



*from the desk of*  
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## **Talk about them when you sit at home.... (Part Two)**

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NIV) 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 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. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Last week I shared some research that points to the benefits to your child's faith through your having some type of religious dialogue with your children at home. I also posited that we don't do this perhaps because we're not sure just how to talk about the faith or we've just allowed either ourselves or our children to be over scheduled.

Sometimes the only way to break a habit is to just do something. Here are at least some strategies you can start with.

First, if you don't know what to say about your faith, at least open up the conversation. Here's some strategies.

After church next Sunday, depending on the age of your child, ask some questions.

1. *What did you think of the sermon?* Of course, this presupposes that-- (a) You were actually there in church; (b) That you listened; (c) That they listened.

2. *Was there anything you heard at church today that made you wonder, "How could that be true?"* The problem here could be you might not be able to explain it either. But then you could study the issue and seek out answers together.

3. *How do you think we do here as a family in living up to what was taught today/how can I apply this to my life?* Of course, you might run the risk of hearing something you don't want to hear, but better to discuss it than have your young person just think it - and young people don't like things that are hypocritical.

In addition to worship, each week I send out what the Sunday School class lessons are to be about, along with some discussion questions. Talk about these.

Other resources that won't cost you anything include for younger children the monthly Happy Times magazine. For early elementary you can use the Quarterly My Devotions. For older youth some options include get daily devotionals from the Lutheran Hour ([lh.m.org/dailydevotionals](http://lh.m.org/dailydevotionals)); LCMS Youth Ministries offers a selection of devotionals at <http://youthsource.com/source-devotions/>; I can also humbly offer my "Thought for the day" found on our church Facebook page - or for many of you already sent as a text to you daily.

Remember that just like it isn't really effective to stop a habit "cold turkey," don't expect to suddenly have a thriving family devotional life. Add this one part at a time - help make the faith "stick" with your kids.

DCE Randy