

Quick Guide - Faith in the Home

The Basic Principles (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)

Moses said to Israel:

¹The LORD told me to give you these laws and teachings, so you can obey them in the land he is giving you. Soon you will cross the Jordan River and take that land. ²And if you and your descendants want to live a long time, you must always worship the LORD and obey his laws. ³Pay attention, Israel! Our ancestors worshiped the LORD, and he promised to give us this land that is rich with milk and honey. Be careful to obey him, and you will become a successful and powerful nation. ⁴Listen, Israel! The LORD our God is the only true God! ⁵So love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. ⁶Memorize his laws ⁷and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning. ⁸Write down copies and tie them to your wrists and foreheads to help you obey them. ⁹Write these laws on the door frames of your homes and on your town gates.

We all have a responsibility to help our children grow up in the faith we share
Parents / Carers have a particular responsibility
This is all about us all learning!
We all inherit some of our parents' values
Habit- forming and helping younger children (Proverbs 22:6)
We don't know the end of the story for our children
No condemnation – we can only do our best
Children have to find their own way, with the right principles to help them

Issues of Lifestyle and Culture

Family-Time Famine – what are your family's priorities?
Job-first Culture – does the job or the family come first?
Marriage Fragility – pressures and cracks
Inconsistent Lifestyle – children learn by what they see and experience
Overworked Families – does church encourage families to burn out?
Parents know Best – need to ask questions and learn together
The role of parents – is this a shared desire and commitment?

Basics for Christian Community

LOVE (John 13:34-35)
HONOUR (Romans 12:10)
LIVE IN HARMONY WITH (Romans 15:15)
ACCEPT (Romans 15:7)
BUILD UP (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
GREET (Romans 16:16)
SERVE (Galatians 5:13)
CARRY BURDENS (Galatians 6:2)
BE KIND TO (Ephesians 4:32)

BE PATIENT WITH (Ephesians 4:2)

SUBMIT TO (Ephesians 5:21)

FORGIVE (Colossians 3:13)

CONFESS SINS TO (James 5:16)

ENCOURAGE (Hebrews 3:13)

Family Time with God

Regular time – everything else is put to one side, the diary is cleared, and this is planned in for everyone

Creative and Fun – time to enjoy being family, explore things by having fun and sharing, encourage laughter!

KISS Principle – Keep it short and simple!

Relevance – make sure that Bible passages, activities and discussion relate to family life and are grounded in children's experience

Prepared – use some of the resources currently available, give a bit of time for preparation, share preparation and leadership

Prayer – don't force, make it natural, physical contact is important

Some Simple Ideas

1. I spy God
2. Playing worship
3. Dice prayers
4. Making the cross
5. Whiteboard
6. Question Box
7. Post it prayers
8. Wool Prayers
9. Pass the Pray-er
10. Bible Bit
11. Bubble Praise
12. Real prayer at mealtimes
13. Bible twice!
14. Question time

Questions for your family

How strong is the faith of your family?

Do your children see a holistic approach to faith?

Have you split down gender lines?

What are the key obstacles to developing faith in your family?

Think Deuteronomy 6:6-7. What three ways can you do this?

What is your family atmosphere like?

How can you improve the atmosphere in your home?

What specific ways can you help your children see God's presence?