The following resources were put together by my wife, and me. These are things we have created, read, used, are about to use, or believe to be good resources.

## Ideas for Family Worship

When it comes to Family Worship (family devotionals), I highly encourage you to use a version you can all understand (ESV, NASB, NKJV, HCSB, NIV, etc...). Take time to define new words and concepts for the kids as you go along. A good study Bible will have helpful explanatory notes.

- Read through the Book of Proverbs
  - Proverbs is all about wisdom. Try reading seven verses each day together and discussing the text. You will end up covering a wide variety of subjects.
- Read through a Book of the Bible
  - Books like Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, the gospels and Acts will flow like stories to the children because they are historical narratives. Read a chapter a day together and discuss what is going on.
  - It is sometimes useful to have a good Bible atlas and lay down on the floor together and get an overview of what was going on. Sometimes there will be interesting pictures of the locations or historical artifacts online that you can share with the kids and bring these narratives to life.
- Issue of the Day
  - What is a recurring issue in the home that has spiritual overtones? Use the opportunity to study what God has to say on the topic and then teach your children, applying the truth to real life as you go. Sometimes it is helpful to teach them the concept from Scripture and by an illustration separate from what is occurring first and then show them the connection to real life, just like Nathan did with David (2 Samuel 12:1-7)
  - What is going on with your children's friends or with family friends? Divorce, alcoholism, drug abuse, promiscuity, homosexuality, teenage pregnancy, fighting between parents and children, etc... are common in our culture. Rather than avoid these topics, teach them what God has to say in an age appropriate way. You are granting them God's perspective on life.
  - What is going on in your community, state, and country? Rather than having their perspective shaped by the media, you can influence them for the Lord. Study the topics yourself and show your family what God has to say about them. This is essential to building a Biblical Worldview and a spirit of discernment in your children.
- Prayer and Praise
  - Sometimes a time of sharing what God is doing in your lives, singing praise, and spending time together in prayer is just what is needed. It is good to ask your children what God is doing in their life. They need to be aware of His presence and what He is seeking to do within them.
- Use an Outside Resource
  - See the suggestions in the "Resources for Family Worship" section for ideas.

## **Resources for Family Worship**

- <u>Pilgrim's Progress in Modern English</u> by John Bunyan we are currently doing this; all the kids love it!
- <u>Devotions for the Children's Hour</u> by Kenneth N. Taylor we used these a lot when the kids were little
- <u>Heaven for Kids</u> by Randy Alcorn a study on heaven for kids, based on Alcorn's book, <u>Heaven</u>
- <u>www.doorposts.com</u> products
  - For Instruction in Righteousness A topical reference guide for Biblical Child-Training
  - <u>Polished Cornerstones</u> Projects for Daughters on a Path to Womanhood
  - <u>Plants Grown Up</u> Projects for Sons on the Road to Manhood
  - Brother-Offended Checklist Steps illustrated in chart form
  - <u>Checklist for Parents</u>-Self evaluation based on Scripture
  - <u>Beauty & the Pig</u> A Study of Godly Beauty
  - Pretty much anything they sell is useful.
- <u>www.anchoredresources.org</u> (free downloads)
  - <u>25 Gifts</u> Christmas devotional activity for the family during for December 1<sup>st</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>
  - o <u>Christmas Devotional</u> collection of devotionals for the month of December
  - Coming soon: <u>Christian Doctrines for Kids</u> a youth version of lessons based on J.M.
    Pendleton's Christian Doctrines
- <u>www.answersingenesis.org</u> products
  - Some good kids books that explore the connection between science and the Bible
- <u>The Secret of Handling Money God's Way</u> and/or <u>The ABC's of Handling Money God's Way</u> by Howard and Bev Dayton – The books vary their content by age. They are an excellent introduction to the concepts of stewardship, work, saving, giving, etc...
- <u>The Chronicles of Narnia</u> by C.S. Lewis Biblical themes flood this series. A discerning eye can use these wonderful tales to capture the imagination of their children and teach valuable lessons. You can even watch the new movies together after you finish reading a book.
- <u>History Lives Series Volumes 1-5</u> by Mindy and Brandon Withrow We are getting ready to start this series with our kids. It brings Christian history to life with brief biographies of significant individuals told in a narrative style that is meant to grab the attention of children 9-14.
- <u>Bible Survey for Kids</u> by Pastor Mike Fabarez This resource is a very brief overview of each book of the Bible for kids. It is meant to acquaint them with a major theme and character of each book. It includes some drawing/coloring and provides a framework for understanding the organization and content of God's Word.

## **Good Study Material on Parenting**

• <u>Teach Them Diligently: How to Use Scriptures in Child Training</u> by Lou Priolo – This is a very practical tool for parenting. Lou goes through the basics of biblical parenting and then gets very practical with specific advice. I used this quite a bit in formulating the presentation for this weekend.

- <u>The Heart of Anger</u> by Lou Priolo I found this book to be personally devastating but immensely helpful. It really helped me to see what I was doing wrong and begin to make changes that would be a blessing to my children. I highly recommend this book if you or your children have problems with anger. I even recommend it if you don't!
- <u>Shepherding a Child's Heart</u> by Tedd Tripp This is a fairly popular parenting book and is a good guide to getting to the "heart" of parenting. We want our children's hearts for the Lord, not just obedience.
- <u>Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens</u> by Paul David Tripp We are getting into this book as our daughter is nearing the teenage years.
- <u>A Homework Manual for Biblical Living Vol. 2 Family and Marital Problems</u> by Wayne Mack This book is designed for Biblical counselors, but the practical suggestions for "homework" can be invaluable. The book contains a list of common issues in the home, Scriptures that apply, and specific study resources that can help you understand and implement God's solutions.
- <u>Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling</u> by John G. Kruis This is meant for counseling, but many of the issues present in adults are found in embryonic form in our children. This is a great resource for applying Scripture to problems that come up in (our) and their lives.
- The Godly Home Series by Denny Kenaston
  - Available for free download on <u>www.sermonindex.net</u>
  - "Brother Denny" has a true passion for the home. He is from a sect of very conservative Christians living in Pennsylvania, but he excels when he speaks on the home. While some of their suggestions may seem a bit extreme, the heart of the message is generally right on.
- The Godly Home 5 part Series by Paul Washer
  - Available for free download on <u>www.sermonaudio.com</u>
  - I highly recommend first message regarding child evangelism. The messages also speak about the marriage relationship and courtship (dating).
- <u>The Faithful Parent</u> by Martha Peace and Stuart W. Scott This is a newer book but we have confidence in both authors, having met them and heard them speak on multiple occasions. We will likely be purchasing it to
- <u>Give them Grace</u> by Elyse Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson This book seeks to translate the concepts of living under a covenant of grace into how we parent our children.
- <u>Everyday Talk</u> by John Younts God's command to talk to our children in everyday life (Deut. 6) is the focus of this book. This is a good resource for seeing what that looks like in practice.
- <u>Christian Living in the Home</u> by Jay Adams This is a foundational book on the home written several years ago. Jay Adams has a very direct and refreshing style.