

FOR GROWN-UPS WHO ARE RAISING LITTLE ONES

The Family Devotional

A Simple Companion for Your Little-Ones Bible Study Set

How to lead gentle, joyful family devotions — with a year-long plan, mealtime questions, activity ideas, and a family prayer routine that ties all five studies together.

A companion to God's Good Fruit • The Big Story Book • Jesus Told a Story • People Who Loved God • Talking to God

Welcome, Grown-Up

You don't need to be a Bible scholar to lead your family closer to God. You just need a little time, an open heart, and a willingness to show up — imperfectly, joyfully, again and again.

This companion is here to help you weave the five children's studies into the ordinary rhythm of your family life. The goal isn't a perfect lesson or a quiet, still child (little ones are wiggly, and that's okay!). The goal is simply this: that your child would grow up knowing, deep down, that **God is real, God is good, and God loves them**. That truth is caught more than taught — through your warmth, your prayers, and the everyday moments you point to Jesus.

So take a breath and relax. You are exactly the person God has given your child. Let's make this fun.

“These words which I command you today shall be on your heart; and 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.” — Deuteronomy 6:6–7

A few things to remember

- **Short is good.** Ten to fifteen minutes is plenty for ages 3–5. A few faithful minutes beat a long, forced sit-down every time.
- **Consistency over perfection.** A little bit, most days, shapes a child far more than a big event now and then. Missed a day? Just begin again — grace covers it.
- **Play is learning.** Acting out stories, singing, coloring, and games aren't breaks from the lesson — for little ones, they **are** the lesson.
- **You set the tone.** When your child sees that you love God and enjoy this time, they will too.

How to Lead a Simple Family Devotion

Every lesson in the five studies already gives you everything you need. Here is an easy five-step rhythm you can follow — the same shape each time, so it becomes comfortable and familiar. An easy way to remember it: **Gather, Read, Talk, Do, Pray.**

1. Gather (1 minute). Snuggle up together. Light a candle, ring a little bell, or sing the same short “start” song each time so your child knows it’s special time with God. Say the Big Idea together.

2. Read (2–3 minutes). Read the short Bible story aloud with lots of expression — do the voices, the sound effects, the drama! Open a children’s Bible too, if you like, to see the pictures.

3. Talk (2–3 minutes). Ask the “Let’s Talk About It” questions. There are no wrong answers. If your child gives a silly answer, laugh and enjoy it, then gently share the true one. Keep it light.

4. Do (5 minutes). Pick one activity or game, or color the page. This is where the lesson sticks — through little hands and moving bodies. Learn the memory verse with a hand motion.

5. Pray (1 minute). Close with the short prayer. Let your child add their own words — “Is there anything you want to say to God?” Then a hug and a “God loves you, and so do I.”

That’s it! You can do the whole thing at the kitchen table after breakfast, on the couch before bed, or spread across the day. Do what works for your family.

A Gentle Year-Long Plan

All five studies together make about a year of weekly lessons (52 lessons in all). Here is one simple way to move through them — roughly one lesson a week. Feel free to go faster, slower, or reorder to fit your family’s seasons (for example, save *The Big Story Book’s* Christmas and Easter lessons for December and spring!).

Weeks	Study	What your child will learn	Reward
1–8	God’s Good Fruit	The Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control	Certificate + tree chart
9–20	The Big Story Book	12 favorite Bible stories from Creation to the empty tomb	Certificate + adventure map
21–32	Jesus Told a Story	12 of Jesus’ parables and the big truths inside them	Certificate + parable path
33–44	People Who Loved God	12 Bible heroes and how they loved and trusted God	Certificate + heroes trail
45–52	Talking to God	How to pray: thank you, sorry, please, wow, and anytime	Grand certificate!

Add a new **memory-verse card** to your child’s ring each week, color a stop on the study’s map, and celebrate the end of each book with its **certificate** from the Bonus & Rewards Pack. Finishing all five earns the Grand “Superstar” Award!

Prefer to mix it up?

You don’t have to go in order. You could follow the church calendar (Christmas and Easter stories in season), or pick lessons by what your child needs that week — a patience lesson on a hard day, a “God is with you” lesson before the first day of preschool. Let the studies serve your family, not the other way around.

Bringing Faith Into Everyday Moments

The richest discipleship happens in the cracks of ordinary days — in the car, at the table, at bath time. Here are simple ways to keep the conversation going all week long.

Mealtime conversation starters

- What was your favorite part of today? Let's thank God for it!
- Was anyone kind to you today? Were you kind to someone?
- What is one thing you're thankful for right now?
- Do you remember our Bible story this week? Can you tell it to me?
- Is there anyone we should pray for tonight?
- What do you think God is like? What do you love about Him?
- When did you feel happy today? When did you feel sad? God was with you both times.

Simple traditions to try

- **Thankful hearts.** At dinner or bedtime, each person names one thing they're thankful for. Turn it into a quick thank-you prayer.
- **The prayer jar.** Keep a jar and slips of paper. Write (or draw) people and things to pray for, and pull one out each day.
- **Verse on the fridge.** Post the week's memory verse where you'll see it, and say it together at meals.
- **Act it out.** Re-tell the Bible story with stuffed animals, blocks, or dress-up. Let your child be the star.
- **"God moments."** When you see something beautiful — a sunset, a rainbow, a new baby — pause and say, "Look what God made! Thank You, God."
- **Kindness on purpose.** Pick one kind thing to do together for someone each week, and talk about how it shows God's love.

Tips, Ages & a Prayer Routine

Keeping wiggly little ones engaged

- **Let them move.** Motions, marching, and acting out stories help—don't require stillness.
- **Follow their interest.** If they're fascinated by the lions or the big fish, linger there.
- **Repeat freely.** Little ones **love** hearing the same story again. Repetition is how it sinks in.
- **Keep it positive.** End on a high note, before attention runs out. It's better to stop while it's still fun.

If you have children of different ages

These studies are written for ages 3–5, but they work beautifully with a mixed-age group. Let older siblings be the “helpers” — reading the story, leading the game, or helping the little ones with the memory verse. Ask older children a deeper follow-up question (“Why do you think Jesus told that story?”) while the youngest colors. Everyone belongs.

A simple family prayer routine

Prayer becomes natural when it's tied to daily anchors. Try these three:

Morning: “Good morning, God! Thank You for a new day. Please help us love You and love each other today. Amen.”

Mealtimes: “Thank You, God, for this food and for our family. Amen.” (Let a different person pray each time.)

Bedtime: “Thank You, God, for today. Thank You for [name each family member]. Please give us good sleep, and thank You that You are always with us. Amen.”

As your child grows, use the four kinds of prayer from **Talking to God** — **Thank You, Sorry, Please, Wow** — to help them pray in their own words.

A Blessing Over You

Leading your family spiritually is one of the most important—and most ordinary—things you will ever do. On the days it feels small or messy or like nothing is sinking in, remember: you

are planting seeds, and God gives the growth. Keep showing up. Keep pointing to Jesus. Keep loving your little one. It matters more than you know.

“May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine on you, and be gracious to you... and give you peace.” — Numbers 6:24–26

You've got this — and God's got you.