

# **Family Devotionals**

*How to help your family  
grow in wisdom and  
in favor with God and man  
through family Bible studies*

*But before we start that,  
some cold, hard facts:*

**We as parents are charged with the raising of our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord**

**This is not a responsibility that we can foist off on someone else, nor should we want to do so**

## *More cold, hard facts:*

**The Bible classes here are offered to help parents discharge that responsibility, and there is a lot of work by dedicated loving teachers put into them.**

**But! They are intended only to augment and help the parents' work with their children, not replace the parents as the primary teachers**

## *More cold, hard facts:*

**Children need more than (at best) 45 minutes twice per week to build a personal relationship with God**

**Children need to see that their parents have a personal relationship with God**

**Children need to see that their parents love them enough to arrange and direct their time and energy toward a personal relationship with God**

*One more fact:*

**Family devotionals are only one way that parents can do for their children what the Lord intends.**

# **Family Devotionals**

- *What are they?*
- *Why do them?*
- *How do I do it?*
- *Challenges*
- *Benefits*



# **Family Devotionals**

*What are they?*

**Learning about God and the Bible story**

**Sharing experiences with your children**

**Sharing insights with them**

**Learning to listen to each other**

**Learning about each other**

**Building relationships with your children**

**Directing young hearts toward God**



# **Family Devotionals**

*Why do them?*

**God has charged the fathers with the responsibility of spiritual nourishment of the children**

**Someone is going to train your children.  
If not you, who will it be? Teachers? Peers?**

**You are best situated to win the hearts of your children to the gospel**

**There are other benefits, direct and indirect**





# **Family Devotionals**

*How do I do it?*

**Remember that this is worship to God**

**Plan a time when you can all be together,  
and keep the time as regular as possible**

**Ignore the telephone and other distractions!**

**Start and end with a prayer**



# **Family Devotionals**

*How do I do it?*

**Sing! It's a great teaching tool as well as a relationship builder**

**Have a plan – a focus and direction for the study**

**Use age-appropriate materials to help guide**

**Allow open dialogue and comment**



# **Family Devotionals**

*How do I do it?*

**Ask open-ended questions**

**Use case studies and vivid examples,  
particularly to highlight consequences of actions**

**Share your personal insights**

**Share your personal failings**



# **Family Devotionals**

*What are the challenges?*

*Remember that Satan wants you to fail!*

**Time and schedule pressures – your constant enemies**

**Unwilling children – or parents!**

**Too formal or too informal**

**Irrelevant or uninteresting study**

**Discouragement – inevitable ups and downs**

**Inertia – getting started and keeping on going**



# **Family Devotionals**

*What are the benefits?*

**You and your children will learn the Bible better**

**Your children can learn from your mistakes**

**You can guide your children toward making wise choices by thinking about consequences beforehand**

**Your family will grow in intimacy and in mutual understanding**

**Your children will have opportunities to share problems with you and solve them with your help**



# Family Devotionals

## *When do I start?*

