

# Growing Deeper

Rooted and Grounded in Love



Noah & Oliver Sundseth, Minneapolis, Minnesota

## Christian Practices for the Home

by the Central Plains Mennonite Conference  
Congregational Ministries Committee

Download this packet at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org).

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For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.  
I pray that, according to the riches of his glory,  
he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being  
with power through his Spirit,  
and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,  
as you are being rooted and grounded in love.  
I pray that you may have the power to comprehend,  
with all the saints,  
what is the breadth and length and height and depth,  
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,  
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

–Ephesians 3:14–19

# Introduction

Welcome to “*Growing Deeper – Rooted and Grounded in Love.*” The purpose of this packet is to give families ideas and tools for forming faith in the home. The Congregational Ministries Committee (CMC) of Central Plains Mennonite Conference has created this packet for the families of our conference. Our hope is that you will find this material helpful to your own family’s spiritual growth, and that you’ll discover new ways of drawing closer to God and to each other.

## Parents Matter Most

The 2003 National Study on Youth and Religion found that “The single most important influence on the spiritual lives of adolescents is their parents.” In youth ministry circles today, the strong consensus is that by the time a child reaches adolescence, their faith habits and patterns are already formed by the example of their parents. Back in the 1500s, Martin Luther wrote the first catechism to equip parents to teach their children the basics of the faith in the home. The lessons and activities in Sunday School, Bible school and other settings build upon the foundation laid at home, and cannot effectively *replace* it.

So, we want to equip parents for this important task of nurturing faith in their children. As we developed this packet, we asked several families to use this material as a “pilot.” They felt that doing the activities along with other parents would have helped them stay focused and increased their learning. In light of this, we suggest that small groups and Sunday School classes use this material together, checking in with one another on a regular basis, sharing experiences and ideas, and processing your learning together.

## Practical Tools

This packet gives you tools for a two month time frame, suggesting a number of possible spiritual practices with an emphasis on the Examen. The Examen is the practice of asking every evening, *For what moment today am I most grateful?* and *For what moment today am I least grateful?* This practice is introduced and further described in the book *Sleeping with Bread: Holding What Gives You Life* by Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn and Matthew Linn. Hopefully, this book accompanies this packet. The CMC has given a copy of this book to every congregation in our conference with the intent that your family will check it out and use it with this packet. You can order your own copy from a local bookstore or on Amazon.com.

In addition to the Examen, many other spiritual practices are listed in the following pages. Our hope is that your family will commit to trying on one or several new spiritual “practices” during the two months.

## Take Stock

Before you begin, take a few moments to answer the questions on page 3. Please note that the spiritual practices listed are just some of many possible examples. We don’t expect you to be doing *all* of them, but we’d like to encourage you to try some new ones during this project. You

may already be doing some of these things without even realizing that they are spiritual practices! Also, some of these practices can be incorporated in your schedules throughout the day, and don't necessarily have to be done at a set time when you're all together as a family. The purpose of these questions is to help you to notice the growth and changes that take place during the next two months.

### **Journal and Reflect**

The journaling segment of the project is meant to help you reflect on the practices you are trying out. We suggest that you journal/reflect at least four times during these two months, but of course, more would be even better! The journal questions appear once in the packet, but can be photocopied for each week you fill them out. In addition, this packet is on the web as a PDF at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org). Click on Ministries, then Congregational Resources. Print individual pages as you wish.

### **Wrap Up**

At the end of the two months, answer the questions on page 4 as a way to record the spiritual practices you have tried and reflect on how they have helped your family grow in faith.

### **More Tools and Ideas**

Starting on page 6, you will find several additional resources to support your family in becoming "rooted and grounded in love." We wish you every blessing as you work intentionally to help your family grow in the "grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ."

### **2010 Congregational Ministries Committee**

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## Spiritual Practices in the Family

### Before you begin...

What are your family's *current* spiritual practices? Check all that apply.

- Prayer before meals.  
How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally
- Family devotion time, including reading the Bible together.  
How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally
- Prayer at bedtime.  
How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally
- Reading Bible stories together.  
How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally
- Service projects as a family. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Reading story books that reinforce Christian values and practices.  
How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally
- Hospitality: inviting other families or individuals to share a meal with you.  
How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally
- Singing and listening to music together.  
How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally
- Gardening and preserving food.
- Tithing and other charitable giving. Describe how you discuss this with your children and involve them in the giving: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Describe other practices that are intentionally Christian: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**After two months...**

1) What spiritual practices did your family find most rewarding? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) What spiritual practices will you commit to continuing or taking on regularly? Check all that apply.

\_\_\_ Prayer before meals.

How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally

\_\_\_ Family devotion time, including reading the Bible together.

How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally

\_\_\_ Prayer at bedtime.

How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally

\_\_\_ Reading Bible stories together.

How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally

\_\_\_ Service projects as a family. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Reading story books that reinforce Christian values and practices.

How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally

\_\_\_ Hospitality: inviting other families or individuals to share a meal with you.

How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally

\_\_\_ Singing and listening to music together.

How often?  daily  weekly  occasionally

\_\_\_ Gardening and preserving food.

\_\_\_ Tithing and other charitable giving. Describe how you discuss this with your children and involve them in the giving: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Others: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) What changes have you noticed in yourself and in your family as you have tried new spiritual practices?

4) What will be the next steps for your family's spiritual growth?



# Four Keys to Nurturing Faith in the Family

These four keys provide the arenas where spiritual growth in families and households may be nurtured. As they are embraced and practiced in the home, they open doors to other opportunities for faith development in the broader community and also serve as the means to strengthen congregational vitality through healthy, nurturing, faithful homes.

## Caring Conversation

Caring conversations express an interest in others, their hurts, their joys, their concerns and dreams, their values, their questions and their faith. Caring conversation requires a time commitment from both parents and children so that all members are available and ready to listen and to speak. Congregations are encouraged to assist families in finding ways to make this time possible. Families must be enabled to identify the “holy ground,” the holy times of their lives where precious, caring conversations take place and where lives are strengthened and nurtured by connecting with the love and mercy of God through the support, guidance and interest of others.

## Family Devotions

A devotional life is a way to practice the presence of God through the word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Many families need assistance in discovering both how powerful a devotional life can be and how to begin and maintain this practice. Family devotions have the potential to bind generations together in faithfulness. This key fortifies the values that show how we as Christians operate from a different foundation than the rest of the world.

## Family Service

Serving one's neighbor is the calling all are given through the life and message of Jesus Christ. Service is a concrete expression of one's own faith and values and is a reflection of the love we have first received from God. Family and inter-generational service projects have been shown to be a vital way to pass on faith from generation to generation. Children and youth are greatly influenced by what they see modeled in the lives of others, especially parents and other family members.

## Family Rituals and Traditions

Rituals and traditions are those patterns of behavior that can be expected to occur on a routine basis and communicate meaning in life. The way family members greet each one another each day, table graces, bedtime prayers, blessing of a child at birthdays, baptism or anniversary celebrations are all examples of family rituals and traditions that serve as foundations and opportunities for faith nurturing. As these special times are developed in the family, they become family traditions which shape expectations and enhance a sense of belonging.

# It Can Happen!

## Oodles of Ideas for Nurturing Faith in Your Family

*It Can Happen* is a companion piece to the *Four Keys*. These ideas represent a starting place. Brainstorm with your family and congregation for additional ways for faith nurturing to happen naturally in the family setting. Space has been left in each area for you to add ideas.

### Caring Conversation

- Talk about Sunday Morning Worship service. Ask open-ended questions and then listen.
- Be available, anytime, anyplace to listen.
- Put down the paper, turn off the TV, and look each other in the eye!
- Use materials and discussion questions from Sunday school materials to initiate conversations about faith topics. The Gather 'Round *Talkabout* is designed for this. Ask your Sunday School superintendent how to get it.
- Talk about how you make big decisions such as buying a new computer or car, relocating, or getting a different job based on how you live out your faith.
- Tell stories about your conversion experience, baptism and other pivotal moments in your faith development.
- Encourage extended family members to share stories about their lives and how their faith impacted them along the way.
- Sit and talk at the table together during and after a meal.
- Use current events or your community and the world (war, school shootings, banned books) to converse about how a person's faith can serve as a guide for behavior and decisions.
- Tell jokes and humorous stories to each other.
- Talk about difficult situations kids might be facing and help them come up with new options.
- Send a postcard or letter to family and friends near and far; parents, tuck a note or scripture verse in their bookbag.

### Family Devotions and Worship

- Prepare a family worship center as a focal point for prayer, silence, Bible stories. Change the visuals according to seasons of year or special holidays.
- Do regular family Bible Study, or simply read the Bible out loud. Take turns.
- Ask each person present to offer a sentence prayer.
- Practice regular bedtime prayers and reflections time.
- Celebrate the church year with special table center pieces. All family members can contribute to the design/display/creation.

- Learn to sing meal graces together, from the hymnal, from church camp, or create your own.
- Use meal-time prayers as a time to pray for neighbors, playmates, school friends, church folks.
- Put Christmas cards in a basket and have a different family member pull one out each evening, then pray for them and their family. This can also be done with photographs you receive throughout the year, or pray through the church directory.
- Keep your church bulletin or newsletter on the table and offer prayer for concerns listed there.
- Connect with a service or missions worker, read about them and pray for them.
- Visit a bookstore for ideas to buy or check out prepared family devotional books, or check them out of the Western District Conference Resource Library at [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org).
- Have an "old fashioned" devotional time, where the scripture is read from a grandparent's Bible and in their language. Sing a hymn typical of that time as well. If possible, have grandparents present!
- Visit a cathedral or synagogue or worship with another denomination.
- Remember to have devotions and prayer even when company is present who may not have this practice in their own home.
- Learn and do a table grace your grandparents used, in that language.
- Have one evening a week when you only thank God for the blessings of that day (no requests!)
- Walk around your house, yard, neighborhood together as a family and pray audibly or silently as you go. Include prayers of thanks, blessing and petition.
- Meet with another family on a regular basis to eat, talk, pray and share stories.
- Go on a parent-child spiritual retreat.

## Family Service Projects

- Volunteer as a family at a regional Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) warehouse/thrift shop. Or collect and assemble school or refugee kits.
- Sponsor a family through a refugee service. Pray for them, learn about them and their culture.
- Invite another family to join you on a service project.
- Clean up the ditches together!
- Offer to help an elderly person prepare their yard/house for winter or do spring clean up.
- Sponsor a needy family at Christmas time. Buy and wrap gifts together as a family.
- Shop for supplies for a refugee or school kit together. Ask each family member to contribute to cost.
- Work at the MCC Sale!
- Buy at the MCC Sale!

- Volunteer at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
- Help clean up after disaster strikes - do Mennonite Disaster Service together as a family.
- Plan your vacation so you can stop and participate in a service project along the way.
- Talk about money issues. Encourage your children to tithe a portion of their allowance/earnings. Balance a checkbook or pay bills together.
- Support the projects your congregation and denomination are organizing.
- Send a care package to college students, missionaries or voluntary service workers.
- Offer to provide baby-sitting/childcare for another family.
- As a family, prepare and deliver a meal to a new family in the community or to a child's Sunday School teacher, pastor, etc.

## Family Rituals and Traditions

- Celebrate special days with extra effort: flowers, songs, banners, special foods.
- Offer prayers of thanksgiving and blessing on the birthday of all family members.
- Use the best china, dress up the dining room for special days.
- Light a candle at meal time or during Bible reading to signify the presence of Christ.
- Re-tell stories on special days...story of a birth, a baptism, a spiritual birth.
- Read from journals that have been kept to record a person's life story.
- Do a special activity that recognizes the changing of the seasons.
- Use an advent calendar or advent wreath as you prepare for Christ's birth.
- Have a family reading time and read books about Christian role models, biographies or issues that you can discuss.
- Hug each other as you leave for school, work each morning and as you return each night.
- Say something lighthearted to each other each day - like *...you are my sunshine; God bless you real good today; I'm blessed to be your dad, mom, etc.*
- Establish special evenings or meals to be celebrated monthly or weekly...salad Sunday, pizza night, picnic, game night, when the TV, computer and phone are off limits.
- Begin a Faith Chest when a child is born. Add items to it each year on birthdays or at important milestones such as going to school, baptism, getting driver's license. Each item should have significance to individual and family as well, and the ritual of presenting the item should be connected to faith nurturing.
- Serve special meals on certain occasions.
- Choose and donate a book to your church library in honor of a family member's birthday.
- Read the same book together every summer/Christmas, etc.
- Have every family member sign their own names on birthday, anniversary, etc. cards.

# Faith Formation at Home

## Books for Children

Bible Stories, Devotionals, Prayers, and Stories of Faith

Reading to children is a very effective way to instill faith. These books introduce Bible stories, prayers and stories of faith to children. The stories we hear and reflect on powerfully shape us. When reading together, reflect on the story's similarities to your own lives and pray together.

From Good Books [www.goodbks.com](http://www.goodbks.com) or 1-800-762-7171

### Board Books

**My Little Bible Board Book** by Christina Goodings, illustrated by Melanie Mitchell

This colorful board book retells 20 beloved Bible stories from beginning to end in simple language that allows young children to explore the Bible for themselves. These short stories highlight key aspects of the Christian faith—love, obedience, and trust. The padded cover and rounded corners are designed for everyday play. 40 pages 5½ x 67/8 inches \$9.99

Board books by Lois Rock; illustrated by Alex Ayliffe. Each book below is 16 pages, 5 3/4 x 6 1/2 inches, \$5.99

**Baby Jesus** captures the story of the first Christmas.

**The Lost Sheep** tells of the shepherd who loses one of his 100 sheep and looks until he finds it.

**Noah and the Ark** retells the beloved story of Noah and the animals.

**Our Father** teaches The Lord's Prayer and explains the meaning behind each phrase of the prayer.

**Daniel and the Lions** captures the high drama of Daniel's encounter with lions and his eventual deliverance in this story about being faithful.

**The Good Samaritan** retells the well-known parable that Jesus told about helping those who are in need.

**Jesus and His Friends** shows how Jesus invited children, fishermen, tax collectors, and others to be his friends.

**Jonah and the Whale** takes young readers into a boat, on the sea, and finally onto Nineveh to learn about God's forgiveness.

This trio of books is designed for [children ages 0-4](#).

**My Very First Bible** by Lois Rock, pictures by Alex Ayliffe 256 pages; \$18.99

Toddlers everywhere will be drawn to this warmly colorful and friendly Bible. Its stories of Jesus are full of love and tender kindness. The old, old stories are told simply yet faithfully and with great respect for the original text. Among the 20 favorites are "Grandfather Abraham," "Brave Joshua," "David and His Song," "Jesus and His Friends," "The Hole in the Roof," and "A Prayer for Always."

**My Very First Prayers** by Lois Rock, pictures by Alex Ayliffe 158 pages, \$14.99

Here are prayers about all the things in a child's world . . . discovering oneself, living in a family, meeting new friends, exploring the world, celebrating the festivals, feeling happy, feeling sad, and learning about the love of God through the bright and busy day and the dark and quiet night.

**My Very First Bedtime Storybook** by Lois Rock, pictures by Alex Ayliffe 128 pages, \$14.99

This collection of 10 stories and matching blessings offers steady resolution and hope, each with bright and lively illustrations and language. Each story draws on one of Jesus' parables but stands alone on its own; each one is retold to reflect the everyday world of young children.

**My First Bible** by Pat Alexander, pictures by Leon Baxter

Here are more than sixty Bible stories, especially chosen for young children; a foundation on which to build a growing knowledge of the Bible. They have been selected for their importance in the big story of God to the rescue, which the whole Bible tells. Beginning with the creation of our world by a God who loves and cares for people, they move through the story of the nation of Israel and its leaders to the life of Jesus and what follows. These stories can be clearly understood, and they are fun to read, to share, and to enjoy. In fact, they are at their best when read aloud. 480 pages \$14.99

This pair of books is designed for 7-12 year-olds

**The Bible for Children** by Murray Watts, illustrated by Helen Cann

Here are 200 Bible stories that are faithful to the meaning and spirit of the original Scripture. The imaginative style reflects the variety of the biblical and comprehensively cover key themes of the Bible. The colorful illustrations add meaning to the stories, drawing readers into the emotion and power of all that happens. 352 pages \$23.99

**Prayers for Children** by Rebecca Winter, illustrated by Helen Cann

This book includes more than 200 prayers arranged into five main sections. Both traditional and newly written prayers are paired with detailed illustrations that invite a moment's worship through all of life. Altogether, the volume is designed to encourage older children to explore their own ways of praying. The prayers are fully indexed by subject and first line, making the book a useful resource for home, church, and school use. 160 pages \$14.99

This book can stand alone or serve as a companion volume to *The Bible for Children*.

From Herald Press [www.heraldpress.com](http://www.heraldpress.com) or 1-800-245-7894 ext. 278

**Nursery Happy Times Book** by Katherine Royer

Here are 23 short stories for 3-to-4-year-olds about Sunday school, the four seasons, food, bedtime, play, snow, grandparents, rain, singing, growing, and birthdays—all illustrated with full-page four-color artwork. Each story has a verse of Scripture which is appropriate to the story. 48 pages \$5.99

**Nursery Songbook** by Katherine Royer

Twenty-five songs celebrate the young child's special delights which God gives—family, playmates, playful pets, sunny days, starry nights, butterflies, fireflies, flowers, birds, snowflakes, raindrops, Sunday school, Christmastime, and Jesus' love. Includes 27 four-color pictures. 48 pages \$5.99

Also available in a book and CD set along with the *Sing, Little Children, Sing CD* for \$17.99.

**Sing, Little Children, Sing CD** performed by Becky Degan

These Bible-based nursery songs from the *Nursery Songbook* are presented in a fun, modern-day style that will engage children in the joy of praising God's creation. The songs are perfect for children aged pre-school through second grade, and can be used in the home, Sunday school classes and music classes. \$15.99

**101 Devotionals for Children** by June Galle Krehbiel

Written for children, these 101 readings are suitable for family, personal, group or congregational worship. Each devotional contains a Bible reading, key verse, reading, prayer and clincher. 176 pages. \$9.99

**God with Us Today** by June Galle Krehbiel

This book offers a warm, inviting way to share devotions at home. Each of the 100 devotions includes a brief meditation on a scripture passage, a prayer, and some questions that explore how God is reaching out to each of us. 216 pages. \$12.99

**Little Stories for Little Children** by Donna McKee Rhodes

This collection of 52 concise children’s stories communicates Christian faith to children in simple, engaging and meaningful ways. Great for family devotions. 128 pages. \$8.99

**Children's Illustrated Bible** by Eve MacMaster

The Bible is rich in stories that teach, fascinate, and encourage young people. *The Children's Illustrated Bible* retells these stories with clear simple language and colorful artwork on each page or spread. The young child will move from reading to discovery. Originally published as a 10-volume paperback series which was published in English and translated in several languages, including Russian, the books have been brought together into one volume. 498 pages \$22.99

**Songs to Live By I and II**

How can we pass on our faith to our children and grandchildren? How can we help children learn and enjoy the inspiring music of our faith? These were the questions guiding musicians and coordinators through the development of this CD recording. Features 16 hymns and songs sung by both adults and children along with a variety of instrumentation. \$15.99

Also available: **Sing the Story and Sing the Journey CDs**; two CDs for each songbook. \$15.99 each

**Storybooks are an important resource for faith formation.**

**Good Books:** See [www.goodbks.com](http://www.goodbks.com) → Children’s books for many storybooks for young children.

**Herald Press Books for 4-8 year-olds:**

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Bully Bill               | Sleep in Peace   |
| Chinese Eyes             | Henner’s Lydia   |
| Cups Held Out            | Skippack School  |
| The Family Song          | Thee, Hannah!    |
| Mattie Mae               | Yonie Wondernose |
| Rachel, A Hutterite Girl |                  |

**Herald Press Books for 8-14 year-olds:**

The Cost of Passage, Elisabeth and the Windmill, Finding Anna Bee, Henry’s Red Sea, Katelyn’s Affection, Margaret’s Print Shop, Michael Faraday: Father of Electronics, On Fire for Christ, Tirzah, Treasure Hunt: A Shenandoah Valley Mystery, Virginia and the Tiny One, When Lightening Strikes, When the River Calls

also, Louise Vernon’s Religious Heritage Series:

- The Beggar’s Bible – John Wycliffe
- The Bible Smuggler – William Tyndale
- Doctor in Rags - Hutterites
- A Heart Strangely Warmed – John Wesley
- Ink on His Fingers – Johann Gutenberg
- Key to the Prison – George Fox
- The King’s Book – King James Bible
- The Man Who Laid the Egg - Erasmus
- Night Preacher – Menno Simons
- Peter and the Pilgrims – the Separatists
- The Secret Church - Anabaptists
- Thunderstorm in the Church – Martin Luther

# Faith Formation at Home

## Resources for Parents

Ideas for nurturing faith at home

### Talkabout

If your church uses Gather 'Round material, be sure to ask for the *Talkabout*. It comes on a CD or as a download that each church orders. It includes creative resources to help parents and children enjoy talking about Bible stories and applying them to their everyday lives. There are monthly calendars, weekly pages, and bulletin notes that can be e-mailed, printed, or placed in church bulletins and newsletters. See a sample at [www.gatherround.org](http://www.gatherround.org).

### Shalom Readers Club

This is designed to be implemented as a club at church, but the book list is a good source of suggestions for books to read at home. Parents or adult leaders help children aged 4 through 14 select and read books from a list specially chosen to teach core Christian values from an Anabaptist understanding. If children read seven books and give reports on two of them, they may earn a gift book of their choice from the list. Go to [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org) and click on Shalom Readers to find the book list or to learn how to start a club at your church.

### Music

Music has the power to shape the listener. Play music in the background as children play, to encourage quiet time, to entertain in the car and to sing together. Herald Press offers **Sing, Little Children, Sing; Songs to Live By I and II**, and two CDs each of **Sing the Journey** and **Sing the Story** songs. Find them in the online store at [www.heraldpress.com](http://www.heraldpress.com).

### Storybooks

Reading to children is a very effective way to instill faith. The stories we hear and reflect on powerfully shape us. When reading together, reflect on the story's similarities to your own lives and pray together. The list of books on page 10 can also be found on the Central Plains web site at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org) → Congregational Ministries.

### Video

**Rhythms of Peace** Go to [www.heraldpress.org](http://www.heraldpress.org) and enter "Mr. Fredd" into the search box  
Video on peacemaking for children ages 8-11. Comedian host Mr. Fredd introduces stories which are antidotes to the media images of violence that children grow up with in today's society. Helps children discuss ways to solve conflict peacefully. This award-winning video includes four stories: An Eye for an Eye (consequences of taking revenge); Tea for Everyone (appreciating our differences); Rhythm Makers (the negative impacts of war toys); The Sun and the Wind (the power of love). The "Home Package" comes with a brief study guide for parents watch the video with their children for maximum teaching value. 35 min. \$19.95

## **Books for Parents**

### **How to Really Love Your Child** by Dr. D. Ross Campbell

In this best-selling book, Dr. D. Ross Campbell reveals the emotional needs of a child and provides parents with the skill and techniques that can begin to help make your child feel truly loved and accepted. Learn to really love your child through every situation of child rearing from physical touch to discipline and from affirmation to spiritual nurture. 144 pages \$12.99

See also **How To Really Love Your Teenager** and **How to Really Love Your Angry Child**.

### **The Five Love Languages of Children** by Gary Chapman and Dr. D. Ross Campbell

Every child (like every adult) expresses and receives love best through one of five communication styles. Find out which one of these your child speaks: quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service or physical touch. Discover how to express unconditional feelings of respect, affection and commitment that will resonate in their souls— and inspire them for the rest of their lives. 224 pages. \$14.99

## **From Herald Press**

### **Priority Parenting: Reclaiming Your Home for Heaven's Sake** by Steve Ganger

A very readable book with guidelines for reclaiming the home as a loving place. Ganger explores what makes a real home, over-commitment in schedules, our hurried lifestyles, what God really intends childhood to be, and ideas for making your household a home that truly worships God. 128 pages \$9.99

### **Parents—Passing the Torch of Faith** by John Drescher

Simple yet wise suggestions for parents who want to pass Christian faith on to their children. You will find practical ideas for managing family ties, priorities, prayer, electronic media and more. 96 pages \$7.99

### **Seven Things Children Need** by John Drescher

This book discusses seven of the most basic needs of the growing child: significance, security, acceptance, love, praise, discipline and God. A practical, personal, down-to-earth book for people who care about children as persons. 144 pages. \$9.99

# Faith Formation at Home

## Devotionals for Adults

devotionals and prayer books to use at home

### **Take our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book for Ordinary Time**

A four-week cycle of morning and evening prayer services prepared for the period in the church year between Pentecost and Advent. The services focus on the teaching and ministry of Jesus: The Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, Jesus' parables, and Jesus' miracles. 384 pages. \$22.99

### **Take our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book for Advent through Pentecost**

This second volume includes prayers for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. Like first volume, the words of the prayers are mostly taken from scripture, and each service includes a Psalm, a Gospel text, another scripture text and a song from scripture. 928 pages. \$34.99

### **Rejoice! Daily Devotional Readings**

Each day's entry includes a scripture reading, a short inspirational message, and a prayer of response. An additional prayer guide with requests representing Mennonite mission workers, schools and church agencies is included in the back. Published quarterly. \$7.35 for a booklet and \$5.25 for download. Annual individual subscription \$29.40; bulk subscription \$23.40

### **Now it Springs Up: Spiritual Insights for Every Day**

A daily guide for reflection and prayer by Carol Duerksen, Michelle Hershberger and Laurie Oswald Robinson.

Each entry includes an invitation to prayer and to action; each week features two entries designated for families and children. In these pages are confession and repentance, wonder and awe, honest doubts and perplexing questions, and delightful flashes of humor. 460 pages. \$17.95 at Amazon.com

### **Missio Dei Breviary** by Missio Dei, Minneapolis, Minn.

A four-week cycle of morning and evening prayers. Scripture texts focus on the Sermon on the Mount, Luke's parables, Jesus' words in John, and Mark's passion account. The reflections demonstrate a missional commitment to place and a focused commitment to social justice within an Anabaptist theological perspective. Used by the Missio Dei community to shape the rhythms of their shared life. 159 pages. \$13.99 at Amazon.com or for daily online posts, see [www.thebreviary.com](http://www.thebreviary.com) .

### **Sing the Story and Sing the Journey** songbooks and CDs

There are two CDs from each songbook. *Sing the Journey* highlights themes of the missional church. *Sing the Story* uses the seasons of the year from Advent to Pentecost to tell the story of the life, ministry, death, resurrection and reign of Jesus Christ. CDs \$15.99 each. Songbooks: \$9.99 each.

### **Hymnal: A Worship Book**

Have your hymnal handy when praying at home. Pew edition: \$14.95.

### **Encounter the Word: A Reading Record for the Whole Bible** (pamphlet)

Ideas and helps to encourage adults who are new to the Bible, as well as those with experience. Includes a reading chart plus tips to guide reading. At \$.95 a copy, order extras to share with family, friends, a Bible study group or Sunday School.

All resources except for the breviary and *Now It Springs Up* are available from Herald Press [www.heraldpress.com](http://www.heraldpress.com) or 800-245-7894 ext. 220.

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