

The Nine Commandments of the Special Time

Have Fun

These sessions are set up for you to have fun leading your family into the truths of the Bible. If you're not having fun, then your children won't either.

Be Positive

Maybe you've had a rough day and all you want to do is curl up in a cave and vegetate for a little while. Then just take a deep breath, take a few moments to relax, commit this time to the Lord, and then jump in with a positive attitude. After a few minutes, a special time with your family can change how you feel.

Be Willing

Your children will only go as far as you go, which means, if you only do the activity halfway, they'll only do it halfway too. Be willing to get down on the floor, to get inside the tent, to throw a pillow or make a paper airplane. They may not remember all the things you tell them, but you're making memories that will last a lifetime.

Don't Pull Out the Pulpit

Don't preach. This should be an interactive time where the whole family can talk and discuss.

Don't Bore

Most of these sessions are short, fast-paced and to the point. Don't drag them out. Length of time and spirituality are not one-in-the-same. So don't talk long and don't pray long.

Don't Rush

Even though these sessions are set up to be short, if your family is enjoying themselves, don't cut it off too soon. Don't be in a hurry to move on to whatever comes next in your life. And if it's that favorite TV show, just remember that God gave us DVRs for a reason...right?

Don't Make it a Burden

These sessions have been written trying to use items that most people already have in their houses. Imagine a group walking through a house and saying, "Everyone has toilet paper. So how can we use toilet paper to teach kids about Jesus?" Now you have an idea how many of these activities developed! You don't have to prepare or study to lead these. Just open up the session and get started. It's as simple as that.

Listen Up

During these sessions you'll be asking your children a lot of questions. Listen closely and be careful not to cut them off, talk down to them or correct them in a manner that will make them hesitant to share in later sessions. Sometimes we jump to fix things without fully listening.

Keep it Up

Make a commitment, put it on your calendar, and stick to it. Let this become a favorite time of the week and a top priority. After all, what is more important than what you are about to do with your family?