

Dear FRC Family,

Thank you for participating in our new Children's Ministry endeavor. This is certainly new territory in ministry, but we are more than excited to see how God will work within your family as we partner together for the faith formation of your child(ren) and family.

Partnership – that is the model of ministry we want to embody at FRC's Children's Ministries. We recognize the critical role that you play as a parent to raise your child to love and serve the Lord Jesus. Everything we do, whether it be Children&Worship or Sunday School (and now these Family Devotionals) is to help equip you to best fulfill your baptismal vows!

Prioritizing time for Family Worship and devotions is not easy. Now more than ever, are there competing forces for our time. But we whole heartedly believe (and church pew research suggests) that when parents take up an active role in their child's faith formation, as opposed to delegating to churches and schools, it drastically increases the likeliness of a faith that lasts into old age!

We love you and we are for you! So I just want to give you some guidance on how to best use these FRC Family Worship devotionals.

- Carve out 10 minutes of uninterrupted time, once a week, to sit down as a family and practice these devotionals
- **Everyone Helps.** Have every family member participate the best they can. The most readily available way to participate is by having those kids who can read, speak a couple of the "say" lines. The more 1 person does all the reading, the more boring it will get, and the quicker your kids will get distracted. So be engaging and try to have everyone participate.
- **Repeat After Me.** If your kids are not yet able to read – have them say a prayer in a "repeat after me" style. This can be a great way to model and teach your kids how to pray.
- **Repeat.** Another engaging practice could be a "repeat after me" of the key verse that is at the top of the second page.
- **Use a children's Bible.** You may certainly read from a normal Bible. But using one of your kid's very own Bible is better for a couple reasons. First, it will create a sense of ownership and pride in your kid when *their* Bible is being read from. Secondly, a children's Bible will be more accessible and engaging for the youngest of worshippers.
- **Location Matters.** Find a fun and comfortable space to do the devotions. Around the dinner table is nice, but people are spread out and it is not as conducive to a warm and welcoming setting. Consider sitting in a close circle on the floor in your living, or piling onto a bed, or a couch to participate in the devotionals. Be close physically and spiritually.
- **Just Sing.** At the beginning is the option to sing "Be Still & Know." The melody is available in the PDF version, and the printed versions. Our Children&Worship kids are familiar with this song so it can create a sense of continuity between church and home. You may feel free to sing this song OR if there is a worship song that your family loves, pull it up on YouTube or another music streaming service and sing it together. Even if you are not musical, just sing together!
- **Give it time.** This is a new rhythm. Don't expect your family to LOVE it right away. It takes a while to learn new things and become familiar with new practices. But as a parent, be consistent and enthusiastic about this practice and your kids will be sure to follow.