



## **TOGETHERNESS TIPS FOR FAMILIES**

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It is often difficult for the modern family to set aside time to "be together." Instead of waiting for an appropriate time to interact, we can use every day situations to do so. All members of the family can participate. These situations are relaxed and natural (and do not require special planning).

Here are some examples:

1. Take a walking trip or driving trip to an historical site. Parents can share historical information with their children (perhaps stories of grandma and grandpa would be appropriate at this time). When the family gets home, encourage the children to draw pictures of what they have seen.
2. Go On a walk together after dark. Look at the stars; point out some constellations.
3. Bake cookies or treats and deliver them to a senior citizen from your congregation or your neighborhood. Take time to visit with the senior.
4. Make up a simple, short family prayer and say it while holding hands before a meal.
5. Children should tour mom and dad's place of work. Parents can take time to show the children what they do in the work place. The children will be able to share in family discussions of the workplace with more enthusiasm.
6. Have family meeting. Discuss your heritage and family history, and their meaning of your family's last name. Have grandparents, parents, aunts/uncles discuss their childhood and compare it to that of today's youth.
7. While driving children to and from their piano and gymnastics lessons etc... quiz them on street names, public buildings, historical sites, recreational facilities. This good information for children to have as part of their awareness of their surroundings.
8. Compliment each family member. In daily conversation, stress the positive, eliminate the negative.

There are hundreds of ways to make everyday living a share-time for families. Each family will have its own way to do this. Enjoy yourselves!