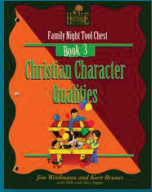


## Recommended Resources

All resources are available at the Palm Vista resource table in the Connection Center and at the websites indicated.



### FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILDREN

Family Night Tool Chest

by Jim Weidmann and Kurt Bruner | [www.heritagebuilders.com](http://www.heritagebuilders.com)

*Ideas and activities for communicating biblical truth and applying it to life*



Family Times Virtue Packs

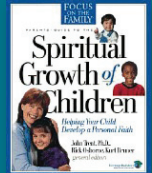
[www.familywise.org](http://www.familywise.org)

*Faith at home resources for wake-up time, drive time, meal time and bed time*

Parents' Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children

by John Trent, Rick Osborne and Kurt Bruner | [www.heritagebuilders.com](http://www.heritagebuilders.com)

*A concise and exhaustive guide to rearing children ages 0-12*

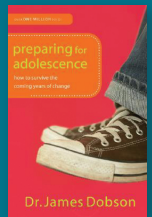


### FOR JUNIOR HIGHERS AND HIGH SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

Preparing for Adolescence

by James Dobson | [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

*A classic for junior high-aged children going through puberty*



Passport 2 Purity

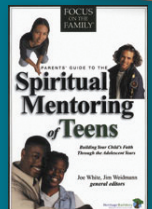
by Dennis and Barbara Rainey | [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)

*A complete guide that walks your high school-aged child through a purity commitment*

Parents' Guide to the Spiritual Mentoring of Teens

by Joe White and Jim Weidmann | [www.heritagebuilders.com](http://www.heritagebuilders.com)

*A concise and exhaustive guide to mentoring children ages 12-18*



# WORSHIPING TOGETHER

*Encountering God as a Family*



Palm Vista

17475 West Bell Road | Surprise, AZ 85374  
623-544-0561 | [palmvista.com](http://palmvista.com)

## *What is Worship?*

Worship is commonly associated with Christian songs and church services. While these things can be used to facilitate worship, they themselves are not worship.

Worship is the act of glorifying God. Everything one does can be an act of worship if it is done to glorify God and bring honor to Him (Romans 12:1-2).

## *What is Worship at Home?*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." God commands parents to build faith in the lives of their children by teaching them His words, found in the Bible. This is to be done not only at church but in common daily activities. When families learn the word of God together and apply it to their lives, that is worship at home!

## *Why Worship at Home?*

There are several benefits to worshipping together as a family.

- Inviting God into family life
- Deepening your faith as a family
- Growing closer to your spouse and children
- Modeling faith for your children to see

## *Why Don't We Worship at Home?*

There are many reasons why we do not worship at home. Do any of these apply to your family situation?

- I think my family would resist the idea
- Our schedule is too busy
- I am unclear on what worship at home looks like
- I do not feel qualified or equipped to lead something like this

## *Overcoming the Obstacles*

**BE INTENTIONAL:** Schedule a day and time for family worship and protect that block of time. Consider syncing the worship time with a predetermined time of family prayer.

**BE FLEXIBLE:** Involve the whole family in the process, and encourage input from everyone so they own this experience for themselves.

**BE PREPARED:** Utilize age-appropriate resources (see resource section) and familiarize yourself with the appropriate materials and passages of Scripture ahead of time.

**MAKE IT FUN!** Laugh, play and interact with your children. Incorporate games and activities. Put your whole heart into the worship at home experience and you will find your family following suit.

## *Ways to Worship Together*

Family worship should revolve around time spent contemplating God's word and applying it to one's life. There are several different ways to accomplish this.

### **LEARN AND INTEGRATE TOGETHER**

Ideal for preschoolers and most elementary-aged children, parents communicate the Bible message to the entire family, and the family processes it together, all at the same time.

### **LEARN INDIVIDUALLY AND INTEGRATE TOGETHER**

Ideal for older elementary-aged children and junior highers, children learn the Bible message in individual devotionals and then process it with the entire family at the worship time.

### **LEARN AND INTEGRATE INDIVIDUALLY**

Ideal for junior highers and high schoolers, children learn the Bible message in individual devotionals and then process it one-on-one with their mother or father.

## *"Doing Book"*

The third of these strategies is also the best way to lead your child through a book on puberty, purity or another issue or question they face. Simply set aside a day and time each week to read and discuss a chapter with your child. Call it "doing book" together. Even if your child is hesitant about it at first, they will love it by the end. Follow these guidelines to make your "book" time more enjoyable.

- Do book in their room. This will help your child feel as if you are meeting them on their terms, not on yours.
- Sit on the floor, and let your child sit on a chair or on their bed. This puts them in the driver's seat and helps them feel as if you are not "over" them.
- Resist the temptation to correct or discipline. This is a time for communication and discussion. Make book time a safe time for your child.
- Share your stories. The most valuable thing your child will take away from book time is not what they learn from the book but what they learn from you as you share your stories and experiences. These stories will make you more real and approachable to your child and build the foundation for a strong, ongoing relationship as your child approaches and reaches adulthood.

## *Incorporating Older and Younger Children*

It can be a challenge to worship as a family when there is a great difference of age between children. In such instances, utilize the technique most appropriate for the youngest children and challenge the older children to help lead a part of the family worship time. Allowing older children to contribute in such ways often bridges any gaps created by age differences and draws siblings closer together.