



Your Child's Minimum Daily Spiritual Requirements



Spiritual junk food is everywhere. Check your child's spiritual diet with God's commands for parents. These commands for parents are from Deut. 6 immediately following the greatest commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...AND. **Parents who ask God to help them follow the very simple and clear commands for parents following that AND will be blessed all the days of their lives.**

1. ...And...Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Deut. 6:9. This verse is God telling us to give our homes a Bible makeover, to put his word ON DISPLAY. How about your home? Are there any Bible verses in open view? Framed verses can be found at almost any Christian Bookstore. One website offering free printable family friendly verses for windows, walls, cupboards etc, is www.bibleparent.com. My own childhood was deeply influenced by the Christian Art in the Sanctuary (hung at child's eye level): "Jesus Knocking at the Hearts Door", "Christ my Pilot", and the good Shepherd. It is true we are not to worship graven images. It is also true that each of these word pictures was originally painted by Jesus himself.

2. ...And...Teach them to your children when you lie down and when you get up. Deut. 6:7...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 are available on the internet or most Christian book stores. They make a GREAT family devotion simply by praying with your special children...once a day: "Father God, please ask the Holy Spirit to make my calendar verse real."

3. ...And... Carry a Bible Verse with you, Another of God's commands (Deuteronomy 6:8) is to tie Bible verses to your child's arms and forehead ...in short carrying a verse with them. 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 believe/feel God was with me. Sadly all 30 of our nation's top publishers/denominations quit printing Bible memory cards over five years ago, even Christian Bookstores cannot special order the cards. God's word in child friendly form is for all practical purposes extinct and the body of Christ seems not to be alarmed. Then six months ago I learned that Dayspring cards does offer the cards but calls them "Bible Promise Cards". They offer three different sets. On the internet only one site offers free, printable, DAILY, parent friendly pocket scriptures ... www.bibleparent.com. We pray as many families as possible order at least one set of bible PROMISE cards from dayspring or download at least one page of free "POCKET SCRIPTURES" from www.bibleparent.com.

4. Make prayer a HABIT in your home. Only prayer can move a Bible verse from a child's mind to his or her heart. A HABIT of prayer is also the one thing certain 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. One project we like very much is the "Prayer Cup" ...download yours at www.teachustoprayer.com. We dream of a day when every Sunday School classroom in the country has a row of cups, one for each child so that no child leaves the church without having at least one prayer ANSWERED.

The basic question facing our nation's churches and families is "Do we love our kids enough to give them their minimum daily spiritual requirement...a verse a day, or do we let them gorge on spiritual junk food (tv, the internet etc.) and pray they will learn about God without our help. If you vote for love (a verse a day) we pray you visit www.bibleparent.com and try the "Pocket Scriptures" or some of the great coloring projects. Give your home a Bible makeover...send your child out the door each morning with a verse on the wall and one in his pocket. *May God guide you as you seek to be the spiritual leader your children need.... A verse a day...EVERY day.*