



Minimum Daily Spiritual Requirements for Today's Child



In today's world a child's journey from four to fourteen is short and filled with temptation. Being the spiritual leader a child needs means putting God into each day of these most impressionable years. The following ACTIONS are based on God's commands in Deut. 6 & 11 his way of passing on his word.

- 1. Christian Art.** Children often forget what they hear but remember always what they see. The best Christian images for children carry a message with the art. Our number one choices for young children are "Christ at the Heart's Door", "Christ Our Pilot", "Christ in Gethsemane" ...images a child will remember all his life...images similar to word pictures often used by Christ himself.
- 2. God's word ON DISPLAY in the home.** It's a command ...Deut. 11:20. It is God telling us the best way, his way, to share his word with children. If your town does not have a Christian bookstore most of the Bibles most loved passages can be found on the internet. One site dedicated to offering free verses for windows, doors, cupboards etc, is www.bibleparent.com.
- 3. Make prayer a HABIT in your home.** A habit of prayer is the one thing most likely to bind a child to a church and to God for life. By the time he is five most children hearing their parent's one sentence prayer will be able to speak their own. By age six most are able to memorize "The Lord's prayer". By age seven they are ready to understand that the "Amen" is not the end of the prayer but the beginning. *They should be helped to stick with at least one prayer until it is answered.* One site we like a lot is www.teachustoprayer.com.
- 4. Teach them to your children when you lie down and when you get up.** Deut. 11:19...another COMMAND. A scripture calendar could be the best gift any parent or grandparent could give a child. Placed by the bed the Bible calendar reminds the child each morning AND evening of God and his word. These little flip over calendars (with scriptures) are available on the internet or most

Christian book stores. These little calendars often make a GREAT simple family devotion simply by praying with the children...once a day... "Father God, please ask the Holy Spirit to help me understand my calendar verse.

Carrying a Bible Verse with you Another of God's command in Deuteronomy 11:18 is to tie Bible verses to our arms and forehead...in short carrying a verse with you. In my early Christian life one of my mentors actually took time to write down daily verses on 3x5 cards so I could carry a verse with me. Having the verses with me helped me feel God was with me. Sadly all 30 of our nations top publishers/denominations quit printing Bible memory cards over five years ago and the body of Christ (churches and families alike) does not seem to care. Even Christian Bookstores cannot special order the cards. God's word in child friendly form is for all practical purposes extinct and we wonder what is wrong with the family and the world. Then six months ago I learned that Dayspring cards does offer the cards but calls them "Bible Promise Cards". They offer three different sets. Even the internet has only one site with free, printable, DAILY, parent friendly pocket scriptures...www.bibleparent.com. Let your family be the one that makes the effort to get the cards.

Take short walks with your children... capture bugs, make leaf rubbings, indulge in star gazing, walk backwards. Help your children discover the world God meant for them to live in. Let creation proclaim the glory of God. You might even take a Bible verse card with you and ask the child if he understands the verse. Ask your child about his or her Sunday School lesson. The actual command in deut. 11:19 is "Talk about them when you sit at home or walk along the way.

The question all parents must answer is: Will we obey God's commands and give our children a verse a day or will we disobey God and make them do without?" The extinction of Bible Memory Cards indicates that most parents and churches are making them do without. We pray that as many parents as possible visit "DaySpring Cards" and search for "Bible Promise Cards" or for free printable DAILY verses www.bibleparent.com. May God guide you as you seek to be the spiritual leader your children need.... A verse a day...the only way...his way.