

- Weave your reflection on God's Word with a study of the issues that confront you in your local and global community.
- Have conversations about how current events affect the way you live out your call to discipleship in God's world.
- Give children the opportunity to include Bible stories in their imaginary play. Set up play stations for them to act out specific stories—the Christmas story (Luke 2), Noah's ark (Gen 7-8), Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6), Jesus calm's the storm (Mark 4:37-39), Jesus feeding the 5000 (John 6).
- As you and your older children experience life's "ups and downs," invite them to consider some of the personal conversations David had with God about challenging times in his life. They are recorded in the book of Psalms.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths."
— Proverbs 3 5-6.

RESOURCES

- *The Home Altar*, a children and family devotional magazine by subscription
- *The Word in Season* or *Christ In Our Home*, adult devotional magazines by subscription.

They are available from Augsburg Fortress Publishers: 800/426-0115, ext. 639

Your pastor or church leader has access to number of catalogs that provide information on additional resources. You might also browse local Christian bookstores for other resources.



study

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faith practices: STUDY

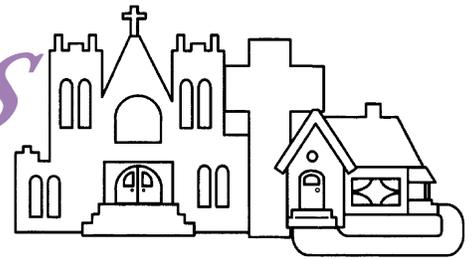
"Be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may discern the will of God, what is good, perfect and acceptable."

— Romans 12:2b

- L** As disciples, we are called to do the things that enrich our journey with Jesus. Studying God's Word reveals God's presence and activity throughout history and refreshes our lives today. How shall we respond to the privilege to grow in our faith?
- C** Lord, renew our minds that our lights may shine.
- L** Shall we be open to the proclamation of God's Word as inspiration for our faith in daily life?
- C** Yes! Lord, renew our minds that our lights may shine.
- L** Shall we join with others in life-long learning through Bible study and small group support?
- C** Yes! Lord, renew our minds that our lights may shine.
- L** Shall we engage in personal study and meditation upon God's Word through regular devotion and prayer?
- C** Yes! Lord, renew our minds that our lights may shine.
- L** Leaders in homes and families, will you become familiar with Luther's Small Catechism and share age-appropriate Bible stories, psalms and prayers as you nurture faith in your home?
- C** Yes! Lord, renew our mind that our lights may shine.
- L** Children, will you be ready to learn how you can follow Jesus as you read and listen to God's Word?
- C** (Children and Youth) Yes! Lord, renew our minds that our lights may shine.
- L** Join me, in prayer, as we honor our call to discipleship.
- C** Lord, help us to make the study of your Word a priority in our daily lives. Amen

nurturing lifestyles

that are Christ's style



STUDY

These pages will help people in whatever family relationships they live to honor their call to discipleship as they grow in their knowledge and understanding of God as their Creator, Savior and Friend.

"I pray that God may grant that you be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit as you are being rooted and grounded in love."

— *Ephesians 3:17b-18*

BRINGING IT HOME

When was the last time you needed to refer to something or someone other than yourself to accomplish something?

Identify some of the things you may have used—a map or road sign, a recipe, an advertisement, tv guide, a book or self-help resource, a personal comment, critique or piece of advice.

We take guidance from these "informers" all the time. They help us know who we are and where we are and guide us as we seek to accomplish things in safe and healthy ways.

A commitment to follow Jesus involves the same kind of prompting. We need daily direction and encouragement to "stay on track." If we want to grow in our understanding and devotion to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, it is vital that we read the Bible and gain ongoing insight and inspiration for daily life.

Identify some ways you can stay "on track" with Jesus.

Look through the following ideas that will help you learn more about how God is active through the word in your life. Choose one, two or more. Feel free to adapt them to your situation.

- Display symbols of faith in your home at a level everyone can see (e.g., pictures of Jesus, crosses, Bible quotes, etc.).
- Purchase Christian CDs, videos and cassettes to provide contemporary interpretations of Bible stories and concepts.



- Share Bible stories that relate to ongoing activities in your life.

Parades	Mark 11:1-11 (Palm Sunday)
Picnics	John 6:1-14 (Feeding the 5000)
Fishing	John 21:1-14 (The miracle of the fish) Jonah 1 (Jonah and the Great Fish)
Gardening	Matthew 4:30-32 (The Mustard Seed) Luke 8:4-8, 11-15 (The Sower)
Camping	Genesis 28:10-22 (Jacob's Ladder)
Travel	Luke 2:41-52 (Jesus in the temple) Luke 2:1-7 (The trip to Bethlehem)
Sightseeing	Genesis 1:1-31 (Creation Story)
Boat rides	Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus Calms a Storm) John 6:16-21 (Jesus Walks on Water)
Zoo	Genesis 6:9-8:22 (Noah's Ark)

The Bible was written by over 40 different authors over 1,600 years and yet it all has the same basic theme and message.

- Choose age-appropriate Bibles and devotion books to ground your family faith discussions in a Bible story or verse.
- Learn Bible verses that promote healthy behavior, such as "May the Words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord," and post them on your refrigerator.
- Attend intergenerational and age-specific classes to grow in knowledge and faith with others.
- Immerse your family in Christian community and experience Bible truths and promises through song, study, creative arts, relaxation and recreation. Consider spending part of your family vacation at a Bible camp.
- Preview movies and TV programming through a faith lens. Question whether they will enrich your hearts or tempt you to stray from God's way?