

## *Inspire your children*



**W**hat more can we do to challenge our precious children to love Christ deeply? I have found a way to lay out the [examples of committed Christians](#) right before their eyes. It is an anticipated time at our house ! The three children gather around the couch with a quiet project. Heidi often brings cardstock, paper, stamps and scissors to make cards. Joshua often brings a building project. Amber usually brings dolls, miniatures and a writing tablet.

Talking is against the rules. So is leaving the room. They come with their project and we set out a small snack.

I then come to the couch with three books. Always three books. These are not just any books, but books that have been selected after a time of prayer. What do you want to tell us, Lord?

As we read the pages of Christian biographies and other great Christian books, we have literally been [revived](#) ! There is something really beautiful about being inspired to greatness by these men and women, full of faith, as we read pages of their lives.

[Like many moms](#), I began reading to my children when they were really young. It was the right thing to do. God has provided books, books, and more books from library sales, thrift stores, home schooling moms and others. We are pretty particular about our reading material, and God has blessed our desires. I have absolutely loved reading at nap times and bedtimes through the years, not that it is always the easiest thing to do with my tired eyes, but I know it is a gift to my children.

We have made Family Reading Time” an extension of that nap time reading. This deeper reading has given us [challenges to press on in spite of difficulties](#). It has helped us through times of grieving when people we love have died. It has been a source of

stability when the cost of living was high, and our finances were low. Reading about Christians who have sacrificed something for Christ has reminded us to do the same.

I read to our children twice a week. We used to sit on the couch together as I read the books, but several years ago I sensed that there must be a better way. Working with our hands made the time [so much more pleasant and satisfying](#). I read aloud for close to an hour. You might want to start with half an hour. The time is one of my best investments! The books we are reading right now are: [A Hiding Place](#), [Pilgrims Progress for Children](#), and [Hero Tales](#) – biographies of great Christians.

*Reading with feeling is important.* If you read with enthusiasm, they will “catch the vision” so much better. I have always tried to read one book above their level when they were younger. I was told that this was good for their minds. It makes them stretch a bit to understand. Joshua and Heidi were 8 and 10 when Amber was born, but by 2 years old, she was a part of our family reading time, and was trained to sit and play pretty well. Even at such a young age, she saw “Family Reading Time” as a good thing. It is work to train young ones to sit quietly, but by prayer and patience, it can be done.

[Reading has brought some great benefits to our family](#), for sure. I will give you five wonderful ways God has blessed this time in our home. We don't allow the phone to interrupt unless it is a true emergency, and we don't schedule over this time, because it is important to us !

## Five Good Reasons to have a Family Reading Time

1. It promotes family bonding, rather than bonding to friends, television, etc. We discuss our lives, as we relate to those we read about. Not lengthy discussions, just as the Lord leads.
2. They learn to sit quietly and listen. This is preparation for Church and other quiet places.
3. Reading skills are greatly enhanced. This builds vocabulary and gives little ones a great desire to learn to read. Older ones want to read the stories again!
4. It brings satisfaction to Mom and Dad as they see organization in the home, a planned activity that costs so little.
5. We see God work through the subject matter of our books. We often identify with a particular situation that we are reading about.

Choose your books prayerfully, and inspire your children to a closer walk with God!

["One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts" Psalm 145:4](#)



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