

# Take *Five* For Family Devotions



## 5 Things to accomplish during family devotions.

1. To Help our Children develop a proper attitude toward God. It demonstrates the importance for us as parents to stay connected to God, grow in our faith, and share Jesus as a family.
2. To confess and Forgive one another – what a great place to practice God’s forgiveness. This can be done through a simple family confession or prayer, or through specific confessions.
3. Pray for one another, pray together, pray for family and friends, pray for the world. Devotions is a natural time for families to pray together.
4. Ask questions, seek answers, and grow in our faith together as a family.
5. Continue a long legacy of the people of God spending time with Him, in prayer, discussion, and His Word. Abraham believed in Family Devotion (Genesis 18:18-9) . Joshua was confident in his home’s connection to God (Joshua 24:15). Timothy was taught the faith ever since he was a child. (2 Timothy 1:5)

## 5 things to keep in mind



1. Keep it short – 15 minutes or less should be enough.
2. Pick out Family Devotional material together as a family... nothing that lasts too long (like a year) so that you can visit the Christian Book Store often to pick new stuff.
3. Keep things fun – This special family time should be enjoyable. Use object lessons, fun devotions, and let everyone be involved so its not just mom or dad reading something. Parents - your attitude will be a blessing to your kids... stay upbeat and positive, even if on some days you don’t ‘feel’ like it.
4. Life connections – Try to connect God’s word and the devotional thought of the day to real life. Even when children are young, realizing that Jesus is real and important to their daily lives will help make him real and accessible. Maybe even reserve a special chair or place for Jesus to “sit” during devotions.
5. Remember children and their developmental stage. Kids are concrete thinkers. Touching, acting, imagining, and playing are the best ways for things to stick in their brains. Abstract thoughts and logical conclusions may elude them. Try acting out the Bible Story for the day, or using games like charades or Pictionary to teach the lesson. Parents, get involved too... your enthusiasm is contagious!

## 5 Things to Include in Each Devotion

1. Share your highs and lows for the day. Give everyone a chance to share some memories from the day, both good and bad.
2. Read and highlight a verse of Scripture in your Bible. If you are using a devotional they will certainly have a verse that is used or highlighted. Take the time to look that verse up in your own Bibles and highlight it.
3. Use a family devotion book. Try to keep the devotional material rotating, so you don’t get bored. Going to the Christian book store together as a family can be a neat experience that can and should be repeated often throughout the year.
4. Pray together. Pray for your highs and lows. Thank God for the good times, and ask him for help in the bad. Pray for each other, for family, and friends. Pray for schools, teachers, world leaders, and world events.
5. Bless each other. End each devotion time with a chance for family members to bless each other. This can be a simple “May God bless and keep you”, or it can be connected to the theme of the devotional. Each Sunday in the church bulletin the “taking faith home” sheet has blessings that would fit wonderfully here.