

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- ☐ Pray daily for my child.
- ☐ Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- ☐ Bless my child daily.
- ☐ Schedule and have regular family times.

The next step on the Faith Path is *Prayer* at age 6. We will offer a free *Prayer* kit to guide you through this next step. Members of St. Paul will receive an invitation/reminder to pick-up resources and participate in a Take-It-Home event associated with this Milestone. Visit our web-site for more information: <http://fallsathome.com/faith-path/>

Recommended Resources

Bibles:

Day by Day Begin-To-Read Bible by Karen Henley

The Picture Bible from David C. Cook

The Action Bible: God's Redemptive Story from David C. Cook

Books:

"The One Year Devotions" (for boys, girls, kids, etc)

"Gotta Have God" (for 2-5 year olds, 6-9 year olds, 10-12 year olds, girls, boys, etc)

"God and Me" (for 2-5 year olds, 6-9 year olds, 10-12 year olds, girls, boys, etc)

Martin Luther's Small Catechism

Videos:

What's in the Bible (Volumes 1-13)

Veggie Tales (Various videos)

Other:

Read Thru the Bible: Family Discussion Guide (available at St. Paul)



Family Time Devotions

**Grow Together Intentionally
In Your Faith**

WHAT: When your child reaches about four years old, it is a great time to establish a pattern of family time devotions—intentional times to sit down, discover and dig into the truths of God’s Word and/or begin to understand God’s Story (and our story) as revealed through the accounts and letters of the Bible.

WHY: First and foremost it is our job as parents to teach and pass along the faith (see Deuteronomy 6: 4-9). Family time devotions are great way to be intentional in doing this. It is important to have a consistent routine of creating that will help your family deepen relationships and have faith discussions. Creating this structure may also help with behavior during worship as expectations are established and kids have greater connection to what is being discussed in worship.

WHEN: For many families this will take place shortly before bedtime (especially with younger kids). For other it may be done in the morning to get the day started. Still others may incorporate into meal or homework time-activities that are done on a daily basis. Decide what works for your unique schedule and then protect that time. You might need to say “no” to some good things to make family time devotions a priority. We suggest three times a week. But even scheduling something on the same night on a weekly basis can be a great start to building a routine. Keeping a regular schedule will show commitment and value to all involved.

WHAT TO STUDY: We recommend a devotional book or Bible that you can use each day—allowing you to simply picking up where you left off the previous day. We have listed several recommended resources on the back of this guide as possible places to start. You may also consider reading materials/scriptures that will be focused on in worship. At St. Paul we attempt to provide guides or at the very least scriptures to be covered in weeks to come. Ask a staff member for assistance in obtaining one of these resources.

LEADING YOUR FAMILY: For some, leading family devotions may be outside their comfort zone. Do not feel like you have to know everything. Start where you are at. Proceed one day at a time. If questions come up, please ask anyone on the St. Paul Ministry Team for help (Pastors, Children’s Director, Youth Director). Ask God for strength and wisdom.

GETTING STARTED--A SIMPLE/SAMPLE DEVOTIONAL PLAN:

Creating a routine can be beneficial, especially if family time devotions are new for your family. Here are some simple steps that can be followed:

1. Gather the family together in a comfortable place in your home.
2. Begin with a simple prayer asking God to bless your reading and discussion of His Word so that you can understand it and apply it to your life.
3. Have someone read the focus devotional reading from the Bible or devotional book you’ve selected.
4. Answer the questions provided or create some of your own: Think about what was read or the pictures: Who was in this story? What happened? Why did an event happen? What does _____ mean? Could you have done that? How do you think _____ felt?
5. Close with prayer. You may want to incorporate thoughts from the reading in your prayer. Also, be sure to include prayers for yourselves or people you know who need God’s help. Pray for God to bless our church’s ministry. Pray for our nation etc.

OTHER IDEAS

- Some families are very musical. They may want to consider singing a Christian song or two at some point during your devotion time.
- If you are reading the Bible, you may consider watching a video for a day or two that aligns with what you were just reading (see the back for possible resources)
- Older kids and adults may also want to consider keeping a devotional journal as you do your devotions. To assist you in journaling you may want to consider answering these 5 questions for each of the daily readings:
 1. What did you read today that was new or interesting?
 2. What did you read that reminded you of something you already knew?
 3. What did you read that you did not fully understand?
 4. What was God telling you specifically in this reading?
 5. What are you going to do based upon this reading?
- Take time to ask each member of the family to share his or her “high” and “low” of the day.
- For different ideas/ways to pray, pick-up Faith Path “Prayer”
- Depending on your family make-up, you may at times consider doing devotions separately with your kids.