

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Greetings from Spirit & Truth Publishing! I hope you are excited for a new year of living in God's wonderful story with your congregation! Your congregation is using a faith formation curriculum called *Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story* this year, which follows a set of Bible readings often used in worship called the Narrative Lectionary.

Grow together as a family!

Living the Word: Kids teaches your child about God's love for the whole world using the same readings your pastor will be preaching on in worship! Take advantage of this and talk together as a family about the weekly readings.

The Story @ Home

Your child should be bringing home from their education time a weekly, two-page sheet called "The Story @ Home." This take-home sheet is a tool that you can use to keep up on what your child is learning, and to grow together spiritually as a family. Here are the parts:

- *Background*- The first page gives you background behind the story your child learned in class. It's always helpful to ask your child specific questions about what they learned! This background includes The Point, or main idea of the lesson, a summary of the story, how the story relates to last week and will to next week, a spiritual practice challenge, and some "nuts & bolts" about the Bible.
- *Family Discussions*- Here are several questions you can ask your child to find out what they learned, and start a conversation about it!
- *Family Devotions*- This chart gives a Bible reading and short activity for each day of the week.

Take a step

You might already do daily devotions with your family, or you might have never heard of them! Challenge yourself and your family to take a step toward some sort of family time spent learning about God, praying, and having fun! If you're new to devotions, start with once a week, and adapt these resources to what works for you!

May you experience God's awesome love this year!

Sincerely,

Gregory Rawn
Publisher
Spirit & Truth Publishing

Family Devotions Worksheet

You Are Important!

As a parent or other caring adult, you are one of the most influential people in your child's life. This holds true for all areas, but especially in forming your child's identity and understanding of the world. One important way to help instill your faith and values into your child is setting aside some time every day to grow closer to God.

Setting up a Sacred Space and Time

Many families find that bedtime is the best time to have family devotions, but the most important characteristic of family devotions is that they work for your unique family. Find a time and a format that works for you. Here are a few tips:

Time: Start by setting aside fifteen minutes a day or once a week and then adjust it from there. Be sure to select a time when as many family members can be there as possible, often during your child's bedtime.

● **When will you have family devotions?** _____

● **How many times per week?** _____

Pattern: Jot down a pattern (what you are going to do in devotions, in what order) and play to your strengths. You can sing hymns or Bible songs, read from a Bible or Bible story book, pray, give hugs, ask questions, or even do some art!

● **What would you like to do during devotions?** _____

Enjoy: This is a time to grow closer to God and your family. Craft it so everyone enjoys the time! If you have kids of different ages, alternate reading from a Bible and story Bible.

● **How can you make devotions fun?** _____

Special: Mark off this time as special. Light candles, roll out a special rug, give hugs at the beginning and end, start with the same short song (like "Jesus Love Me"), or do some other rituals that help you and your child focus.

● **What special rituals will you use?** _____

You Are the Expert!

Don't worry if you don't feel like a Bible expert, because that's not important! What's important is that you make it a habit to read the Bible (or a Bible storybook) together and share your lives with each other. God loves you just as you are!