

DAY 4 — Thankful for Family

Verse: *“I thank my God every time I remember you.” — Philippians 1:3*

Family is one of the greatest blessings God gives us... and sometimes one of the hardest.

They're the people who know our best and our worst, who remember our awkward phases, who've seen our victories and our heartbreaks, and somehow still claim us as their own.

Families come in all shapes:

- the ones we were born into
- the ones who raised us
- the ones we married into
- the ones we built little by little over the years

Some families are loud.

Some are quiet.

Some hug a lot.

Some show love in a good home-cooked meal, a phone call, or checking to make sure you made it home safe.

And some families... well, they're complicated.

But here's the truth:

Whether family brings laughter, tears, or a mix of both, they are one of the ways God shapes our hearts.

Family teaches us:

- patience
- forgiveness
- boundaries
- unconditional love
- sacrifice

- humility
- and what it means to show up even when it's inconvenient

Family gives us memories that hold us together when life feels like it's falling apart.

The smell of Sunday dinner.

The sound of voices around a table.

The way a parent says your name.

The stories that only your family understands.

The traditions you pass down.

The moments that become the glue of generations.

and for some listening right now...

maybe you've lost someone recently.

Maybe this year looks different at your table.

Maybe your family has changed, shifted, or feels smaller than before.

You're not forgotten.

And you're not alone.

God sees that empty chair.

He honors your grief and comforts your heart.

Be thankful today for the family still with you, the family who shaped you, and the family who waits for you in Heaven.

Even if your family isn't perfect — and nobody's is — they are still a gift.

A gift worth thanking God for today.

Lord, today we thank You for the blessing of family — the people You placed in our lives on purpose and for a purpose. Thank You for the laughter, the lessons, the memories, and even the challenges that help us grow. Thank You for the parents, children, siblings,

grandparents, cousins, and every person who fills our homes and hearts with love. We lift up families who are hurting, grieving, or walking through change. Wrap them in Your comfort and remind them that You are close to the brokenhearted. Help us cherish the time we have, forgive where needed, and love one another well. Teach us to see our families the way You see them — as gifts worth protecting and appreciating. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.