



## **FAMILY ACTIVITIES: HELPING YOUR CHILDREN GROW IN CHRIST**

### Modeling

- Let children see you having a regular devotion time with God, and then teach them how to have their own time with God.
- Always model a positive attitude toward church and fellow Christians.
- Be the Christian you want your child to become. (Yes, I know that one is a sobering thought!)

### Formal Instruction

- Have regular family nights. (At least twice a month). These are simply family devotions with pizzazz!
- Use a daily family devotion book, but make it fun!!
- Read a Bible storybook daily to young children.
- Study the Bible together with older children and teens.
- Focus on completing a family spiritual plan each year.

### Prayer

- Regularly provide grandparents or other senior adults with a list of specific requests that they can pray for your children.
- Always end the evening with prayer as a family.
- Have each family member keep a prayer journal and discuss it with each other.
- Pray with your spouse daily for your children.
- Lay hands on your children when they are asleep and pray specifically for needs in their lives.
- When your children experience a problem, always pray with them about the issue. Provide guidance from the Bible.

### Creative Activities

- Have a ceremony in which you bless your home.
- Celebrate spiritual birthdays.
- Use holidays as a time to make faith a part of everyday life. Christmas time naturally lends itself toward service projects. Easter should be celebrated with the same enthusiasm as Christmas!
- Use bedtime. Children are always more willing to listen if it means delaying lights out!

- Use mealtime. Mealtime is one of the few times you have your entire family captive. Throw out a fun discussion question, and then bring it back around to God. (What is one thing you would change about your day? Was it because of something you did? Can God use this event to teach you something? etc.)

#### Personal Experiences

- Use travel time constructively! Talk with your kids about how they saw God in their day. Practice scripture memory. Listen to audio dramas or Christian music. Plan games that help your family see God!
- Consider your family style. For example, if you are a sports family, pray about the activities together. Talk about Christian athletes. Relate the game to the Christian life. If you are a media driven family, engage in media TOGETHER. Discuss the values presented in television or movies. Find websites which encourage spiritual growth. (Yes, they do exist.)
- Participate in service projects as a family.
- Sponsor a child as a family.
- Invest your money in books, CD's, and DVD's which help you pass on your faith to your children.
- Share your own faith stories with your children. Recall times when God was real in your life or times when he taught you specific lessons.