

Bible

Daily Bible Reading Sample

A chapter of Proverbs a day fits perfectly in a month. Or follow John MacArthur's method and read a small book every day for a month or several chapters every day and keep going through the same book for a month.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Proverbs 1 | Proverbs 2 | Proverbs 3 | Proverbs 4 | Proverbs 5 | Proverbs 6 |
| or | | | | | |
| 1 John 1 | 1 John 2 | 1 John 3 | 1 John 4 | 1 John 5 | 1 John 6 |
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Or Use a Daily Bible Reading Plan:

- Robert Murray McCheyne's plan
- *The MacArthur Daily Bible*
- *How to Eat Your Bible*, Nate Pickowicz

Suggested Devotional Books

- *Strength for Today, Drawing Near, Daily Readings from the Life of Christ*, John MacArthur
- *Morning and Evening*, Charles Spurgeon
- *Valley of Vision*, Arthur Bennett

Prayer

Prayer Card Sample

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Pastors/Leaders | Government | Older Relatives | Unsaved Family | Husband | Parents |
| Child 1 | Child 2 | Child 3 | Child 4 | Child 5 | Child 6 |
| Church Members | Church Members | Neighbors | Small Group | Missions | Family |
| A-D | E-H | Church Members | Church Members | Church Members | Church Members |
| | | I-L | M-P | Q-T | U-Z |
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How-To

Memorization

- Copy down a verse every day from your reading to meditate on throughout the day.
- Post verses on your bathroom mirror, kitchen cabinets, in your car. Everywhere! Laminate verses and hang them on your mirror. Carry a ring of verses and index cards in your diaper bag to study while waiting in lines or at offices. Do this instead of surfing the Internet.
- Find an accountability partner and ask each other once a week to recite your verse. This is a great way to memorize the verses from the Wise Words for Moms chart.*

Evangelism

- Know your own testimony and be prepared to share it with others!
- Keep tracts in your purse for restaurant servers and others you run into while out.
- Share the gospel with your children! They are your mission field!

Solitude

- Plan time to be still before the Lord. Get up before the kids or have an afternoon quiet hour. Pray, read, memorize, fill your mind with truth.
- Remember how important it is to maintain a deep relationship with Christ throughout your busy, “labor years” (the years spent raising small children). Constantly evaluate if you are getting a daily intake of Him.
- Set your phone aside. It may be wise to turn notifications off or leave your phone in another room.

Fasting

- Start off small. Try half a day to start.
- Consider any medical issues you have and if fasting would be problematic.
- Should be limited to fasting from food for the purpose of prayer as per the Scripture.
- Seek to not be obvious that you are fasting (E.g. don't plan it for a potluck or church meal day or when company is coming over.)

Journaling

- Many keep a notebook of dated prayer requests and praises.
- Keep a record of your spiritual thoughts, convictions, and memorize verses as you read each day.
- Record your growth or maturation for your children to glean from when they're older.

Stewardship

- Commit with your husband how much and when you can financially give to the church.
- Make use of the gifts He has bestowed upon you (e.g., time, money, belongings, spiritual gifts), and be a good steward of that!

Evangelism is a natural overflow of the Christian life. Every Christian should be able to talk about what the Lord has done for him or her and what He means to him or her. But evangelism is also a discipline in that we must discipline ourselves to get into situations where evangelism can occur; that is, we must not just wait for witnessing opportunities to happen.

Donald S. Whitney

We are free to be holy.

Jerry Wragg

Know Your Husband Well

Ask the following questions to your husband (they tend to change over time):

Favorite breakfast:

Favorite lunch:

Favorite dinner:

Favorite snack:

Favorite restaurant:

Favorite drink:

Favorite hobby:

Favorite dessert:

Favorite cookie:

Favorite color:

Favorite car:

Favorite doctrine:

Favorite preacher:

Favorite sport:

Favorite teams:

Favorite way to relax:

Favorite vacation:

Favorite people to spend time with:

Favorite family activity:

Favorite night out activity:

Favorite holiday:

Favorite music:

Favorite movie:

Questions to Ask Yourself:

What first drew me to marry him?

What are his strengths? What weaknesses can I encourage him in most?

What character flaws has he pointed out in me that I need to work on?

What areas would he like for me to serve him/sacrifice more in?

What priorities has he communicated to me that I need to diligently work on?

In what ways can I protect him (spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially)?

What can I do to make our communication better (put off or put on)?

In what ways am I setting him up for success as a spiritual leader?

In what ways am I setting him up for success as a provider?

How can I bless him? What brings him joy?

Am I keeping current in ways I can pray for him?

Am I available to be his sounding board in problem solving for work, people, or ministry, if needed?

How can I pursue him more when he arrives home?

How can I pursue him more in intimacy?

Can he trust me with his innermost thoughts (as are fitting with Eph. 4:29)?

Cleaning Schedule Sample

| Daily |
|--|
| Make bed Clean kitchen Pick up all clothes off floor Tidy bedroom/living room Sweep house Kids' chore packs |

| Monthly | Two a week |
|---------|--|
| Week 1 | Clean window sills Clean one major appliance |
| Week 2 | Declutter one closet Clean microwave |
| Week 3 | Clean kitchen cabinets Dust ceiling fans/change vents |
| Week 4 | Handles, doors, light fixtures Clean fridge |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Monday Laundry - lights/colors Clean van Clean out fridge Menu plan | Tuesday Laundry - towels Bathrooms Grocery shopping Pick one monthly chore | Wednesday Laundry - gentle clothes Dust furniture Glass/mirrors |
| Thursday Laundry - darks Take out all trash Bedrooms/sock drawer | Friday Laundry - sheets Mop Floors Vacuum floors/sofa | Saturday Laundry - work clothes Sort mail/declutter desk Set out clothes for Sunday Pick one monthly chore |
| Sunday Dishes | | |

Cleaning Schedule

| Daily |
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| Monthly |
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|----------|---------|-----------|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Sunday | | |

Passage:

My application:

Fear

Deuteronomy 31:11-12

Psalms 23

Psalms 34:9-10

Psalms 46

Psalms 91:5-7, 10-12

Proverbs 29:25

2 Timothy 1:7

1 John 4:17-18

Anger

Ephesians 4:25-42

Psalms 77:9-15

Anxiety

Psalms 42-43

Isaiah 26:3

1 Corinthians 10:13

2 Corinthians 1:8-10, 10:5

Philippians 4:8

Matthew 6:33-34

Use a highlighter to mark all of the action verbs in this psalm.

“For the word of God is living and active...and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”
(Hebrews 4:12)

Psalm 37

¹Do not fret because of evildoers, be not envious toward wrongdoers. ²For they will wither quickly like the grass and fade like the green herb. ³Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. ⁴Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He will do it. ⁶He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday. ⁷Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. ⁸Cease from anger and forsake wrath; do not fret; it leads only to evildoing. ⁹For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land. ¹⁰Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there. ¹¹But the humble will inherit the land and will delight themselves in abundant prosperity. ¹²The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes at him with his teeth. ¹³The Lord laughs at him, for He sees his day is coming. ¹⁴The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bow to cast down the afflicted and the needy, to slay those who are upright in conduct. ¹⁵Their sword will enter their own heart, and their bows will be broken. ¹⁶Better is the little of the righteous than the abundance of many wicked. ¹⁷For the arms of the wicked will be broken, but the LORD sustains the righteous. ¹⁸The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their inheritance will be forever. ¹⁹They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, and in the days of famine they will have abundance. ²⁰But the wicked will perish; and the enemies of the LORD will be like the glory of the pastures, they vanish—like smoke they vanish away. ²¹The wicked borrows and does not pay back, but the righteous is gracious and gives. ²²For those blessed by Him will inherit the land, but those cursed by Him will be cut off. ²³The steps of a man are established by the LORD, and He delights in his way. ²⁴When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, because the LORD is the One who holds his hand. ²⁵I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread. ²⁶All day long he is gracious and lends, and his descendants are a blessing. ²⁷Depart from evil and do good, so you will abide forever. ²⁸For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked will be cut off. ²⁹The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever. ³⁰The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. ³¹The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip. ³²The wicked spies upon the righteous and seeks to kill him. ³³The LORD will not leave him in his hand or let him be condemned when he is judged. ³⁴Wait for the LORD and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it. ³⁵I have seen a wicked, violent man spreading himself like a luxuriant tree in its native soil. ³⁶Then he passed away, and lo, he was no more; I sought for him, but he could not be found. ³⁷Mark the blameless man, and behold the upright; for the man of peace will have a posterity. ³⁸But transgressors will be altogether destroyed; The posterity of the wicked will be cut off. ³⁹But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in time of trouble. ⁴⁰The LORD helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in Him.

Love Your Children - Application

Fill in responses for each of your children, answering the first four questions yourself, and then asking your child about their favorite things. Revisit this each year, as children change from one year to the next.

Child: _____

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Child's goals:

Our goals for this child:

Favorite food:

Favorite breakfast:

Favorite lunch:

Favorite dinner:

Favorite drink:

Favorite color:

Favorite way to be loved:

Other:

Child: _____

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Child's goals:

Our goals for this child:

Favorite food:

Favorite breakfast:

Favorite lunch:

Favorite dinner:

Favorite drink:

Favorite color:

Favorite way to be loved:

Other:

Child: _____

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Child's goals:

Our goals for this child:

Favorite food:

Favorite breakfast:

Favorite lunch:

Favorite dinner:

Favorite drink:

Favorite color:

Favorite way to be loved:

Other:

Love Your Children - Application

Child:

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Child's goals:

Our goals for this child:

Favorite food:

Favorite breakfast:

Favorite lunch:

Favorite dinner:

Favorite drink:

Favorite color:

Favorite way to be loved:

Other:

Child:

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Child's goals:

Our goals for this child:

Favorite food:

Favorite breakfast:

Favorite lunch:

Favorite dinner:

Favorite drink:

Favorite color:

Favorite way to be loved:

Other:

Child:

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Child's goals:

Our goals for this child:

Favorite food:

Favorite breakfast:

Favorite lunch:

Favorite dinner:

Favorite drink:

Favorite color:

Favorite way to be loved:

Other:

My Schedule

| Priorities | | |
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My Schedule *Jill's Sample*

| Priorities | | |
|------------|-------------|---|
| | 6:00 | Wake |
| | 6:15 | Exercise |
| | 6:45 | Personal Cleaning |
| | 7:00 | Bible Study |
| | 7:30 | Cuddles/Kids' Breakfast |
| | 8:00 | Family Bible |
| | 8:30 | My Area/Help Kids |
| | 9-11 | School Younger |
| | 11-11:30 | Check Olders |
| | 11:30-12:30 | Lunch (20 min Social Media, Laundry, My Project Area) |
| | 12:30-1 | School Youngers |
| | 1-1:30 | Rest/Restore |
| | 1:30-3 | School Middles/Read Aloud |
| | 3-4 | Dinner Prep/Planning |
| | 4-5 | Free/Study/Laundry |
| | 5-6 | Family & Dinner |
| | 6-8 | Husband/Kids/Activities |
| | 8-9 | Read Aloud/Kids to bed |
| | 9-10 | Study/Plan/Bath/Teen Talk Time |
| | 10-11 | Read/Bed |
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12. Constantly finding fault
13. Not praising or encouraging your kids
14. Not making time to just talk
15. Failure to listen well
16. Not listening to your child's opinion or side of the story
17. Lack of appreciation, respect, or approval
18. Not admitting wrongs nor asking for forgiveness
19. Comparing them to others
20. Inconsistent discipline/lack of standards
21. Holding double standards between children
22. Blatant hypocrisy
23. Being legalistic
24. Overprotection
25. Not showing affection
26. Using love as a reward or tool
27. Not sacrificing, causing feelings of being unwanted/intruded upon
28. Failing to keep your promises
29. Chastening in front of others
30. Favoritism
31. Not allowing enough freedoms
32. Allowing too much freedom
33. Unrealistic expectations/pushing achievement beyond reasonable bounds
34. Disciplining exhausted children when you have kept them up
35. Child training with worldly methods

"Do not provoke your children to anger." That is the warning of Ephesians 6:4.

From the previous list:

1. In what ways do you see children in our generation express anger provoked by their parents?

2. In what ways are you guilty of provoking your own children to anger?

If we measure our success as parents solely by what our children become, there is no inviolable guarantee in Scripture that we will experience absolute success on those terms... The true measure of success for Christian parents is the parents' own character. To the degree that we have followed God's design for parenting, we have succeeded as parents before God.

John MacArthur

The second part of Paul's command to parents in Ephesians 6:4 is positive. He says, "Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Put off the ways you have been exasperating your children and put on the positive training character traits of agape love: compassion, consistency, availability, right priorities, integrity, respect, personal obedience to God, and contentment.

3. What positive traits would I like to instill in my child(ren) and how will I use proactive instruction to do so? (Consider each individual child. Remember, proactive instruction is "putting off" unbiblical parenting methods and "putting on" teaching biblical obedience.)

4. When will I work on this proactive instruction? (Seek to do this when you are not in the heat of a conflict.)

Jill will add a few lines of encouragement for how to get started: like starting with prayer for God's help and confidence that God is faithful/trustworthy, etc....

What Do I Need to Consider?

Dear friend, if your marriage intimacy is not where it could and should be, it is not too late to make changes in your relationship with your husband. If your physical connection with your husband is great, you can still continue in maturity and in serving and enjoying each other more and more. If it has been lacking, you can try some new ideas to improve it! Consider the following questions:

1. Am I obeying Scripture by considering my body as not my own, but belonging to my husband (1 Cor. 7:4)?
2. Am I making time and putting energy into considering the “when” and “how” we will come together? (Not wondering “When *will* we find the time to be intimate, but when *won’t* we be intimate?”)
3. Am I planning my day and resting as needed (as busy moms) so that I have energy left for my husband at the end of the day?
4. Am I preparing my mind and emotions for intimacy with my husband? (Good sexual experiences start long before the actual action.) Also, are we allowing enough time together for satisfying experiences?
5. Am I finding ways to show my husband he is my priority above all other commitments people, and even over the children? Is he able to ask for your help, and can he count on you?
6. Do I treat my husband like he is my lover, or as though I am his mother? Do I try to be sexy for him in ways he enjoys? Are we having fun and enjoying each other?
7. Are there fears, insecurities, or old wives’ tales that make me hold back from my husband? (If the two of you have communicated these but are still struggling, we suggest talking to an older woman—with your husband’s permission—or going together to talk to your pastor.)
8. Is your sexual relationship at a better place than it was the first year of marriage? How about better than last year?
9. Have my husband and I found ways (if needed) to have intimacy in times when we cannot have intercourse? E.g., after a baby is born, from doctor’s orders, etc. See resource books for ideas.
10. Have I allowed my husband to feel “replaced” by our baby/children? Am I helping guard our intimacy by sharing my nursing body, having a working lock on the door, putting children to bed on time, not having children in the room every night, etc.?

More Questions to Ponder

Is there fear in my heart that hinders our intimacy?

Is there immorality in my heart or life that needs to be killed?

Is there anger or bitterness between us that hinders our intimacy?

Is there possibly an idea that intimacy is embarrassing before God?

Do I communicate to my spouse what pleases me and what does not please me, both in and out of bed?

Do I freely express real, genuine and honest feelings to my husband?

Am I considering my body as belonging to myself and not to my spouse?

Am I unwilling to die to self and serve in this area?

Am I being asked to do things that violate my conscience? Do I need to communicate with my spouse that he is asking me to sin, or do I need to educate my conscience that what is being asked is not sinful?

Am I practicing abstinence in an ungodly way to avoid having children?

Do I believe intimacy is only for procreation and not intended for pleasure?

Am I proud and shy toward my husband instead of humble and open?

Am I too focused on my own fulfillment and not focused on his?

Are there medical issues that need to be resolved for our intimacy relationship?

Am I withholding intimacy as a punishment, or is it regular and continuous?

Is my spouse being selfish and demanding whereby I need to practice biblical confrontation in a kind and submissive way?

Is there a need to meet with the pastor to help resolve conflict in this area? Are we both able to meet with our pastor and discuss our relationship without fear of embarrassment?

Is everything actually going well enough and I do not need to bring up any issues at this time? (E.g., possible self-deceived thoughts in your mind; or truly minor things that can be overlooked, but your emotions or hormones are exasperating them.) (Consider 1 Cor. 10:31.)

Weekly Meal Plan

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Breakfast | | | | | | | |
| Lunch | | | | | | | |
| Dinner | | | | | | | |
| Snack | | | | | | | |

Shopping List:

Master Meals List

Ham

Chinese

Lunches

Mexican

Italian

Chicken

Beef

Breakfast

Turkey

Misc/Fast

Pork

Ethnic

Master Dinner List Jill's Sample

Ham

Ham Alfredo Pen Noodles
Ham Steaks & Potatoes

Mexican

Taco
Taco Salad
Enchiladas
Taco Soup
Burritos
Quesadillas
Fajitas
Chicken Quesadillas
White Chicken Chili

Chicken

BBQ Chicken
Pesto Chicken
Chicken Broccoli Alfredo
Homestyle Chicken Strips
Salsa Chicken
Chicken Pot Pie
Broccoli Chicken
Paprika Chicken & Noodles
Chicken Artichoke Rice Casserole
Chicken Divan
Chicken Supreme w/Rice
Chicken Wings
Chicken Corn & Bean
Chicken Apple Sausage
"Criminal" Chicken
Chicken Nuggets & Fries

Turkey

Turkey & Fixin's
Turkey Tetrazzini

Pork

Fried Pork Chops
Rosemary Balsamic Pork Loin
Slow Cooker Pork Loin w/Dry Rub
Pork/Chow/Steak Stir Fry
Pork Chops In Sour Cream Sauce
BBQ Shredded Pork Sandwiches

Chinese

TJ's Orange Chicken & Rice
Pot Stickers
Chinese Chicken Salad

Italian

Lasagna
Spaghetti w/Sausage
Cheesy Meatballs
Italian Sausage Soup
Ravioli or Tortellini

Beef

Rose City Teriyaki Steak
Pot Roast
Chili
Meatloaf
Sloppy Joes
Stroganoff & Noodles
Shepherd's Pie
Cheesburger Pie
Dirty Rice w/Hamburger
Salisbury Steak
Meatballs & Mashed
Meatball Subs
Ribs
Stew & Biscuits
Baked Potato Bar
Hamburger & Fries

Misc/Fast

Baked Potato Soup
Pizza / Pepperoni Bread Roll
Hot Dogs / Crescent Roll Hot Dogs
Breakfast
Grilled Cheese
Sub Sandwich Ring
Smoothies and Popcorn

Snacks

Leftovers (Encores)
Sandwiches:
BLT
Tuna/Chicken/Egg Salad
PBJ
Meat & Cheese
Grilled Cheese
Soup
Macaroni
Quesadillas
Apples, Cheese & Popcorn
Hot Dogs
Salads
Chicken Nuggets
Pizza
Rice & Beans
Hummus & Crackers

Breakfast

Smoothies
Yogurt & Granola
Eggs, all ways
Bagels or toast
Cold Cereals
Hot Cereals
Baked or Overnight Oatmeal
French Toast
Waffles
Pancakes
Quiche

GREASE AND GRACE - APPLICATION

Lord, I am in need of grace. Here are the areas where I struggle to extend Grace:

| Person | The Struggle | The Means of Grace I Need to Apply |
|---------------|---------------------|---|
|---------------|---------------------|---|

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| My friend | | |
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| My church sister | | |
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| My parent/in-law | | |
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| My husband | | |
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| My child | | |
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| My child | | |
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| My child | | |
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| With my children as a group | | |
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| My relative | | |
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| My neighbor | | |
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| My co-worker | | |
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| Other | | |
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Questions to Consider:

1. Am I training my children in wisdom, and to behave in such a way as to grow in favor with God and men?
 - If not, what can I teach my children in being more wise? In pleasing God? In serving others or using manners for the sake of others?
2. Are my children a blessing to others when they babysit them? During free time at church? At school?
 - If not, this is what I will start practicing with them at home:
 - If not, this is what we will consistently do at church as a consequence:
 - If not, this is what we will have them do to practice self-governance:
3. Do I find myself chasing my children (verbally or physically) to get them to obey? If not, this is how I will start practicing consistent training in first-time obedience:
4. Have I taught my children helpful methods to gain self-control?
 - If not, this is what I will start consistently doing to teach them in this area they are lacking (e.g., "hands together"):
5. Am I giving my children everything they want and desire and not teaching them self-restraint?
 - If so, these are some areas where I can start to show them the realities of life; how to deal with disappointment and self-control in the area of emotions:
6. Are my children practicing self-control when at the toy store or in the candy aisle? Am I practicing not always buying them things? Do I have self-control to say "no"?
 - If not, am I willing to start working on teaching them contentment and self-control while at the stores, regardless of their responses? (E.g., hands together, behind their back for self-control).
 - Am I self-controlled enough to follow through? (E.g., Am I saying, "no," and disciplining in the car or at home for rebellious fits of passion?).
7. Do I exhibit self-control, a fruit of the Spirit, in front of my children, with my words, with food, in spiritual disciplines, in emotions and passions, in love toward others, etc.?
 - If not, what areas do I need to work on to model self-control to my children?

Truth was meant to be given from generation to generation. If those who knew God and who had so much to tell about Him had always been faithful and had stuck to His commands, there would have been no gaps.

Edith Schaeffer

Maybe it will work out to have it all together after dinner or before bed with Daddy. Find a time (or even two) in your family's day to focus on learning more about God together, and do your best to keep it in the daily schedule, if not, even several times a week. Together you will learn much about our great God and have many precious memories of those sweet times together.

Here are a few real-life examples of how devotions can be done (of course it is dependent on the ages of your children):

A Regular Bedtime Routine

Pile on to one bed in pajamas with both mom and dad. Sing together. Read a devotional book, or the Bible. Act out the story. Pray together. Talk about a current issue or trial, local or global event. Point out truths and principles from a biblical point of view.

A Regular Meal Routine

You could gather around the breakfast table or supper table, pray, and read an encouraging word from a devotional book, or review memory verses. Discuss what they are learning at church. This is a good time to answer your children's questions about the stresses in their lives. We keep a box of Bible trivia cards on our table for some family competition.

A Once-a-Week Family Night

When more of your children are older than younger, you could go through a Bible teaching DVD series; have a discussion at the end and then a movie or game night afterwards.

A Regular School Day Devotion

If you are a homeschool family, you could start each day with your Bible curriculum. If your children go to traditional school, you could have a devotion time when the kids get home from school. With two- to three-year-olds, plan a little prayer time, short, accurate stories, a song, etc.

Keep a Spiritual Family Connection

During the crazy, unexpected, out-of-the-ordinary circumstances that happen which throw a regular routine out-of-whack, work hard to keep a spiritual family connection, even if that is just a family hug and quick prayer. Always keep encouraging one another with words from the Word.

If You Don't Plan to Check It, Don't Expect It

As humans, we tend toward doing that which has the least requirement, not the greatest. Whenever I did not regularly check my kids chores, they would slide. Make yourself a master checklist and schedule the time into your day, soon after chore time, to check all that you have assigned. Keep civil about unmet expectations or disobedience in accomplishing tasks. Have set consequences for unfinished or undone chores. You may have an extra chore list as a consequence for when chores are skipped, or the consequence of their losing a privilege or activity your child had planned.

Zone Time

Another practical how-to is to divide your home by room or into zones. Half an hour before Daddy comes home, send everyone to their zone to pick up and tidy all messes, regardless of who made them. Grandparents especially like this system as they can say "Clean up your zones," and the house magically becomes tidy!

Master Chores

Sort Toys
Get Mail
Dust Baseboards
Dust Ceiling Fans
Dust Blinds
Wash Windows
Load Dishwasher
Unload Dishwasher
Clean Bedroom
Make Bed
Change Sheets
Vacuum
Sweep
Mop
Kitchen Prep Helper
Make Drinks
Set Table
Clear Table
Clean High Chair
Wipe Counters
Wipe Appliance Front
Clean Microwave in/out
Clean Cabinet Fronts
Put Books on Shelves
Sweep Garage
Sweep Patio
Sweep Sidewalk
Mow Lawn
Clean Cat Litter
Clean Pet Cage
Wash Pet
Fold Clothes
Fold Small Towels
Fold Bath Towels
Put Laundry Away
Sort Socks
Pick up Trash
Empty Trash

Chores *sample*

Child: John

Empty Trash
Sweep Porch
Set Table
Pick up Toys

Child:

Child:

Child:

Child:

Child:

Master Chores

Chores

Child:

Child:

Child:

Child:

Child:

Child:

Questions for Contemplation

1. What has God done in my life up until this point?
2. What do others see and encourage in me as a spiritual gift?
3. What things have I done to serve the church?
4. What things do I need to try that I have never tried?
5. What idea is God possibly giving me to do someday in the church, for God?
6. What am I doing each day to prepare my heart for less of me and more of Christ?
7. Whatever season I am in, am I hungering and thirsting for righteousness?
8. Am I passing wisdom down to a younger woman (or daughter) and learning from an older one in godliness?
9. Am I finding contentment in the season I am currently in? Am I finding my all-in-all in Christ alone, or am I longing for another desire, or another person, to be my fulfillment?
10. Am I prioritizing my home and the people in it above activities and busyness? What does my husband think?
11. Am I *overemphasizing* my family and home and not serving the church or practicing the hospitality commands?

Final “Seasons of Life” Note

Once upon a time, I sat holding my fifth baby in my arms while listening to a wonderful conference speaker. I told myself, “I want to be just like her when I grow up! I want to encourage women with the truth of God in how it impacts every moment of our days.” Another baby came along. The days were full of six kids, lots of love, extreme busyness, and my mind seemed to be mush. I realized that Holy Spirit prompting in that moment would likely never happen. Eight years after having that desire in my heart, that very conference speaker was the first to invite me to come be a conference speaker for her church. Make yourself available to God! Water the grass where He has you, walk according to His will, and watch Him use you in big or small ways! It is all by Him, through Him, and for Him!