

Family Devotions and Discipleship

I. Key Verses

Deuteronomy 4:9
Deuteronomy 6:6-7
Deuteronomy 32:46
Psalms 78:3-8
II Timothy 2:2
Judges 2:7-14

Other Key Verses

Psalms 145:1-7
Matthew 28:19-20
Colossians 3:16
II Timothy 3:14-15
James 3:1
Ezra 7:10

II. Biblical Mandate

Men are commanded by God to lead their families, especially in the area of spiritual growth. This is not an option. If the father is away or if there is no father in the family, then it is the mother's responsibility to disciple the children in the Lord.

Below are some guidelines and options for family devotions and for individual discipleship of a child.

III. Family Devotions Guidelines

- A.** Have a set time.
 - 1. After dinner works well
 - 2. Put the Lord before TV or entertainment
 - 3. Before the family gets too tired
- B.** Have a set place.
 - 1. Devoid of distractions
 - 2. Let your phones go to voice mail
 - 3. Plenty of light
- C.** Have your Bibles and pen.
- D.** Open in prayer.
- E.** Have each member of the family read a section of the passage of scripture or a few paragraphs of the book (to keep each member involved).
- F.** Ask questions that promote discussion and keep the family members engaged (examples):
 - 1. What is God saying to us?
 - 2. Why is this a difficult passage to apply?
 - 3. How does the world (culture) view this?
 - 4. How can we as a family be better at this?

- G. Make sure you encourage the responses (Ephesians 4:29) and if their response does not relate, you may say, “that is an interesting perspective, have you thought about...”
- H. Close in prayer – you may have each member pray about applying the lesson to their life.
- I. Have weekly memory verses.
- J. Be transparent.
- K. How often should you do this? Minimum weekly – ideally 3-5 times per week.

IV. Options for Family Devotions

- A. Read books of the Bible
 1. Old Testament and New Testament
 2. Teach to use cross references
 3. Have a good Study Bible to help interpret difficult passages
 4. For young children, go thru children’s Bibles
- B. Go thru books based on biblical teaching – consider age and maturity
 1. *Experiencing God*
 2. *How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life*
 3. *The Man God Uses*
 4. *A Case for Christ* (for teens)
 5. See the Recommended Reading List at www.prestonwoodmen.org
- C. Listen to messages and discuss
 1. Voddie Bachman
 2. James MacDonald
 3. John MacArthur
 4. Other Biblical preachers
- D. DVD’s
 1. Luther
 2. “Lord I Really Want to Change” by James MacDonald
 3. Francis Schaefer: A Christian Manifesto
 4. Prestonwood library has a great listing of videos on biblical characters. There are also many great children’s videos depicting Bible stories.
- E. 26 Marks of a Real Man - Read and discuss 4-5 per night.
- F. Love God vs Love Others worksheet
- G. Go through life skills:
 1. Budgeting
 2. How to handle a credit card
 3. Investing
 4. What to look for in a mate
 5. How to buy insurance
 6. Time management
- H. Spiritual Goal Setting – .

- I. Serving Together – examples:
 1. Serve at a retirement community
 2. Serve at City Missions
 3. Make hospital visits
 4. Provide meals to the sick
 5. Feed the homeless
 6. Take a short term mission trip
 7. Be a missional family

Discipling an Individual Child

- A. We are required biblically to disciple our children through all experiences of life (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). It is important, though, to individually disciple your children as they enter the teen years. The age of 12 is a good time to intentionally meet with your child weekly.
- B. Meet weekly
- C. Have a set time and a set place to meet.
- D. Keep a confidence – you must develop an atmosphere of openness and honesty. It starts with you – be transparent so they feel safe to be transparent. Let them know this is a safe time to talk.
- E. This is a time for you to guide, not to lecture, discipline, or criticize.
- F. Be patient for your child to open up. They may test you to make sure it is really safe.
- G. Open in prayer.
- H. Have a memory verse.
- I. Let them talk – do not interrupt them.
- J. Optional studies to go through (chapter per week).
 1. *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* by Joshua Harris
 2. *Not Even a Hint* by Joshua Harris
 3. *A Man of God* by Jack Graham
 4. *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders
 5. *Secrets of the Vine* by Bruce Wilkinson
 6. *The Man God Uses* by Henry Blackaby
 7. *Think Biblically* by John MacArthur
 8. *Fools Gold* by John MacArthur
 9. *Lord, Change My Attitude...before it's too late* by James MacDonald
 10. *The Man I Want to Be* (DVD & Workbook) by Neal Jeffrey
- K. Have them close in prayer.
- L. Hug them, look them in the eye, and tell them that you love them.
- M. Ideally a father will disciple his son and a mother her daughter. A father should meet occasionally with his daughter even if the mother is discipling her (*Titus 2:1-8*).

V. **Books and resources to help equip you to fulfill this ministry to your family**

- A. *What the Bible Says About Being a Man* by Richard Fugate
- B. *A Man of God* by Jack Graham
- C. *King Me* by Steve Farrar
- D. *Seasons of Life* by Jeffrey Marx
- E. *Raising a Modern Day Knight* by Robert Lewis
- F. *What a Daughter Needs from Her Dad* by Michael Farris
- G. *What the Bible Says About Child Training* by Richard Fugate
- H. *Courageous Parenting* by Jack and Deb Graham