

THE JOURNAL

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*Growing Characters
for Eternity*

QUESTION AND ANSWER

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILY WORSHIP AND WAYS TO ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL GROWTH AT HOME?

DARLENE ANDERSON

Our family memorizes hymns. Our girls love those hymns they've learned, and we have fun singing them together. Also, we each share what we're learning in our own personal devotions—it's fun to hear our 13-year-old and 8-year-old share!

JANICE SCHMIDT

Scripture memorization is my favorite! We do it as a couple—no children old enough to talk yet. We choose a passage (three to five verses or so) and memorize it in one week.

KARYL BAHR KRIEGER

When our girls were still at home, we gathered on Friday evening after worship to talk around the supper table. It was somewhat of a free-for-all—Scriptures, lifestyle standards, sometimes church members (uh oh!), current events in light of Bible prophecy. Sometimes we asked, "What do you and your friends think about. . . ?"

DEBBIE BROWNFIELD

We don't have children in the home, so in the morning we each have our devotional time, then (on most days) we take our morning walk together and share new things we've read, learned, and discovered. Or we share what has encouraged and blessed us. It's a sweet time!

ROCHELLE PRICE

We have three girls under the age of seven. Each girl has a Bible, and they love just opening it randomly and pointing somewhere on the page for me or hubby to read. That's been fun!

OLIVIA TOUMAZOS-SMITH

With three kids (ages five, three, and two), it's mostly singing and getting them to act out whatever story we are doing. They LOVE the acting. And prayer is a major component, especially with the kids. It is amazing to see their prayers attain new depths as time goes on!

We like to hear your answers to questions like this. To participate, join our Facebook group online at www.facebook.com/groups/ministerialspouses/. Your answer could be featured in an upcoming issue of The Journal. Responses may be edited to fit the space.

Spending Time With Jesus— Your Best Forever Friend!

JESUS MADE YOU,
HE LOVES YOU, AND
HE HAS AMAZING
IDEAS AND STORIES
TO SHARE WITH YOU.
HE EVEN HAS SOME
SPECIAL WORK FOR
YOU TO DO, SO MORE
PEOPLE CAN DISCOVER
HOW MUCH HE LOVES
THEM, TOO.

WHEN WE HAVE A
SPECIAL FRIEND, WE
LOVE BEING WITH
THAT PERSON. HERE
ARE SOME GREAT
WAYS TO SPEND TIME
WITH JESUS, YOUR
BEST FOREVER FRIEND.

THE CHALLENGE

Spending time with Jesus can change your life! Try spending 5-10 minutes a day reading your Bible, doing something you enjoy based on what you have read, and praying to Jesus. Do it for a month, and look for the difference it makes in your life. It can help you to be a better friend; make wiser choices; and feel happier, more thankful, and less worried.

FIND A BIBLE

One of the secrets to spending special time with Jesus each day is having a Bible you understand and enjoy. Some Bibles have more pictures, some have activity ideas, and some have questions and stories to think about. Go to a store with your parents and look at the Bibles until you find one you like best.

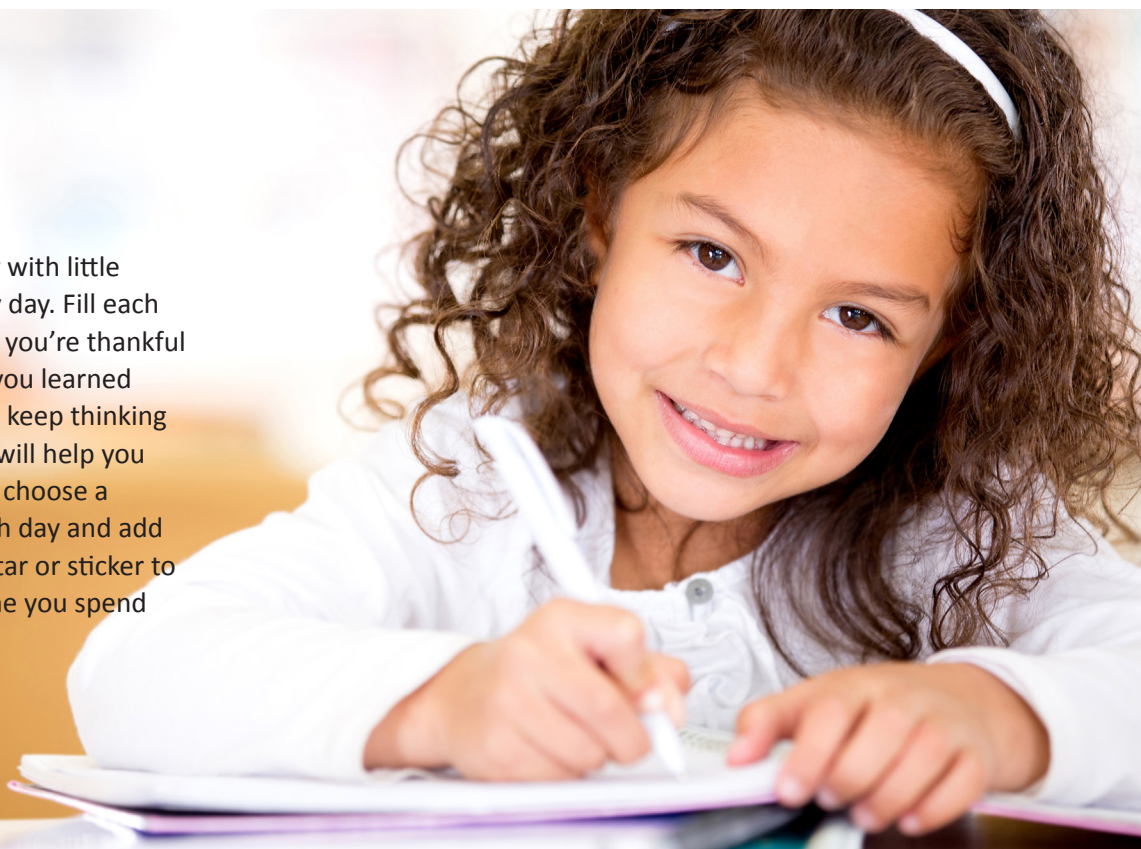
DIY WORSHIP KIT

Ask your parents to help you make a do-it-yourself (DIY) worship kit. Buy a box of index cards and divide them into two packs. Write creative ways of exploring a Bible passage on half the cards. Write Bible passages or story references on the other cards. Each day pick one card from each pack and do whatever the cards say. If the combination won't work, pick another card.



DIARY DATES

Find a diary or calendar with little spaces to write in every day. Fill each space with three things you're thankful for and one new thing you learned about Jesus. If it's hard, keep thinking and praying, and Jesus will help you know what to write. Or choose a favorite Bible verse each day and add it to your diary. Add a star or sticker to your calendar every time you spend time alone with Jesus.



EXPLORING STORIES

Here are some ways to bring Bible stories to life and imagine you're really there:

- Make or draw a scene from a Bible story. Use toy people and bricks to make Bible scenes, and tell the story to your family.
- Draw a picture of your favorite part of the story. Then write a few lines about why you chose this part. Keep your pictures in a journal or folder.
- Imagine that you are really in the story and think about what you would see, hear, smell, feel, and taste.
- Write a short journal entry as if you were watching Jesus perform miracles and tell stories. What would you say to Jesus? What questions would you like to ask Him, and how would you want to praise Him?
- Think about the characters in the story. Who made good choices and who made bad choices? How can they help you to make wise choices in your life?
- Ask yourself, *How does this story inspire me to be kind and loving to someone else?* Think of one thing to try, and then do it.

TALK TO JESUS

Make your prayer time more interesting with these simple ideas:

- Simple prayer outline:
 - Tell Jesus how much you love Him.
 - Thank Him for at least three things He has given you today.
 - Say you're sorry for at least one thing you have done wrong today.
 - Ask Him to help you, your family, and at least one other person.
 - Tell Him again how much you love Him!
 - Tell Jesus 26 things you're thankful for—one for each different letter of the alphabet.
- Fill a bag with different things that remind you to pray for people you know or for things your family needs. Choose one object each day and pray for the person or situation.

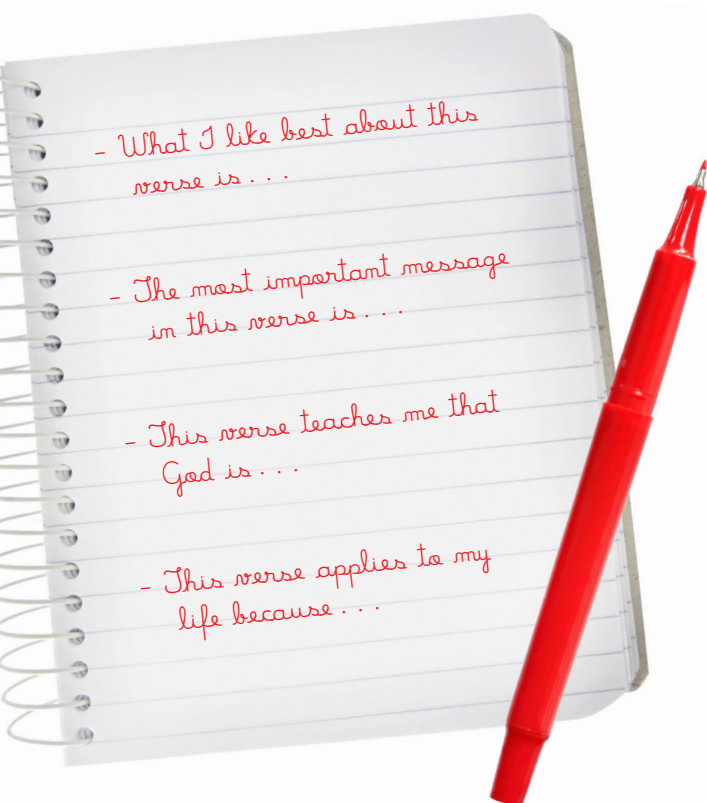
Spending Time With Jesus—Your Best Forever Friend!

JUST A VERSE OR TWO

Pray a simple prayer before you start reading. Ask Jesus to be with you as you read and to help you learn more about Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and inspire you. Then read a few verses each day. Read slowly and carefully. Think about what each verse means. Read until you find a verse that says something special to you.

Then try one of the following activities:

- Imagine you're designing a poster with that Bible verse on it. Find a picture that really helps to illustrate the verse. Or design your own poster using your favorite art, collage, and drawing techniques.
- Write the verse on a card or in a notebook. Then answer the following questions on the card or in your book:



- Imagine you're trying to explain this verse to someone who speaks another language. What pictures would you draw, or what action would you do, to help the person understand the Bible verse? Show your ideas to your family, or act out the verse and see if they can understand what it means.
- Find some objects that illustrate a verse and place them in order. Then see if your family can guess the verse you've chosen. For example, you could illustrate Psalm 119:105 by arranging a Bible, a torch, some shoes, and a map. (Can you guess which verse this is without looking it up?)
- Create your own secret code and write your verses in code.
- Cut the words and letters for your verse out of newspapers and magazines, then create a collage.
- Write a Bible verse on a small card and carry it in your pocket. If you're learning the verse, write it in code—just the first and last letter of each word—to help you remember the words.
- Choose a small object to remind you of a Bible verse, then carry it in your pocket. Think about the verse when you're walking, waiting, and resting. Listen to what Jesus wants to say to you.

7

Karen Holford loves to find creative ways to make worship a happy time for children and their families.

FOR EXTRA HELP AND IDEAS TRY THESE RESOURCES:

100 Creative Prayer Ideas for Kids, Karen Holford, Pacific Press, 2003.

100 Quick and Easy Worship Ideas for Kids, Karen Holford, Pacific Press, 2004.

100 Creative Ways to Learn Memory Verses, Karen Holford, Review and Herald, 2010.