

## Christian Home Covenant

As parents it is our desire and purpose to provide a Christian home for our children by means of proper religious instruction and practice and by surrounding them with helpful Christian influence. Therefore, we agree as far as possible to —

- Observe regular family devotions.
- Say Grace at meals.
- Cultivate Christian conversation and Christian Living in the home.
- Attend the Sunday Service of Worship, the Church School and support the total program of the church with our prayers, time, service and substance.



**CUT OUT — CHECK AND PLACE IN YOUR BIBLE**

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DATE

PARENTS

**Prayerfully check and sign the above and return to your pastor.**



## FOR THE PRACTICE OF FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Grace at the table before meals.
2. Memorization and recitation of passages of Scripture, especially by the children.
3. The reading of choice selections from the Bible and meditations on Scripture passages.
4. Singing of familiar hymns and learning of new ones.
5. The practice of prayer by members of the family circle. Both parents and children should share alike, using prayers appropriate to their several ages.
6. The teaching of children's prayers at bedtime and the practice of adult bedtime prayers by the older members of the family.
7. The telling of bedtime Bible stories to children. Let them tell the story in their own words.
8. Providing Christian literature, church school literature and wholesome books to meet the needs of the entire family.
9. Friendly, constructive family discussions on sermons heard, church school lessons taught, and kindred religious subjects. Give children and youth an opportunity to participate.
10. The family, as a unit, attending the Sunday Morning Service of Worship on the Lord's Day.



*The Importance  
of Family Devotions*

*— by Mrs. E. M. Smith*



# Spiritual Enrichment and Power

## THROUGH FAMILY DEVOTIONS

“THE FAMILY that prays together stays together” is a statement that can neither be disputed nor denied. It is a truth that has been confirmed again and again in homes where members of the family give themselves to the practice of family devotions. The practice of God’s presence day by day and an acknowledgment of dependence upon Him, the Source of all life and the Giver of every blessing, make for the stability and spiritual enrichment of family life. There are ample evidences of that fact in many Christian homes.

Yet, there is need to emphasize the importance of family devotions, for there are many homes, related to the Christian Church, in which the members, individually or as a family, never observe a devotional period, with the resultant spiritual impoverishment which characterizes such homes.

Every home that bears above its portals the name of Christ needs to make family devotions central in its life. A devotional period, with thoughts centered upon God, upon the things of the spirit and upon the deeper needs of life, will make for increased happiness, strength and Christian character on the part of the entire family. Husbands and wives owe it to each other to seek God’s guidance and blessing on their marital way, parents owe it to their children to make God’s presence and power felt within the home. The members of the family owe it to their fellowmen, to their church, and to themselves to achieve spiritual poise and power, that they may become channels for the release of such power within the community.

Reasons why every Christian home should have family devotions:

*Because* it will edify and enrich home life and relationships, create a better understanding and relieve much of the friction that sometimes exists. It will help the young people, when they have broken home ties, to continue on the Christian way.

*Because* it will exert a helpful influence on guests within the home and so furnish an example and stimulus to others.

*Because* it will powerfully reinforce the ministry of the Church in the community, particularly in its program of enriching the spiritual life of the Church. It will motivate the members to share their faith with others and thus win them for Christ and His Church.

*Because* it will impart strength and courage to face-up to the trials, temptations and tribulations of life, to meet frustrated hopes with calmness and confidence and with an unshakable trust in God and His purpose for life. It will send parents and children forth to the daily task with cheerful heart, and more determined to glorify God in all they are and do.

*Because* the word of God requires it and, thus obeying God, we honor Him who is the Giver of all good and the Source of all blessing. It will give an awareness of God, His presence, power and providence in daily life.

Every family engaged in the creation of a Christian home is making a vital contribution to the realization of a more Christian community, nation and world.

### SUGGESTED HELPFUL MATERIALS:

Family Devotions and How to Conduct Them

By Karl H. A. Rest

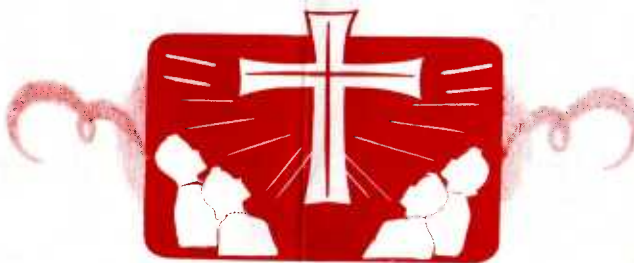
The Upward Look

The Abiding Presence

My Companion for Quiet Hours

For samples and information ask your pastor or write

Church World Press, Inc.  
2969 West 25th St.  
Cleveland 13, Ohio



# A Prayer for Home and Family

O God, our heavenly Father,  
who has set the solitary in families;  
look in favor we beseech thee,  
upon the homes of thy people.  
Defend them against all evil;  
and, supplying all their needs  
according to the riches of thy grace,  
make them sanctuaries of purity and peace,  
love and joy.

Keep all our dear ones  
within the shelter of thy love.  
May they and we follow thee  
every step of our daily life,  
and, though our paths may lead us  
far from one another,  
may we be led at last to thee,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.