



# Lively Stones | PETER 2:5

Holding forth the word of life

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## Family Devotion

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)*

### What Is Family Devotion?

Moses instructed the Israelites to conduct family devotion. It is every man of the house's solemn responsibility to conduct family devotion or family worship regularly. The reason is that God must have pre-eminence in every Christian home. While every member of the household ought to keep personal devotion or quiet time (QT) with God everyday, it is also important for family members to come together regularly for a time of family devotion. Family devotion is a time specially set aside for family members to come together to read the Bible, to pray and to share with one another of things pertinent to the kingdom of God. Some even call family devotion the "family altar" especially setup for family members to worship God together. Hence, the family devotion is an integral part of the Christian home and should be carried out as often as the family can possibly come together.

### Can Family Devotion Replace Personal Devotion?

Absolutely "no"! Personal devotion or QT is to be

kept individually every day. This is our personal communion and audience with God. It is like taking your personal daily meals. The other family members can't eat on each others behalf. Every one has to feed individually in order to grow and stay healthy individually. However, as a family, when every one comes together for family devotion, there is unity of purpose and mutual love. This is a special means of grace that God has specially ordained for the family blessings. Family devotion is distinct from personal devotion in that God will speak to the family as one, and His message will strengthen family togetherness. A point to note is that without consistent personal devotion, coming together as a family may not be as strong as it should be. When the individual members are walking right with God, it will definitely strengthen the rest of the family members at the family devotion!

### What Do We Do During Family Devotion?

Family devotion like QT consists of Bible reading and prayers. Family members get a chance to share about

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**Editorial Note:** The team hopes that all of us have been encouraged to improve in our daily quiet time by the article in Lively Stones Issue 5 (<http://www.lifebpc.com/othermin/sslivelystones.htm>). This issue, Elder Ong continues with this article on family devotion which is highly neglected in our fast-paced, multi-activities lifestyle. Let us be exhorted to take time to be holy and meditate on the Lord's Word. "Blessed is the man ..... his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. (Psalms 1:1-2)

# Family Devotion

(Continued from page 1)

their personal walk with the Lord, and share personal prayer items in order to gain prayer support from each other. During family devotion, the head of the family may use a devotional guide to help every focus on a specific theme for meditation and application. Some times, it is also possible to read through the Bible as a family throughout the year. As long as it is family devotion is consistently carried out, there are blessings unlimited for the family as a whole. It may be good to keep a family prayer record book to register prayer items and thanksgiving when God answers the prayers. Regular family devotion helps to strengthen family bonds and direct the family to focus on God together.

## Biblical Family Devotion Model

In Deuteronomy 6, Moses instructed the Israelites to love God wholeheartedly: *“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”* (Deut. 6:5) The primary focus of all family devotion is on God – to love the Lord with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our might!

The leader of the family is to teach the Bible “diligently”! This presumes that the leader takes time to study the Bible and make preparation to lead the family members in the study of God’s Word. This is hard work and not to be taken lightly. We are to teach the Bible verbally and by examples. Putting up Bible verses every where to serve as reminders and constantly reflection is another important activity for the Christian families. Choosing a family theme verse each year is another good spiritual exercise. Memorise Bible verses together as a family helps to apply God’s Word together and serves as a reminder of God’s grace in our lives.

More fundamentally, by keep family devotion, it is a

time to remind each other of salvation is Christ! The family devotion is the first evangelistic worship. The family is our first mission field. Every family member must be exposed to the Gospel and be given a chance to accept Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord. The family is also the first disciple-making field. Every child must be given the constant spiritual training and to obey God’s Word with perseverance.

## The First Church

Family devotion is the first church of every Christian. When family members gather together, it forms a small “local church”. Every Christian family coming together forms the larger local church, and several local churches together forms the Christian Community and the “universal church”. Hence, family devotion is very important and it will impact the spiritual maturity of each family member in the long term.

## Conclusion

Family devotion is different from personal devotion or QT. It cannot replace personal daily QT. The family that gathers together regularly will help to strengthen family bonds over time. The family devotion is the first evangelistic field, the first mission field and the first “local church”. Family members learn to share with each other and pray for each other over time. Choosing a family theme verse each year is a good spiritual exercise, and the family that learns God’s Word and apply them faithfully in their daily walk with God will go a long way to help with their individual spiritual growth and maturity. May the Lord help each Lifer to keep daily personal QT and regular family devotion together. Amen.

**Elder Sherman Ong**

General Superintendent  
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# Announcements

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\* The Editorial team wishes all mothers a  
\* BLESSED MOTHERS’ DAY!  
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Next issue:  
We will feature the Senior Department of our Sunday School.  
  
Back Issues of Lively Stones can be viewed at  
<http://www.lifebpc.com/othermin/sslivelystones.htm>