



WOODLAND HEIGHTS

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sermon Series: Dear Younger Me

Family Devotion #2 – Learning to Major in Mercy Inspired by Colossians 3:12-17

The sun was dipping low, painting the family's back porch in hues of orange and gold, as the kids sprawled on a patchwork quilt, their eyes fixed on Grandpa. His weathered hands, etched with stories of a life well-lived, clutched a steaming mug of cider. The aroma of Mom's chili wafted from the kitchen, where she clanged pots, while Dad wrestled with a wobbly table leg. "Alright, grandchildren," Grandpa said, his voice warm as the autumn breeze, "put them gadgets down and gather around. I've got a tale to tell, and it's better than any screen. It's about mercy, straight from Colossians 3:12-17."

He eased into his rocking chair, its creak a familiar rhythm, and opened his tattered Bible, its pages yellowed like old love letters. "Listen up," he began, reading slowly:

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony..."

Grandpa's eyes twinkled as he leaned forward. "Back in my day, I was a young hotshot, always in a hurry, thinking I had to fix the world with my own two hands. One frosty winter, I met Old Man Jenkins, a fella down on his luck, sitting by the feed store with nothing but a thin coat and a hungry look. I was set to march past, muttering about 'lazy folks,' when the Lord tugged my heart. So, I stopped, gave him my scarf and a hot coffee, and we talked till the stars came out. Years later, Jenkins showed up at my door with a basket of apples from his own orchard – said that coffee saved his hope. Mercy, kids, it's like planting a seed that grows into something mighty."

Mom poked her head out, stirring spoon in hand. "That's what Paul is teaching us," she added. "God picked us, called us His own, not because we're perfect, but because He loves us. So, we wear mercy like Grandpa's old flannel – compassion, kindness, humility, all of it. It's how we show Jesus to folks." The littlest one, perched on a stool, piped up, "But Grandpa, what if someone's mean? How do we be nice then?" Grandpa chuckled, his laugh like gravel. "That's the trick, isn't it? Let's figure it out together."

They passed around stories – times they'd snapped at a friend, ignored a classmate, or stewed over a broken toy. "If you could tell your younger self something about mercy," Grandpa asked, "what'd it be?" The kids blurted out: "Don't hold grudges!" "Help without asking why." "Be kind, even when it's tough." Grandpa nodded. "Reminds me of Miss Etta, a nurse in the war. She patched up soldiers, even

ones who yelled at her, because she saw Jesus in every face. Her mercy stitched hearts together, like Colossians says about love binding everything in harmony.”

The porch grew quiet, the chili’s steam curling in the air. “This week,” Grandpa said, his voice steady as an oak, “let’s make mercy our adventure. Pick one moment each day – maybe sharing a snack, forgiving a squabble, or smiling at that cranky neighbor – and choose mercy. You’ll see God turn your plain old days into something holy.” They bowed their heads, praying for hearts soft enough to wear mercy like Grandpa’s stories – worn, warm, and true.

Questions to Discuss Together

- What stops us from showing’ mercy when we’re mad or in a rush?
- Which of Paul’s “mercy clothes” – like kindness or patience – can we try on this week at home?
- Who around us needs a bit of mercy, like Old Man Jenkins did? How can we help them?
- How does loving like Jesus, like Colossians 3:14 says, make our family stronger?
- What’s one mercy moment lesson you’d whisper to your younger self?

Family Challenge

Pick one everyday moment – supper, a walk, or tidying up – and make it a “mercy moment.” Maybe it’s letting’ go of a sibling’s mess, helping’ a neighbor, or praying’ for someone tough to love. Share your mercy moments each night and watch God weave something’ beautiful in your home.

Memory Verse

Colossians 3:15 (ESV) – “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

Enjoy these Coloring Pages: Choose Mercy Today and Watch God Transform Tomorrow

