



HOW TO USE WELS FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Thank you for using WELS Family Devotions! The devotions are offered both in written form and as a podcast to best fit what your family needs. The title implies the target: parents and children. Because the devotions are intended to engage parents and edify their children, we anticipate the devotions serving believers of all age groups (singles, couples, and homes with no children).

The goal is to engage families in devotional life. If you have never done this before or started but struggled to keep it going, the encouragement is this: Here are three devotions for each week. Find the time. Be flexible with what works for you. Just use them accompanied with God's promise to bless time spent with him for your faith and your family!

HOW MANY DEVOTIONS WILL BE OFFERED?

Three devotions will be offered per week.

WHEN WILL THEY BE AVAILABLE?

They will be uploaded individually every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME FOR A FAMILY DEVOTION?

Every family is different and has different schedules. The devotions were made to be used at any time of the day. Consider time options that best fit your family's schedule without feeling rushed: right away in the morning (e.g. listen to the podcast on the way to school), at a family meal, or shortly before children go to bed.

HOW DO I LEAD A FAMILY DEVOTION?

Proceed as follows:

- The devotion begins with a brief opening that sets a spiritual tone, "*In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*" After a while, encourage children to join in saying it with you.

- The devotion leader reads the text. Or, invite a child(ren) who are old enough to take turns reading. Or, listen to the podcast. If **listening to WELS Family Devotion**, type “WELS online family devotion” into a browser on your smart phone. Or go right to <https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/family-devotions/>
- Then, the devotion leader engages the child(ren) in spiritual conversation. This is a critical aspect of family devotion that holds huge potential blessing as the Holy Spirit deepens family faith. To this end, discussion questions are offered to assist. Consideration was given to how learning happens at different age levels. As you become more comfortable, you may want to add your own questions with your child in mind. The discussion questions for the three age levels are just suggestions. Parents can cross levels as appropriate when deciding what questions to ask their child.
- Parents, encourage your children to answer. Do not be too quick to provide the answer for them. Allow them time to think. This is time well spent apply the Word of God!
- Then comes a **closing prayer**.
- The devotion closes with a **reading or singing of** a hymn verse(s). They are taken from a well-known hymn that directly ties into the devotion.