

Five Ideas to Help Your Family Spiritually

God wants your family to be a learning laboratory for spirituality (Deut. 6:6-9; Titus 2:1-8). Not only that, but He wants you to invest significant time and energy in helping your family go to heaven one day (Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6). How the world needs more Christian homes! Here are five practical ideas to help your family spiritually.

Prepare for Sunday – Christians should not forsake the assembly (Heb. 10:25), and parents have the responsibility to ensure that their family is ready for Sunday. Three simple suggestions: 1. Make a household rule that everybody gets plenty of sleep / rest on Saturday night – we have an appointment with the King on Sunday! 2. Lay out clothes and plan how breakfast will work before going to bed Saturday night. 3. Try to ensure and encourage a brief family time for quiet, still reflection on God and His will before leaving for worship – you can do it if you PLAN it (Ps. 46:10).

Declare a “No Grouchy Day” – Everybody would love to live in a home, “Where never is heard a discouraging word.” Why not intentionally make that a reality (at least for a day) in your home (Eph. 4:29)? Declaring a “No Grouchy Day” has two elements: 1. No critical, negative talk or language is allowed by any family member, regardless of their current mood or disposition. 2. Only positive, encouraging, gracious and uplifting language is to come out of our mouths (cf. Col. 4:6). Who wouldn’t want to live in a house like that?

Celebrate spiritual birthdays – Much is made of physical birthdays, but what about spiritual ones? Jesus said that we are, “Born of water and the spirit” when we are baptized (John 3:5). Why not celebrate the day a family member was baptized? Celebration ideas: 1. Have a special dinner and ask the birthday celebrant to recount the story of what led them to be baptized and who influenced them. Imagine the impact this could have on young children as well as older family members who have not been baptized! 2. Give the birthday celebrant a spiritually uplifting gift such as a new Bible, a helpful book, a collection of sermons on CD by great Gospel preachers of the past, a trip to a lectureship or workshop, etc.

Invite fellow Christians into your home – “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling” (1 Pet. 4:9). Why not make it a standard family practice to invite fellow Christians into your home? Have every family member be a part in preparations, because the results are worth the effort (1 Cor. 15:58). Relationships are strengthened, fellowship is enriched, and bonds are formed when Christians spend time with each other, “from house to house” (Acts 2:46). Not only do our kids learn many of their priorities in life from what they see their parents do, but we (Christians) also need each other, and thus we need to look for opportunities to be together more (cf. Philem. 7).

Attend a Gospel Meeting somewhere else, just because – Congregations all over our region regularly hold lectureships, seminars, singings and meetings where God’s

word is preached and His name is uplifted. Discretionary family time is certainly limited, but it is difficult to imagine a better way for a family to grow spiritually. By attending meetings like the ones mentioned, families have the opportunity to draw closer to God and also to encourage the saints in other places.

Time is fleeting, and your family will NEVER grow spiritually without some intentional choices. What is being seen in your house? (2 Kings 20:15). **--JB**