

TEACH YOUR CHILD...

When do you get together as a family? For meals... Trips out... Watching your favourite soap... How about to read the Bible together, and encourage each other in your relationship with God?



In this country, we're used to sending our children to school for their general education. So we do the same for their spiritual education by giving them to the children's and youth leaders at a local church. If you have good children's and youth groups at your church, that's something to thank God for. Your children will benefit hugely from them. But if we check out what the Bible says, we'll see that the responsibility for the spiritual education of children does not lie with the church, or its leaders. It lies with parents! Check out the verses in the fact box, to see this for yourself.

A key passage is Deuteronomy 6:

'These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.' Deuteronomy 6 v 6-7

Sitting at home, walking, lying down and getting up. This isn't Sunday morning stuff—it's every day living. So, how can you live out Deuteronomy 6 as part of your family life? Hopefully the following suggestions will help:

- Have a go at reading the Bible together, maybe at breakfast or after an evening meal. This needn't be long or difficult. Read a few verses, ask two or three simple questions, then pray together about what you've learnt.
- Do you walk to school, or the shops? Try to talk about Christian things—not in a forced way, but as a natural part of helping your child see the world through Biblical eyes.
- Use car journeys to play a tape of Christian songs or Bible stories, and then chat about what you've heard.

Fact Box:

Bible verses outlining parental responsibility for the spiritual education of their children.

Deuteronomy 6 v 4-9; 6 v 17-25; 32 v 46;
Psalm 78 v 1-8;
Proverbs 1 v 8; 22 v 6;
Ephesians 6 v 4;
2 Timothy 3 v 14-15



- Bed time is a natural chance to look back. What a great opportunity to pray with your child about their day and the fact that God has been with them.

If God has given you the gift of children, He has also given you the responsibility to teach them about Him. So make a start—and ask God to help you. He will!

Alison Mitchell, Children's Editor, The Good Book Company

Some resources to help families read the Bible together:

Table Talk contains three months of Bible reading notes for families (with children aged 4+). They are suitable for use at breakfast or an evening meal, and come complete with a wipe-clean cover!

XTB notes are designed for children aged 7-11. XTB is based on the same Bible passages as Table Talk, so that the two books can be used together, or separately, whichever suits you best.

The two **Advent Calendar Packs** combine a traditional advent calendar with a booklet of family Bible readings, so that families can explore the Bible together at Christmas.

Further details from The Good Book Company (0845 225 0880 www.thegoodbook.co.uk).

