

Tips on family worship, in no particular order.
Pastor Eddie Schwarberg

1. Pick a time and be consistent with the time.

Immediately after dinner, BEFORE putting dishes away, has been identified as a good time for some.

FYI, putting the dishes away *prior to* family devotions might cause children to leave the table and subsequently be distracted with something else.

2. Be prepared in advance, both with passage and song selection (if possible).

3. Be brief and simple in explaining the passage. Practical application is helpful.

4. If just starting out, keep it at 10 minutes, tops.

5. Go over three catechism questions for one month

6. Pray

While it is good to allow children to lead in prayer on occasions, this particular time (family worship) may be more beneficial for a parent to pray as this can serve in teaching your children how to pray.

7. Use a hymnal and YouTube (with lyrics). One parent has the hymnal, the other parent (If present) has the phone. Sing a couple verses. Have fun during this time. Take a hymnal from church (back of auditorium) as our gift.

8. Try to minimize outside distractions - TV in background, taking phone calls, loud pets, etc.

9. If you choose to do family devotions after dinner, be sure to ask each child how their day went or how they are feeling. Simply put, engage each child BEFORE starting a devotion. They need to know we are after their hearts and not only their minds.

10. Be patient. Kids complain. They speak out. Just keep at it. As you know, children typically adjust to routine and method. We are not trying to impress anyone, including God.

11. Starting out, doing family worship three times a week is a good goal, however, don't feel like a failure if you only did it one time a particular week. Be kind to yourself.

12. If family worship is not your thing, no big deal. However, find ways to be the primary disciple-maker for your children.

Deuteronomy 6:7 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.