

## Building a Spiritual Family

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 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. "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates."

- Deuteronomy 6

Here are some suggestions on what this kind of spiritual life can look like. Also read: Psalm 127; Ephesians 5:1-4; Hebrews 12:9-11

1. Attempt to **share at least one daily meal as a family** and talk about how you are each integrating your lives into God's life as you address each days' stories.
2. Be a spiritual leader by learning to **cherish** your wife and **respect** your husband.
3. **Live in submission to the authority of the Word** - revere/honor God in your home.
4. **Maintain a spiritual relationship** with each one of your children/teens (this means alone time together). Continue to make new memories. Talk about Him together. Stay close - whatever the personal cost.
5. **Don't bow to external pressure** to conform to cultural family practices (be selective about opportunities such as sports/extra-curricular pursuits). Busyness is a trap. Industry is a virtue.
6. Be decisive and proactive about your family objectives and **protect your time** as a family (be consistent, teachable, and don't waffle).
7. Be appropriately honest about your **short-comings and family weaknesses** (be anti-arrogant).
8. **Pray daily** as a couple for the spiritual welfare of your children and grandchildren.
9. Engage in **spiritual family relationships** and interactions with others of like mind. How am I giving to others? How am I using my gifts? Am I supporting those who are praying for me and living lives of faith just as I am?
10. Pay attention to, anticipate, and **walk toward** the current challenges your family is facing.

**Most pertinent of the 10 suggestions above:**

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