

Memory Verse

*Simon Peter answered him,
"Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life,
and we have believed, and have come to know,
that you are the Holy One of God."
John 6:68-69*

Tips for Leading a Family Devotion Time:

1. Prepare - Be in the Word yourself before leading the devotion. Know where you're going and how you're going to get there.
2. Open the Bible - Have everyone use their own Bibles. Help younger kids get to know their way around the Bible and feel comfortable using it. Once it is open, actually read from it.
3. Have a set time - Be regular (for example, 8:00 PM every night). Be brief: the length of the devotion time should be determined by the age of the youngest child participating; for example, a five-year-old can sit through about a five minute devotional. If there's a large gap in age between children, you may want to have two devotions of different time lengths.
4. Be humble - The ultimate purpose is to point your family to Christ as our greatest need and greatest treasure. Be honest about your need for Christ's forgiveness, your struggles, and how Jesus is faithful. Hiding your weakness doesn't help teach the Gospel.
5. Be practical - Think of specific things you and the members of your family are experiencing and how you can apply the Scripture to what's going on in your house today and tomorrow.
6. Be fun - This isn't a lecture, so ask questions, play games, laugh, use props, teach your kids to teach. It's not a chore!



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*The aim of our instruction is love that issues from
a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
1 Timothy 1:5*

At Home FIRST is a guide for individuals and families to continue their worship experience between Sundays. Families are encouraged to use this for devotions through the week. Those who live alone might find a friend with whom they can discuss what they find here.

Day 1 - PURSUE GOD

If the most important question for the church is, "Who is God?" how does that affect the church's ministry? As we heard in this week's sermon, God has revealed Himself in His Word. We must learn who God is by coming to His Word.

For that reason, this week in *At Home First* we will consider what the Bible says about its ability to answer that most important question. Specifically, we will look at how this is to happen in the life and ministry of the church.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5. Here Paul tells a young pastor what he is to do first and foremost in his ministry to the church. Consider the following questions, looking at *this passage* to find answers:

- How is Timothy going to be "wise for salvation?"
- When did Timothy learn about the scriptures?
- Other than scripture, what is needed to equip a believer to live the Christian life? (Hint: 3:16-17)
- What charge does Paul give Timothy?
- What does Paul say people will turn toward when they forsake sound teaching?
- What does this mean for the ministry of our church?
- How is a pastor to carry out this charge today?

Reading the Word: Ephesians 5

Day 2 - COMMIT TO OTHERS

In our sermon text from Sunday, we read, “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:15-16)

We saw that “the truth” that we are to speak is the truth of the Word. How can we speak the truth of God’s word to one another in love? Notice that we all have a part to play in this ministry; each and every part of the body has a function in the building up of the body.

Think of someone you can pray for this week, and think of a way to “speak the truth in love” to another brother or sister.

“This week I will pray for: _____.”

Reading the Word: Ephesians 6

Day 3 - STRETCH YOURSELF

In his second letter, Peter wrote this: “Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (3:15-18)

Isn’t it comforting to know that Peter thought some of Paul’s writings were hard to understand? Yet notice that did not mean we can skip the hard stuff. Instead, we are to “take care” that we are not mislead, and we are to “grow” in our knowledge of God.

Pray, asking God to give you the grace to continue being stretched by the truth of His Word.

Reading the Word: Titus 1

Day 4 - BUILD THE KINGDOM

Most every Christian is familiar with the final words of Christ that have become known as the “Great Commission.” Found in Matthew 28:19-20, they read, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Notice that even here in the Great Commission, teaching is an important factor. Grammar actually helps us understand the role of teaching in the church’s attempt to carry out this commission. The main verb is “make disciples,” and there are two phrases that tell us *how* we are to go about doing that: baptizing and teaching.

We have not fulfilled Jesus’ command by simply baptizing people into the faith. The church must teach them - not just the basics, but *all* that Jesus commanded us.

Pray for our church’s evangelism efforts and consider your role. Are you *going* as Christ commanded, seeking to make disciples? Think of someone you know who needs Jesus. Share the gospel with that person this week.

“This week I will pray for: _____.”
_____.”

Reading the Word: Titus 2

Day 5 - Remember the Gospel

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Consider the gospel message, taught “according to the scriptures.” Paul writes here that we are saved by this message *if we hold fast to the word preached to us*. Are you standing in the gospel?

Reading the Word: Titus 3