

## Here is a list of some tips for the FAMILY ALTAR

These simple steps will have a huge impact on the faith of your family that will rebound through to eternity.

- Keep it simple/start simple. It could be prayer before meals or a short time of sharing a bible text or two in the morning. Reading, praying and singing are good elements of family worship to keep in mind.
- Keep it short and punchy (the last thing we want to do is bore our children).
- Make it age appropriate.
- Place a picture or two on your wall of Jesus with the children or similar. Or poems and verses such as the “Christ is the Head of this House” poster/picture/plaque.
- Purchase a good daily devotional book that is relevant to your family.
- Eat regular meals together around the family table. Children are less likely to become involved in at risk activities, are more likely to do better at school and to adopt the values of the family just by doing this simple thing.
- Maybe there is a space at the table or somewhere else in the house that can be set up as a family worship type of place. A large family Bible, *Table Talk* cards, pictures, flowers; devotional books, music, musical instruments and other items of sacred significance can be placed at this spot. This gives your children a sense of the sacred and the awe and wonder of God right in their home.
- Read a good Christian novel or church history book together as a family or watch an electronic series together and discuss.
- For busy people the family Altar could be worship in the car on the way to school or as you are tucking your children in at night. The important thing is that the children realise that God is an integral part of the home.

### WHAT CAN FAMILIES DO?

Love God. Let your children catch you doing so - children are more likely to adopt the faith of their parents.

- 1 - Practice Spiritual Disciplines/Rituals around Sabbath and daily routines.
2. - Call your family to prayer and worship. Buy a daily devotional that is relevant for your family.
3. - Set up your family Altar.
4. - Let your children see how God works for you in the good times and tough times.
5. - Be involved in church.
6. - Capture the daily ‘God Moments’ – i.e. - Identify answers to prayer, identify when God showed up during your family life day.

### 5 QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS/CARE GIVERS

1. What moment/time in my family’s busy schedule can I claim for God?
2. Where in my house can I raise a family altar to the Lord? What will that look like?
3. When my children/grandchildren look at my marriage/relationship what do they see?
4. When my children/grandchildren look at my 24/7 living what do they see?
5. What extra do I need to do to further raise up my family altar?

Remember to start simple, be intentional and then watch what God does with your marriage, family and your 24/7 living.