

Ideas on how the Church can Encourage and Equip Parent(s) as the Spiritual Leaders at Home

- After an infant is born or baptized, give parent(s) a devotional book and encourage parent(s) with phone calls, emails or cards. See PC(USA) Faith Formation resources: <http://www.pcusa.org/splash/index2.htm>
- Encourage parents/grandparents/guardians to write their own faith statement so they can remember and talk about their faith journey and their experience of God's love with their children.
- Invite parents to participate in children's church so they can learn the Bible stories and the songs to sing at home with their children.
- Have a Bible presentation Sunday. During the worship service, the parents' present the Bible to their child(ren). Begin this tradition with pre-school and elementary aged kids. Before the presentation, it is helpful to have a "Reading the Bible with young children" session with parents/grandparents. If parents can not attend, have another adult with the child. For more information contact Sharon Stewart at the Presbytery office: 412-323-1400 x303.
- Each Sunday encourage the children to bring their Bible to church or encourage them to look up the story in their own Bible at home. Parent(s) and children can read the story together at home.
- Provide family activities at the church: the church members and people attending from the community can sit together for a meal and activity. For example, make an advent wreath to take home with advent devotionals or families can enjoy a Lenten dinner, games, learning centers and/or crafts during the 40 days of Lent.
- Provide opportunities for households to serve others in need (volunteer at a food bank, collect canned food, shovel snow, rake leaves...)
- Encourage moms/dads, grandparents, guardians, and other family members to pray with their children.

"Spiritual development is not so much about what children know but who they are. Helping them to become people of godly character starts with you; it is not just the job of the church to produce such people."

George Barna, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, p. 93