

Biblical Encouragement for Moms

May 12, 2013

“ Table Ministry ”

Sometimes we come up with new ideas for our family, and they are better and more productive than the way we used to do something. For instance, I used to have the children all sit on the couch together as I read a biography to them, but I found a better way to hold their attention.

After a year of trying to keep them quiet, I realized that they needed to be busy with their hands while I was reading. So... I gave them each a project or building toy to keep their hands busy as I read some very powerful Christian biographies to them. It worked! They were told that there would be no talking or leaving the room. Each of them listened so well.

The new way for some homes to eat meals is around a computer or TV. This is *not* an improvement. Your kitchen table should be a place to **bring the family together**. Some of your best discussions can be during this time of food and fellowship. Careful teaching of your children is important. This will bring more peace to your home. **See Isaiah 54:13**

Do not give in to breaking up the family during meal times, unless it is a rare occurrence. Make it a priority to sit around the table at least once a day. What are some ideas to make time around the table special & godly?

1. Read the Bible
2. Answer Bible questions
3. Discuss a recent sermon
4. Work on a Bible verse, or a Bible principle (Psalm 119:27)
5. Plan a ministry opportunity & pray (Psalm 105:4)
 - a. discuss bringing food to someone
 - b. make a greeting card together
 - c. special prayer for a family
 - d. discuss running errands for an elderly person
 - e. plan a love gift to a poor person
anonymously. (Proverbs 19:17)
 - f. share blessings & laugh together (Proverbs 17:22, Psalm 105:1, Proverbs 15:15)



Table ministry can add so much to your daily walk with God! It can be a meeting place for everyone to be encouraged in the Lord. The comfort of a homemade meal and the sharing of ministry for Christ is a good combination.

I also would encourage you not to change your plans when company comes to your table. Let them in on your plans and discussion for Christ. You may not be able to give as many details, but let them see this testimony you have for Christ. **See Matthew 5:14-16**

Let others see the light of God in you.

Singing around the table is also an encouragement. If you cannot sing, maybe you can play a hymn on a CD and discuss it! We love to read the story behind the hymns that we sing at Church. Fill your children's minds with good and godly thoughts, at the table, and all day long. Especially look for ways you can help others as a family. This can begin around the table.

Children are very valuable to God. This is emphasized many times in scripture. I love what the Bible has to say in Psalm 127 and 128.

There are 5 verses in Psalm 127. Who would like to read them?

Verse three says **“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord.”**

A heritage is something valuable assigned to someone else.

You have been assigned children ~ specifically from God to you!

The rest of the verse says **“The fruit of the womb is His reward.”**

Children are rewards. Some rewards are carried in our own wombs, and some are carried in someone else's womb, as with adoption or foster care, and Lydia's opportunity with being a nanny. Either way, it is the Lord that blesses us with children. Children are not to be shoved around, they are to be valued and taught.

Verse four says **“As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of the youth.”** This verse is tremendous! The Bible is telling us that just as a skilled man in archery shoots far, and hits his target, we are to skillfully raise our children for Christ as we send them into the future.

Verse five is beautiful. It reminds us **“Happy is that man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed...”** Many children is a good thing. Children are a blessing and a gift. The world frowns on having many children, but we should not. We should pray for large families, and ask God to help the parents raise them up properly for Christ. Some of the happiest people I know have large families.

I find it interesting that in Psalm 128 and verse 3 that God mentions the table. **The wife is called a fruitful vine and the children are called olive plants sitting around the table.** Fruit in the Bible is a good thing. May the fruit of living in your home be beautiful, luscious, godly fruit of Christ. Let's read the chapter together.

When you sit around your table, look at your children as plants that you are raising. Are they healthy in the Lord? Do they need some watering from the Word of God? Do they need the warm sunshine of God working through your heartfelt prayers? Do they get your loving kindness and warmth when they are with you? How are your olive plants doing?

Table ministry is a wonderful way to give pep talks for Christ, to keep the family working together, to have a special prayer time.

May your table be dedicated and set apart for God.



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