



St Mark's
P L U M S T E A D

**GUIDE
to
FAMILY
DEVOTIONS**

Deuteronomy 11 ¹⁸ *Imprint these words of mine on your hearts and minds, bind them as a sign on your hands, and let them be a symbol on your foreheads. ¹⁹ Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

Proverbs 22 ⁶ *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Ephesians 6 ⁴ *Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

It is the duty of Christian parents to lead their children in regular reading of the bible. For centuries, Christian families have done 'family worship' as a vital complement to corporate worship in church. Not only is this the primary way that God has designed for children to grow in the truth, but it is an excellent opportunity to connect with your children on a deeper level as you talk about the most important things of life together.

What's more, by following the suggested method on the other side of this page, this is something that can easily be done by all Christian parents, no matter their own level of biblical knowledge...

LEADING FAMILY DEVOTIONS *a step-by-step guide:*

PREPARATION BEFOREHAND:

- ▶ The parent leading bible time (ideally the father) should **invest in a good study bible** with explanatory notes, to answer questions that may arise. The ESV and CSB Study Bibles are recommended.
- ▶ Make sure that **each person has a bible** to read in front of them. They don't have to be the same version (often, the differences in translations will highlight something interesting in the original language and give you something to talk about)
- ▶ **Decide the times in the week** that you'll do bible time
- ▶ **Decide what part of the bible to read.** It's best to read through a book of the bible over time, or alternatively you can choose a psalm or a parable of Jesus, or just the daily reading verse

HOW TO RUN A FAMILY DEVOTION:

- 1) **PRAY** a short prayer asking God to speak and help to listen
- 2) Tell everyone to **LISTEN OUT** for something to share that speaks to them from the passage
- 3) **READ** the chosen passage out loud
- 4) **ASK:** *"What stood out for you in the reading?"* Go around and let each person share. This should take most of the time.
- 5) **APPLY:** finish by asking: *"What do you think is something God wants us to DO in response to this passage?"*
- 6) **PRAY:** Thank God for something and ask him to help your family do what He is calling for in this passage