

Getting Started with Word in the Home

Today's Christian parent lives in crisis mode. Many know they should do something about the spiritual fortification of their kids but don't know how. It's easy to feel ill equipped and discouraged. This high calling of God presents a tremendous challenge for parents.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, *"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."*

The simple framework of Word in the Home material provides parents a tool to instill a love for God and His Word in the hearts of their children. This is NOT devotional material or a children's Bible but a tool to give parents success in leading their children to God. The material helps to keep this time short and meaningful. In 10-15 minutes a family can read God's Word, talk about it, pray and sing together.

The content of Word in the Home equips parents to:

Capture the wonder and majesty of God: Highlight the attributes of God developed in the passage so kids desire to worship their Creator.

Keep Christ at the center: Connect the passage with God's plan of redemption through Christ built up in this passage.

Address cultural arguments with biblical truth: Help kids discover the answers from God's Word to their hard questions. Lead them to see that truth is more fulfilling than competing arguments of a secular worldview. This will bring the love of God home to the heart.

Attune hearts to God's call: Ask gospel-centered questions to apply the passage to the heart and not simply behavior. Good discussion of God anchors His work in our hearts.

Declare to God His worthiness of all praise: Experience the joy of expressing to God the glorious truth of His character. Through prayer and singing, declare that He is the center of the universe not ourselves

Things to keep in mind

- **Be brief.** If your child is one-year-old, read one verse. If five-years-old read five verses. One verse for every year works well. Better less than more.
- **Be consistent.** Try to have a regular time for Word in the Home. For some people it works best early in the morning before the family scatters. For others, it is at the close of the evening meal. Another popular time is late in the evening or just before bedtime.
- **Be flexible.** Every family has to flex occasionally. Just be careful that your flexibility does not lead to inconsistency.