



surface to soul
going deeper with vibrant faith

IDEAS FOR FORMING FAITH & BUILDING COMMUNITY

MEAL TIME

- Offer a table prayer by rolling one or more Prayer Dice (See VFM catalog).
- Light a candle as a reminder that Christ is present and that this is a sacred time together.
- Have each person at the table ask a question using FaithTalk, Comfy Chair, ChatPak or Table Topics cards.
- Take 15 minutes after dinner to play cards, Bananagrams, Blink, Scrabble, Taboo or some other game.
- Read a favorite family scripture passage, a passage from ScriptureTalk or from Taking Faith Home.
- Pass around the newspaper and have each person offer a prayer based on something in the news.
- Create a family journal and periodically pass it around for participants to add their comments and prayers.
- Take time after dinner to Skype family members in other cities and states, offering a greeting and prayer.

MORNING & EVENING TIME

- Share the sign of the Cross with each other as a reminder of God's unconditional love and ongoing presence.
- Read a short scripture passage three times with brief pauses between readings to be centered in Christ.
- Read a Bible story together using the Spark or Jesus Storybook Bible.
- Share with household members what you learned today or how you served someone else.
- Offer a prayer for someone you encountered during the day or from the previous day.
- Have each person share the best, worst and funniest moment of the day.

TRAVEL TIME

- Listen to Christian music, a sermon or daily devotional podcast.
- Share responses from downloadable forms: Likes & Gripes, My Top Three Favorites or Sharing My Story.
- Ask each other questions from the downloadable Take the Caring Conversation Challenge form.
- Have passengers read a page or two from resources such as the Christian Handbook or the Crazy Book.
- Sing songs together, play car games together or listen and discuss a novel together.
- Pray for ambulance drivers, police officers and people and places that you're driving past.
- Keep a cross or a battery-operated candle as a reminder that Christ is present.
- Read and discuss books or articles together.
- Discuss the pastor's sermon on the way home from worship, exploring ways to apply the sermon to our daily lives.
- Discuss future plans such as vacations, servant events and ministries to collectively support.
- Create a family trip journal and photo album when taking family getaways.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Integrate Devotions, Caring Conversations and storytelling into your meeting agenda or event schedule.
- Light a candle as a reminder that Christ is present or place prayer shawls on participants.
- Have individuals periodically share their life and faith journeys and practices with each other.
- Take time to pray for ministries of the congregation and the people that oversee them.
- Take a few minutes to pair up with one another to share when God has been present for you recently.
- Interject moments of prayer throughout meeting or event, particularly after major decisions.
- Close gathering with reciting the Lord's Prayer or by offering prayers of gratitude.
- Have each person write a note of affirmation that will be mailed to a designated person.
- Have everyone send a text message to the same person (not present), offering an affirming word or prayer.