

Practical Ways to Love God:

All Ages:

- Let your child(ren) “catch” you praying and reading God’s Word.
- Permeate your conversations with wholesome talk so your child(ren) will see and know your love for God.
- Pray with your child(ren).
- Sing and play worship songs with your child(ren).

Ages 2-5:

- Read to your younger child(ren) from a children’s Bible. Share with them how important God is to you and to them and how important they are to God.
- Start them having a Time Alone With God (TAWG). They need to be alone for an age appropriate amount of time to learn to sit by themselves alone with God. Even five minutes alone is a start.
- Show your child(ren) how to love others with God’s love. Take them with you when you serve others and involve them in the service.

Ages 6-10:

- Get your child(ren) their own Bible and increase their TAWG time. Place boundaries around their time such as: listening only to Christian music and reading Christian material. But allow them to draw or even play quietly. This is still a time to learn to be alone with God.
- Discuss with your child(ren) what they are reading in God’s Word. Take the material children’s ministry provides and work on this together.
- Make decisions a matter of prayer: “Have you prayed about that?”

- Teach your child(ren) what it means to give to God because you love Him. Tithing is a great start. Do you love God with everything?
- Family devotions and/or prayer time.
- Teach your child(ren) to love the unchurched by spending time with them.

Ages 11-17:

- TAWG time needs to be extended and more in-depth. Help them to understand the value of this time with the Father, and be sure you are modeling your time with God as well. Teach them the SOAP method of studying the Word. (Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer)
- Family decisions need to be modeled as God-honoring or God priority. In other words, when you make a decision, explain the God factor in those decisions. Is God a priority and do your decisions show that? A real practical example is: do we go to church today or stay home and sleep? There may be some legitimate times you do not go to church and choose to live out a Christ-like character by doing something else. Just be sure it is deliberate and explain your decision based on service to God as a priority.
- Your child(ren) may be placed in situations where they must take a stand for Christ. Support them and stand with them. For example: our children play travel ball that goes over Sunday morning. However, we have told the coaches that our kids will be in church on the weekend. If that interferes with a game, they will not be playing. They can go to Saturday night service or go to Sunday a.m. and then to the game, but our stand is that we will not place recreation before God.