comment we shouldn't have made. Something said in a moment of exhaustion, frustration, or anger.

And later, when the dust has settled and we are alone with our thoughts, we ask ourselves: "Why did I say that?" Sometimes we try to justify ourselves: "I was tired..." "I'd had a hard day..." "They made me angry."

And while it is true that circumstances can influence how we react, Jesus invites us to look a little deeper.

In Luke 6:45 He says, **"What you say flows from what is in your heart."** The NKJV puts it this way: **"For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."** Such simple words, yet so profoundly revealing.

Jesus was teaching that, just as a tree is known by its fruit, what we express reveals something of what we carry within. This means our words are not always merely the result of a bad moment; sometimes, they lay bare things we have allowed to linger too long in our hearts.

A frustration we never addressed.

A wound that still hurts.

A resentment we have continued to harbor.

Or perhaps a worry that is stealing our peace.

And without realizing it, all of that begins to surface in the way we speak to the people we love most.

But there is something that also fills me with hope.

If words that hurt can flow from a heart filled with bitterness, **then words filled with grace, patience, gratitude, and love can also spring forth from a heart being transformed by Christ.**

And that leads me to think about the language spoken in the home.

Throughout this week, we have reflected on the words we remember—words that leave a mark, make us feel welcome, foster reconciliation, and pass on our faith to future generations.



Yet, as we reach the end, Jesus invites us to ask ourselves a question: **What are we cultivating within us that will, sooner or later, inevitably be heard in our homes?** For the heart, too, requires care.

No one expects to harvest good fruit from a tree that has been neglected for years. And yet, we sometimes expect words filled with love to flow from our mouths while allowing impatience, complaining, pride, resentment, envy, or even hatred to grow within us.

That is why we need something deeper than merely learning to control our responses. We need to draw near to the Lord and allow Him to examine the very things we have neglected to tend to ourselves.

David offered a prayer that we, too, can make our own—Psalm 139:23 NLT: *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.”* Perhaps that is the prayer we need to offer today.

May we be able to say to Him: ***“Lord, show me what I am holding inside. Help me recognize what is harming me. Heal what needs healing and transform whatever does not reflect Your character.”***

And I believe that when we allow God to work in our hearts, the benefit does not stop with us alone; it also reaches those who share our lives.

Our children begin to hear different responses. Our spouse encounters a different attitude. And little by little, the words spoken at home begin to reflect what God is doing within us.

Not because we have become a perfect family, but because we are learning to cultivate hearts surrendered to Christ.

THE LANGUAGE HEARD IN OUR HOME REFLECTS THE HEART WE ARE CULTIVATING AS A FAMILY.

Perhaps the change we long to hear in our home needs to begin with a sincere prayer:

LORD, BEGIN BY TRANSFORMING MY HEART.

REMEMBER

OUR WORDS ARE THE VISIBLE FRUIT OF WHAT WE HAVE ALLOWED TO GROW IN OUR HEARTS.



THINK

When you speak with your family, especially in difficult moments, what do your words reveal about your heart?

Is there a wound, worry, or attitude you have allowed to remain within you that you need to bring before God?

APPLY

Spend a few minutes alone with God. Read Luke 6:43–45 and ask Him to help you recognize what you are cultivating in your heart.

Identify one attitude you need to stop feeding and one virtue you want to cultivate with the Holy Spirit's help. During the day, notice how this is reflected in your family conversations.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, I do not want to ask only for help speaking better. I ask You to examine my heart. Show me what I have allowed to grow within me that affects the people I love. Heal my wounds, remove resentment, and cultivate Your love, patience, and grace in my life. May my words be the fruit of a heart being transformed by You, and may that transformation bless my family too. Amen.

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