

Grow Closer To God With Your Family

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and Advice For Your Family's Journey.



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Growing Closer To God with Your **Family**

Are you looking to grow closer to God? Do you want to strengthen your family's connection and intimacy with God?

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Let's take a look at some practical ways to grow closer to God with your family. "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

1. Pray together. Take time to pray with your family. Make sure prayer is a time of open communication with God. Allow each member of the family to voice their needs, desires, praises, and uncertainties. This open communication may occur at common times such as meals or at bedtime, but the simple question 'do you want to pray about it' should be a guiding arrow that points your family to God during moments of anxiety or need. These impromptu prayers show an alliance with God and an acknowledgement that He is in control. *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20).*

2. Read together. Find a version of the Bible that works for your family. Set aside some time each day to read. Do not allow a hectic schedule or a bad day to steal the study time for your family. It only takes about

20 days to make something a habit, so the decision to push through, persevere, and choose to read God's word together daily can be a powerful tool. This time will become a focal point for hiding God's word in your heart and can become the tools for future attacks from the devil. *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

3. Be the church. Find ways to serve together. These ways may be through your church, a local community group, or simply just your family. Lead your children and other family members in recognizing that serving is about more than opening doors for worshipers entering the church. The simple decision to be the church and spread God's love to other people is a powerful way to grow closer to God while also growing closer to each other. *"For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building"* (1 Corinthians 3:9).

4. Unplug. Devices steal way too much time from even the parents with the best intentions. Find ways to unplug the devices and hang out. During game night, a walk around the neighborhood, or other events that do not include electronics, watch as conversation time increases and more and more focus is put on God. Naturally, the things or topics we fill our time with become the focus for us; consequently, choosing to unplug leaves more time to be the family focused on growing in God. *"Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil"* (Ephesians 5:16).

5. Record your prayer needs. Make a display or focal point where you record prayer requests. Keep track of God's answers or responses to these prayers. This visual reminder becomes a high interest for the family to pray for needs and watch God respond. As the old adage goes, 'The family that prays together stays together'. Let prayer become the cement that strengthens familial bonds and closeness with God. Our final story of healing takes us to the Siloam Pool. Here we have a

man who cannot see. His eyes are unable to take in the visual scenes surrounding Him, but Jesus took mud, spit, and performed a miracle.

6. **Track blessings.** Post pictures. Create drawings. List blessings. Do not forget to keep track of how God blesses your family's lives. His faithfulness to bless us in our service to Him is proven. *"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed"* (**Psalm 20:4**).

7. **Be intentional.** Do not neglect focusing on God. Allow His love and work in our lives to be as natural as saying, 'how was your day'? *"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans"* (**Proverbs 16:3**).

Taking the time, the effort, and the diligence to be intentional will create a family that is closer to each other, closer to God, and illustrative of **Psalm 133:1**: *"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"*