



NO ORDINARY FAMILY TIME WITH GOD

Hello Parents!

What is an “ordinary” family? Maybe the first image that pops into your mind looks like something out of the *Little House on the Prairie*—a mom and dad sitting on a covered wagon dressed in old-fashioned attire and laughing as they watch their blissful children chase the family dog down a flower covered hill.

The truth is that “ordinary” today looks a lot different than it did in the past. We have Wi-Fi, Bluetooth wireless karaoke microphones, rechargeable kids’ vehicles, Xboxes, cell phones, and YouTube to thank for that. Not to mention the many school activities, sports practices, games, and hopefully, time for church!

Is this new “ordinary” all there is for Christian families? Maybe you long to see more for your family, but don’t know where to begin. Our Lead Pastor, Justin Kendrick, wrote a book entitled *Bury Your Ordinary* which he describes as a field manual to an entirely different way of life. We partnered with the theme of his book and create a discipleship tool for families of Vox Church to grow together. Welcome to the “No Ordinary Family” discipleship track!

In these six weeks, your family will walk through shared time in God’s Word we call *Family Time with God*. Together, you will learn to develop daily habits that will strengthen your relationship with God. This guide includes a script for you to utilize that contains application for all ages. Each week you will choose a day to come together as a family for 15–30 minutes. Also, be sure to read through each *Family Time with God* before you sit down together and prepare any necessary supplies.

We are praying for you in your family’s discipleship journey!



NO ORDINARY FAMILY TIME WITH GOD – WEEK 1

FOR PARENTS

We are so excited that you and your family have committed this time to read and apply God's Word to your lives. Before you begin, know that spending time with God together as a family rarely ever goes as planned—and that's OK! Be patient and don't hold too tightly to a schedule. Commit your children and time to the Lord.

WEEK 1 TRUTH FOR LIFE

Spending time with God every day helps me grow closer to him.

WHAT YOU NEED

- **Bible** (Preferably, a Bible for every member of the family, or you can share.)

FAMILY TIME WITH GOD

Use the following as a script to lead your family through this time together.

OK, let's get started! Have a seat. We are going to spend some time together as a family with God. Let's start by inviting God to be with us: Father God, we are so excited to spend time with you tonight. We invite your presence to fill this room and our hearts. Help us to hear and apply your truth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Spending time with God means reading the Bible, talking to him through prayer, and listening as he speaks to us through his Holy Spirit. We do this because **spending time with God every day helps us grow closer to him**. This is how we get to know him and understand the kind of life he wants us to live.

God does **NOT** want us to be just an **ORDINARY** family. What do you think the word "ordinary" means? *Pause for responses.* It means "normal." That there is nothing different or special about something.

Cue up this Little House on the Prairie video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vt4z16n-3eU>. Is this what an ordinary family looks like today? (Obviously not!) What does an ordinary family look like today? In other words, what do we spend most of our time doing?

God doesn't want us to be ordinary. Therefore, what we spend our time on should look different than the rest of the world. **Every day, time with God is needed for our family to**

live differently than the rest of the world. God wants us to spend time with him every day. That's what will make us NO ORDINARY FAMILY.

Let's read **Mark 1:35** together. *If everyone has a Bible, have a contest to see who can find it first. When found, have one of the kids read it aloud. Repeat if necessary.*

What was something you notice in that verse? *Pause for responses.* I notice that Jesus was up before the sun rose. The son was up before the sun! What time do you think it was? That's early! How do you feel when you get up that early?

For older kids: *Have them talk through what they do when they get up. (Allow for laughter...yes, everyone uses the bathroom.)*

For little ones: *Have them take turns acting out what it's like to get up early.*

What's the first thing Jesus did when he got up? The Bible says he went to a solitary place (some versions say isolated). What does "isolated" mean here? It means there were no people and no distraction.

For older kids: *When you are trying to focus on reading your Bible, paying attention at church, or doing schoolwork, what are some things that distract you?*

For little ones: *Play the game where they can't laugh. You, or their siblings, can try and distract them and make them laugh. See how long they can go without laughing.*

It's so easy to get distracted by other people or other things that take our attention. That's why Jesus went somewhere alone before the sun came up—to **NOT** be distracted by anything.

Why did Jesus get up **super early** and go to an **isolated** place? **TO SPEND TIME ALONE WITH HIS FATHER.** Even Jesus knew how important it was to spend time with God his Father. Why do you think this is important for you, too?

Regularly spending time talking with God (through prayer), reading his Word (the Bible), and quietly listening for his responses (the Holy Spirit) will help you grow your trust in him and keep you closer to him throughout the day.

For older kids: *Have them go alone to an isolated place in the house, porch, or backyard with their Bibles and read Psalm 63:1–8 as a personal prayer to God. Encourage them to sit quietly and focus on God for 5–10 minutes. Plan a few more times during the week to continue this practice. Ask them to reflect on their experience with you.*

For little ones: *Go around the table/room and have each child pray and thank God for something he has given them.*

Join for a time of closing prayer. Father God, thank you for this special time. Would you help us to be more than just an ordinary family? We want to know you more and experience your love in a new and powerful way through daily time alone with you. Thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.