



Ideas and Resources for Family Devotions

Family devotions are notorious for giving migraines to parents and causing children to groan. Formal family devotions at home can range from breakfast Scripture readings, bedtime prayers, or even "sermonettes for Christianettes from the dinette." But even these can come across as irreverently artificial, canned, and hokey, further creating a gap between church and home.

Christian parents realize the value of time at home spent with God—but how do we do it?

Family faith-building need not always be structured to be effective. Whether the setting is formal or impromptu, the purpose is a conscious effort to strengthen communication, to experience communion, and to build community.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 gives us the best way to meet these goals. Moses says that "these commandments...are to be upon your hearts." We are told to "impress them on [our] children." How? By talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." WOW! Here's movement; crafts (gee, we should even write on our doorframes—get out those stencils!); conversation; and creative, hands-on teaching at its best—all to be done with our children.

Activities that are natural yet directed, routine yet imaginative, personal yet spiritual, nurture faith at home. A spiritual home will produce a spiritual child who matures into a spiritual adult.

We hope you find the resources and ideas here helpful in your efforts to train up your children in the Lord!

Family Walk Magazine by Walk Thru the Bible (1-800-877-5539)

Each week has a theme/theme verse, with a devotional per day of the week.

FamilyWalk Devotional Book written by Bruce Wilkinson

Fifty-two devotions that open up communication lines with kid-friendly issues.

Great Bible Adventures ...great for younger kids (1-800-527-5576)

Picture cards that tell a story and form a puzzle, pocket prayer, and Bible character fact card.

Family Time Training ... great for elementary aged kids (303-433-7010) www.famtime.com
Twelve fun lessons ... comes with all materials, scripted lessons, and sayings to memorize.

Fun Excuses to Talk About God by Joani Shultz, Group Publishing

A quick, no-fuss guide with short chapters that have 48 object lessons to bring home Bible truths.

Heritage Builders Family Night Tool Chest by Jim Weidman www.heritagebuilders.com

A 12+ volume set (each volume focusing on a different subject: Holidays, character qualities, Christian beliefs) that gives the busy family an alternative to family devotions.

Making Time for God by Susan Garrett and Amy Plantinga Pauw

Makes the richness/complexity of the Bible come alive for your family in these daily devotionals, breaking the passages into manageable chunks that you and your kids can talk about.

Our Time Together (OTT Online Weekly)

An on-line devotional guide by Full Armor Ministries. Gives you 4 days/week Scripture passages and discussion guide.

The Bible Ride: Adventures that Bring the Gospel to Life

A 4-volume set of family devotional books that make for a fun and growth time for your kids! In one year, your family will travel along with Jesus through every event in His life.

Keys for Kids by CBH Ministries <http://www.keysforkids.org>

Two month daily devotionals in story form with application, Scripture, and a key thought—with an occasional crossword puzzle or activity included.

Fuel by Joe White

10-minute devotionals to ignite the faith of parents and their teens.

