

My 'Family-time Devos Challenge (non-readers)

Step 1: Grab a children's Bible storybook. Ask your child to think about which story they'd like to help you 'read' to the family. They may want to help you say key words (predictable text) or even act out the story together.

Step 2: Let them choose a favorite worship song to share with the family. You can still find the VBS 2019 Playlist ('by Keri Foley') on Spotify if you need inspiration! 😊 Singing Jesus Loves Me off-key with home-made instruments is also perfectly acceptable!

Step 3: Get your family together in a place that's good for listening. Have your child tell everyone what the 'rules' are (everyone listens, everyone participates, everyone tries hard to sit quietly, whatever you need to establish ahead of time). You might try letting them draw during the story, participate in acting it out or in reading it, or even bring a fidget toy to keep their hands busy during the reading. Share the bible story, and the worship song. Make sure to give them time to talk after. You might ask them questions like:

- Is there any part of that story that surprises you?
- What do you think we can learn from that Bible story?
- Do you have any questions we should talk about?
- Do you have something you think we should pray about?

Step 4: Pray together. Here are some ways you could do this (choose one, or add your own idea):

- Say &/or write THANKFULNESS words (make a THANKS poster!)
- Draw a picture of someone you want to pray for, praying quietly for them while you draw. Try writing your prayer words around their picture. I bet they'd love it if you mailed it to them!
- Set a timer for 1 minute of quiet, then ask God to bring prayer words to your mind in the quiet. When the timer goes off, give everyone a chance to pray out loud.
- Help everyone write down a worry or problem on a piece of paper. Pray together for these worries and then crumple them up and put them in a basket or jar. Tell God you trust Him to take care of your worries!
- Sometimes we need to tell God we're sorry because we've been doing things that aren't honoring or obeying Him. Help your child write or draw a sorry prayer. Model asking for forgiveness and then thanking Jesus because He promises to forgive our sins AND to help us make better choices next time.
- Go for a family prayer walk or drive. As you pass by friends' houses or schools, pray for the people you know there. Play your worship playlist as you drive/go!

Celebrate your child's help in planning 'family church'!

Don't worry if it was chaotic or silly. You are making memories and teaching them that you value family and you value family that pursues friendship with Jesus...even if they don't remember any part of the story the next day, trust that God is doing His work even when you can't see it!