

# Nurturing a Child's Faith at Home

- Exodus 12:24-27: We are to create an environment for learning; take time to share the stories of God with your children.
- Deuteronomy 6: The Lord instructs us to impress the commandments upon our children. We are to talk about it at home, walking in the woods, along the path, when we lie down and get up. Children and adults can talk about how God helps us through all situations.
- Mark 10: 13-16: Jesus didn't lecture the children. He loved them and blessed them.
- 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15: The home is the focal point of Christian Education
  - What do our children need? A safe environment! God is the one unchanging constant in life. Our world changes but God does not.
  - Can children experience God? A child's experience of God is instinctive and spontaneous.



## Ideas for Family Times

- At a family meal put an object in the center of the table (flowers, a rock, a bowl of water....) Take a few minutes for each person to say what makes the object special and what it teaches about God's creation or something that relates to how God was involved in your day.
- Invite a missionary from church or a student from a different country for dinner.
- Share about your day. If it was a particularly bad day, talk about it and pray about it. Praise God for the good things that were learned through the situation or problem.
- With a children's Bible read a story after dinner or at bed time.
- Make Sunday a special day. Start Saturday night to prepare for church and Sunday school. Make it a day of rest and family time with a meal together!
- Have a movie or game night with snacks.
- Tell stories of people in the Bible or of people who have served Christ in the world.
- Visit a food pantry.

## Ideas for Young Children (pre-school)

- Pray for your children and pray with your children.
- Pray with your children for relatives, friends and neighbors.
- Make book markers for stories in the Bible.
- Put the Bible in special place so you know where it is. Set aside time to read it. Make a goal to read a story several times a week and color a picture or write a story about it.
- When walking, talking, driving in the car or cleaning with your children talk about things God made. Touch and enjoy God's creation.
- Make an activity box with things to do: make a book marker for a relative's bible, draw a picture for a relative or friend who is sick or sad, draw pictures of things you are thankful for, bake cookies for a neighbor and send a friendship card.
- Memorize scripture with songs.

## Ideas for School Age Children

- Provide children with a Bible to highlight with yellow marker key verses. Examples: John 3:16, Psalm 23, Romans 8:28, Psalm 42:5.
- Help children become familiar with the Bible. Show them how to find their way through the Old Testament and New Testament.
- Have access to other books, puzzles, maps and DVD's about Bible stories.
- Give verses from the Bible for:
  - What I can read when I am sad? Psalm 42:5, Psalm 43:5, Habakkuk 3:17-19
  - What I can read when I am happy? Psalm 33:20-21, Psalm 106:3, Psalm 104:33-35
  - What I can read when I am lonely, bored, hurt, afraid, tempted.....?
- Write alphabet prayers of thanks: write things that you are thankful for that begin with each letter of the alphabet.
- Talk about prayer: we can pray everywhere, i.e. on the bus, in school, walking, in a crowded place, in a quiet place....
- Learn and recite the Lord's Prayer.
- Share stories about people who have done the Lord's work and are doing it now.
- Master the ability to hang out and be available to talk when your child needs you.
- Model quiet time by being still, reading the scriptures and listening to God.
- Collect food for the local food bank.
- Write letters to shut-ins, people serving in the military....



## Pray for Your Children, Family and Yourself!

- **For the knowledge of God:** The Psalmist says, "Be still and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10)  
*Lord God, help me spend time with you, so I can listen to your guidance and be reminded of how much you love me and my family..*
- **For us as parents:**  
*Gracious God, fill us with sensitivity and insight, that we may understand the best ways to guide our children so they may grow in your wisdom and love.*
- **For parenting patience:**  
*Loving God, help us to listen with patience about the worries, troubles, and problems our children may have. Help us to trust you with our concerns and know that you will guide us and give us wisdom.*
- **For us as individuals:**  
*Lord God, help me to grow in my relationship with you by praying, studying your Word, listening to you and being in fellowship with other believers.*