

Overview:

Family Devotions is a regular time when you focus on your relationship with God — as a family. This usually involves reading, discussing and responding to God’s Word. Family Devotions can also include many other experiences that will help grow your kid’s relationship with God (i.e. family prayer, reading a Christian book, etc.). Family Devotions is a way for parents to pass on and teach the next generation about the importance of God’s Word. Fathers should take the primary leadership role in planning and leading this time.

Outline:**I. Benefits of Family Devotions**

- A. Develops godly convictions and values.
- B. Demonstrates the relevance of the Bible to everyday life.
- C. Demonstrates respect and appreciation for God's Word.
- D. Demonstrates the father's leadership.
- E. Identifies wrong behavior and attitudes.
- F. Identifies desirable character qualities.
- G. Leads to salvation. (2 Tim. 3:14-15)

II. Suggestions for quality Family Devotions

- A. Consistency is essential for overall effectiveness.
 - 1. It won’t be easy.
 - 2. You need to put it in your schedule.
 - 3. Pick a time that works best for your family.
 - 4. Start slow, don't over-commit.
 - 5. You are in it for the long-run.
- B. Variety is essential to maintaining interest. Pay attention to what your kids like.
- C. Make your Devotions age appropriate
 - 1. Rotate what age you focus on.
 - 2. Picture Bibles and read-aloud stories for toddlers.
 - a. Put actions to the verses.
 - 3. Suggestions for older kids:
 - a. Read through Proverbs.
 - b. Read age appropriate Christian books or biographies.
 - c. Use "One Year Book of Family Devotions" or other devotional.
 - d. Read Bible passage and ask each person what spoke to them.
 - e. Review their Sunday school lesson.
 - 4. Make use of all the resources available from a Christian bookstore.
- D. Participation is essential for real learning to take place
 - 1. Don't lecture.
 - 2. Ask relevant questions to draw out discussion.

- E. Keep things moving. Don't go too long.
- F. Take your Devotions on the road.
- G. Help your kids with Scripture memory.
- H. Establish Family Devotions’ traditions.
- I. Use holidays to focus on Christ. Establish a prayer time with your family
 - 1. Keep a family prayer list.
 - 2. Start with the youngest.
 - 3. Good time can be before bed.
- J. Sing together. Use worship songs (online) if you don't play guitar or piano.
- K. Break bread together.
- L. Be real. Share your life stories and experiences.
- M. Be spontaneous and open to God's Spirit.

Conclusion:

As fathers, we are responsible to spiritually lead our families. God has commanded us to wash our wives with the Word and bring our children up in the training and instruction of the Lord. One way that we can accomplish this is by spending regular times together having Family Devotions.

Supporting Material:

Important Verses:

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Psalms 78:4 "We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. 5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; 8 and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God."

Proverbs 1:1 "The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: 2 To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, 3 to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; 4 to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, 6 to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, 9 for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck."

Proverbs 13:20 "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 23:26 "My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways."

Isaiah 38:18 "For Sheol does not thank you; death does not praise you; those who go down to the pit do not hope for your faithfulness. 19 The living, the living, he thanks you, as I do this day; the father makes known to the children your faithfulness."

Isaiah 54:13 "All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children."

Joel 1:3 "Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation."

Malachi 2:15 "Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth."

Malachi 4:5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Matthew 5:19 "Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:1 "At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

Matthew 18:19 "Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Matthew 19:13 "Let the Children Come to Me 13 Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, 14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went away."

Matthew 21:15 "But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, 16 and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, "Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise?"

Luke 10:21 "In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."

1 Thessalonians 2:11 "For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory."

2 Timothy 3:14 "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

3 John 1:4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

Quotes:

"I would say to you pity the son whose developing manhood has been impoverished by a negligent father who has not tutored him in the manly wisdom of Proverbs." - George McDearnon

"Children learn first and best from their families. Just as by the end of the second year their language is that of the people with whom they live, so their behavior is stamped with the seal of their adult protectors." - Sadie Ginsberg

"By the time children are five, their parents will have done at least half of all that can ever be done to determine the children's future faith." - Randolph Miller

"Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation." - C. Everett Koop, M.D.

"Every child has a right to be well fed and well led." - Ruth Smelter

"I have learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians of England." - John Wesley

Discussion Question:

1. What is one Family Devotions idea you would like to implement?