

Family Altar Devotion Guide: Overcoming Hindrances to Spiritual Growth

Welcome to our Family Devotion Study Guide on "Overcoming Hindrances to Spiritual Growth." This guide is designed to facilitate meaningful discussions and reflections on this past week's sermon.

Instructions:

1. **Gather Together:** Find a comfortable and quiet space where your family can focus without distractions.
2. **Read and Reflect:** Read the provided passages and study questions aloud, taking time to reflect individually and discuss as a family.
3. **Encourage Participation:** Encourage everyone to share their thoughts, personal experiences, and insights based on the study questions.
4. **Pray Together:** Close each session with a time of prayer, thanking God for His guidance and seeking wisdom for continued growth.
5. **Apply Learning:** Encourage each family member to apply the lessons learned in their daily lives and support one another in living out God's design.

Today's Topic: Overcoming Hindrances to Growth

Bible Verse: John 10:10 (NLT) - "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

Contextual Reading: John 10:11, 14-16 (NLT)

- Jesus as the Good Shepherd sacrifices for His sheep.
- Importance of knowing and being known by the Good Shepherd.
- Unity in the flock under one shepherd.

Discussion Points:

1. Removing Weeds:
 - Identify and discuss the weeds in your spiritual life (e.g., fears, doubts, negative influences).
 - Why are these weeds harmful to spiritual growth?
 - How do they choke, divide, impede progress, and steal vital resources?
2. Breaking Chains of the Past:

- Reflect on the chains that hold you back from growth.
- Embrace the concept of new beginnings and leaving the past behind.
- Discuss how to walk on a new path free from past burdens.

3. Pruning for Growth:

- Understand the purposeful nature of pruning for growth.
- What does pruning entail, and what results can it yield?
- How can submission, permission, and communion with the Holy Spirit aid in fruitful growth?

Family Activity:

- Each family member shares one "weed" they want to remove from their life for spiritual growth.
- Reflect on one chain from the past that you collectively want to break free from.
- Discuss ways you can actively submit to the pruning process guided by the Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayer:

(End the devotional time with a prayer asking for strength to overcome hindrances to spiritual growth and to walk in the freedom and abundance provided by our Good Shepherd.)

Father God,

We're thankful for this time together. Please help us get rid of things that stop us from growing, set us free from anything that holds us back, and make us stronger. Show us the right way, stay with us always, and teach us to be loving and patient. Bless our family with joy and peace. Thank you for everything. Amen.