

How to Do Family Devotions

Reading the Bible together is a wonderful way for your family to grow together spiritually as you walk along the journey of faith. This Devotion Guide offers one way to explore God's Word together using a simple family ritual.

Prepare together

Make daily devotions a priority for your family by setting aside a **special time** when your family can all gather for worship. "**Set a place for God**" on your family table or by your child's bedside and place your child's Bible in that special place. You may want to lay a napkin, a felt square, or piece of fabric down as a worship cloth to help your child identify this spot as sacred space.

Read together

Choose a Bible story or passage to read. Following the stories in a storybook Bible is something many families find helpful. Another way is to follow the Bible stories in Sunday School or a devotional book.

Consider beginning your reading time with:

Leader: Hear the Word of the Lord

Family: Our ears are open

Close your reading time with:

Leader: The Word of the Lord

Family: Thanks be to God!

Remember, kids can be leaders (and readers), too!

Wonder together

Ask "wondering" questions that are open-ended as a way of offering your child an opportunity to respond to the Bible story. (Ex: "I wonder how Jacob felt when....") Offer your own response and talk together about what your child heard and felt.

Pray together

Close your devotion time with a time of prayer. Suggestions include:

- **Echo prayers**—a leader says a line and the family repeats that line.
- **Circle prayers**—each person around the family circle takes a turn offering a sentence prayer.
- **Body prayers**—free-form motions are added as the prayer is said.
- **Memory prayers**—a prayer is learned and repeated from memory (Ex: mealtime grace, Lord's prayer).

Remember that children learn by doing and by example. Model praying aloud with your child and encourage him/her to do so as well, remembering that prayers are simply conversations with God. Your prayers don't need to be fancy—just from the heart! May your family's daily devotions be a blessed time with God!

Adapted from Children's Ministry at First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN