

**Implementing an Organization-Wide Family Bible Study Program**

by

Bradley P. Gurgel

Field Project

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the

Master of Science Degree in Education

Graduate Studies

Martin Luther College

New Ulm, MN

July, 2022

**Signature Page**

Date:

This field project paper has been examined and approved.

Review Committee:

---

Dr. John Meyer, Chair

---

Dr. Timothy Plath

---

Dr. Jason Lowrey

Approved:

---

John Meyer  
Director of Graduate Studies

### **Abstract**

The main purposes of this field project were to help parents see the vitalness of their role as the family spiritual leaders, train parents to increase their confidence in carrying out devotions, provide necessary devotional resources, and give regular encouragement in many ways to help families develop lasting habits of being in the Word of God together.

A year-long program consisting of two Bible story readings per week was designed and carried out for three months that included all the families of Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School. After three months, surveys and focus groups discussions were used to determine the effectiveness of the program in achieving the project goals. The surveys and round table discussions indicate that the program was successful in building parent confidence and in engaging a higher percentage of families more regularly in family devotions.

### **Acknowledgments**

I would like to thank Dr. John Meyer, Dr. Timothy Plath, and Dr. Jason Lowrey for their willingness to serve on a review committee for this field project. Their advice and guidance were very helpful to me as I designed and carried out this project.

I would also like to thank the families of Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School in Saint Peter, MN. Many families and individuals of the church and school were willing to give the Family Devotion Plan a try and volunteer some of their time to give me helpful feedback using surveys and round table discussions.

Finally, I would like to thank my family. Creating and carrying out this project took a heavy time investment. I couldn't have invested the time to complete this project without the support of my wife and children. I thank them for their love and support!

## Table of Contents

<b>Abstract.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>List of Tables .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Chapter I: Intoduction .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Identify the Issue.....	7
Importance of the Project.....	8
Project Purpose .....	9
<b>Chapter II: Literature Review.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Introduction.....	10
The God Given Role of Parents aas the Primary Spiritual Leaders.....	10
The Vital Need for Family Spiritual Leadership of Youth .....	11
The Powerful Benefits of a Family Regularly Connected to God's Word.....	13
Common Challenges and Roadblocks to Family Devotional Life .....	15
An Effective Family Devotional Life Program to Assist Parents.....	17
<b>Chapter III: Implemenation .....</b>	<b>23</b>
Introduction.....	23
Procedures.....	23
Participants.....	27
Assessment.....	29
Program Cost .....	32
Artifacts.....	32
Results.....	33
<b>Chapter IV: Reflective Essay .....</b>	<b>39</b>
Introduction.....	39
Conclusions.....	39
Recommendations.....	41
Limitations .....	44
<b>References.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Appendix A: Organization-Wide Family Devotion Plan .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Appendix B: Focus Group Moderator Script .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Appendix C: Family Devotion Life Initial Survey - January 2022 .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Appendix D: Family Devotion Life Follow Up Survey - March 2022.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Appendix E: Online Family Devotion Event Recordings &amp; Editable Resources .....</b>	<b>58</b>

**List of Tables**

Figure 1: Percentage of Families Holding 2 or More Devotions.....	34
Figure 2: Parent Confidence in Leading Devotions.....	35
Figure 3: Program Helpfulness .....	35
Figure 4: Most Helpful Components .....	36

## **Chapter I: Introduction**

### **Identify the Issue**

There is no greater and more impactful responsibility that God has given to parents than to raise their children to know their Savior, Jesus (MacPherson, 2016).

While parents do so many things for their children daily, the only thing that impacts them eternally is time spent with their children learning and applying God's Word to their lives. Yet, we live in a world with many distractions. The Devil works very hard to pull the attention of parents and families in many different directions and away from families making being in God's Word together a top priority in a family's day-to-day activities.

Especially in younger generations, there has been a significant decline in religious activities taking place in family homes (Pew Research Center, 2020). In many families, the importance of the parental roles as spiritual heads of their family and the urgency behind the vital need to carry out this role has been lost. The result is that children are left unprepared for the spiritual battle that Satan and our sin-filled world are waging for their souls. Consequently, many youths are leaving the church and their identification as a Christian as they get older and head off into their high school and college years and beyond (Roberto, Kehrwald, Roehlkepartain, 2016).

A role of growing importance for Lutheran school teachers is, therefore, to encourage parents to see the impact of their roles as spiritual leaders for their families and help families make it a priority to be in the Word of God together on a regular basis. One way of doing this effectively may be through an organizational-wide family Bible study program that helps parents see the vitalness of their role as the family spiritual leaders, trains families on how to carry out devotions, provides necessary resources, and gives

regular encouragement in many ways to help families develop lasting habits of being in the Word of God together. As part of this field project, an organizational-wide Bible study program has been developed for the faculty and staff of Saint Peter Lutheran School to use with the families of Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School.

An issue facing Lutheran school teachers today is that little research or guidance can be found that is directly focused on how Lutheran school teachers can effectively encourage family devotional life in the families of their students or on how the church and school can seamlessly work together to encourage family devotional life. Because of how much interaction Lutheran school teachers have with the children in their classroom and their parents over a typical school year, Lutheran school teachers have an outstanding opportunity to encourage positive devotional habits for their students and their families. The lack of available resources and programs available to teachers means the opportunities to encourage family devotional life are often underutilized. More research, encouragement, resources, and guidance are needed for Lutheran school teachers to aid them in carrying out this important role.

### **Importance of the Project**

Developing a curriculum and resources that a Lutheran school faculty can use to encourage and work with families towards developing the spiritually beneficial habit of regular family Bible study is vital. Lutheran school teachers fill many roles and have many responsibilities during the school year. Having pre-made materials available that give school families a simple way to begin having family devotions, that help coordinate a full staff working in encourages family devotions, and that offers opportunities for guidance and training for school families are all ways to help Lutheran school teachers



find success in encouraging this important family spiritual habit. In order for teachers to feel confident that they can offer assistance and guidance to families regarding devotional life, teachers must first be confident that they have the resources, materials, and support needed to be successful in this important role of their ministry. God willing, the resources and curriculum created as part of this project will prove beneficial in providing for this need.

**Project Purpose**

The project will have four main goals. The goals of this program are to help parents see the vitalness of their role as the family spiritual leaders, train parents to increase their confidence in carrying out devotions, provide necessary devotional resources, and give regular encouragement in many ways to help families develop lasting habits of being in the Word of God together.

## **Chapter II: Literature Review**

Much of the research on family devotional life rightfully focuses on the God-given role of parents as the spiritual heads of their families as laid out in the Bible (Kastens, 1992). Ample research exists giving guidance for parents in learning how to recognize the importance of this role and how to effectively carry it out. Much guidance can also be found that is directed at pastors in encouraging family devotional life among families of the congregation.

### **The God Given Role of Parents as the Primary Spiritual Family Leaders**

God clearly gives parents the primary responsibility of teaching their children to know their Savior, Jesus (Family Ministry Task Force, 2021). It should not be surprising, then, that clear evidence from research supports the fact that parents have the most impact on their children remaining faithful to their beliefs (Smith & Snell, 2009). The primary responsibility of spiritual training of children is not something that parents can relinquish or “hand-off” to others. Parents must take this role seriously and carry out this role faithfully in their homes if they want their children to see God and His Word as the number one priority and most essential part of their lives (Kastens, 1992).

Children need to see parents model and lead by example in showing that God’s Word is an important aspect of an individual’s life all of the time (Burns, 2011). Children observe in day-to-day home life if the things they are taught in church and school are really true. Actions, in many ways, speak louder than words. Having parents model a dedication to living out the Word of God in the home means children learn and see from experience what it means to live out God’s Word in their daily lives (Gurgel, 1996). God reminds us that his Word is so effective that it will never be without fruit

when it is shared and heard among our families. For this reason, daily engagement in God's Word is both powerful and vital for families (Macpherson, 2016).

God gives each generation of parents the mission to pass on the good news of the salvation Jesus has won for all to the next generation. When parents neglect this vital task, the knowledge of the salvation we have in Jesus will be lost. Psalm 78 is a powerful reminder from the Bible that Christianity is never more than one generation old and can quickly be lost for generations to come if parents are not faithful in sharing God's Word with their children. Therefore, it is correct to say that God has placed the spiritual care of several generations into the hands of parents as they serve as spiritual leaders in their homes (Gurgel, 1996). This is truly a humbling responsibility for parents to take very seriously!

Yet, the success of this work in our families thankfully does not depend on us. God instructs parents to faithfully share the Word among their families with great patience and careful instruction while fully trusting that the Holy Spirit will use this Word to make a difference in the hearts of the family members who are hearing it (Hein, 2016). Every time parents share the Word with their children, the Holy Spirit is using the parents as his tools to help the children put on the full spiritual armor of God that they so vitally need for the spiritual warfare on their souls that they will face in this sinful world (Gurgel, 1996).

### **The Vital Need for Family Spiritual Leadership of Youth**

Satan is a powerful spiritual enemy. He is extremely effective in getting the priority lists of Christians so mixed-up and focused on things that don't eternally matter.

Satan is also equally effective in leading Christians astray into indifference about what truly does matter (Heidenreich, 2012).

A demographic study of the WELS completed in 2016 shows a concerning trend away from families spiritually preparing their children for the spiritual warfare they will face from the secular world. The resulting statistics of the study support that many youths are not being effectively prepared in their early years at home to deal with the temptations and challenges to their faith that inevitably come during the high school and college years. Surveys of WELS youth show that about 88% of young adults have critical doubts about faith issues before they head off to college. When children are sent away from home to college without being fully prepared for the secular worldview to which they will be exposed, the potential for a spiritual crisis is very high (Hein, 2016). A longitudinal study of 500 Christian high school graduates conducted over a six-year period by the Fuller Youth Institute showed that 40 to 50 percent of Christians abandoned their faith by the time they graduate from college (Powell et al, 2011).

With the internet now so easily available and accessible on many devices in family homes, children today are more often exposed to secular, anti-religious ideas and materials that can begin to slowly “chip away” at their faith and beliefs. This is especially true for youths that lack a strong knowledge of the Bible and the spiritual “armor” that comes from the Holy Spirit being at work when families regularly share and discuss the Word of God together (Downey, 2014). It is critical for parents to understand that if they neglect to teach a Biblical worldview to their children, the secular world will quickly fill that void with many teachings and worldviews that are contrary to the Word of God.

A study completed by Pew Research in 2020 supports the fact that the American culture children are immersed in every day continues to shift away from Christianity. A growing number of individuals and families identify themselves as being religiously unaffiliated or spiritual but not religious. Twenty-three percent of those in Generation X and over thirty-four percent of Millennials identify themselves as being religiously unaffiliated (Pew Research, 2020). This is a trend that does not seem to be slowing. The percent of Americans who claim no religious affiliation has grown every year for three decades straight. Many would now agree that America has become a post-Christian society (Hein, 2016).

### **The Powerful Benefits of a Family Regularly Connected to God's Word**

When God's Word is faithfully read, shared, and applied in a home, it has a profound spiritual impact on the family. True lasting peace, confidence, and joy can only be found in the Word of God. God promises that his Word is active and effective in creating and strengthening faith in our own hearts and in the hearts of our family members (MacPherson, 2016). The only thing that can create and strengthen the faith of family members is sharing the gospel message. The gospel and the means of grace, alone, bring salvation and create faith in the hearts of those who hear it (Hein, 2016). Through God's Word, He strengthens, comforts, and gives family members lasting peace. Being in God's Word together regularly refreshes Christians with the comforting promises of God and keeps those who hear it focused on their purpose in life as dearly loved, redeemed children of God. God's Word reminds us that we have the daily opportunity to reflect our love for Jesus and changes our hearts to want to reflect the love of Jesus in how we serve and care for one another. In fact, it can be strongly argued that no other single

custom our family carries out contributes as powerfully to keeping a family functionally Christian as carrying out family devotions (Schulz, 1993).

Raising children in a home that continually engages in the Word of God together leads them to see how everything they do in all aspects of their lives is finally connected back and impacted by the Word of God. Children learn to be in the world but not of the world. When children are regularly and faithfully led to engage in God's Word together with the family, they are constantly pointed to Jesus as their Savior from sin and as the only way to eternal life in heaven (Heidenreich, 2012).

A study carried out by John Roberto of Life Long Faith Associates in 2016 reflects God's great wisdom in wanting parents to be faithful in caring for the spiritual well-being of their children in their homes. This study backs the truth that a youth's religious outcome is predominately decided in the home and not in the congregation or the school. The day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways the parents model their faith in how they carry out conversations and expose their kids to religious opportunities is the primary way a Christian identity becomes rooted in a child's life (Roberto et al., 2016). When God's Word is regularly engaged with in the home, the Holy Spirit uses that Word to strengthen and keep his people faithful.

A 2013 study by Focus on the Family of Americans who identify as Christians showed that very few children abandon their faith later in life when they come from homes where they are actively engaged in hearing God's Word together as a family (Stanton, 2013). Active Christians most often point to their parents as the individuals behind why they remained faithful to their beliefs. More than two-thirds of Christians that remained faithful into adulthood say they were predominately influenced by their fathers

or mothers (Barna Group, 2019). In fact, when family devotions are held regularly the retention rate of children remaining faithful to God's Word is 80% higher than average (Hein, 2016)!

### **Common Challenges and Roadblocks to Family Devotional Life**

Few Christians would argue against the importance of being regularly engaged in family devotional life. Yet so few families are faithfully engaged in God's Word on a consistent basis in the home! Richard Gurgel's 1996 workshop "Sharing the Promise with our Children" attributes this reality to roadblocks and challenges that often get in the way of families engaging in God's Word regularly. These roadblocks include a lack of time, the lack of a spiritual role model growing up, inexperience and lack of confidence from fathers in carrying out spiritual leadership. In the busy life of Americans, God's Word can so easily slide down the family priority list rather than being at the top where God reminds us it belongs (Gurgel, 1996).

The first roadblock often cited by families is time. In our modern, fast-paced American society, parents report being busier than ever and often feeling overwhelmed. Families today struggle to balance the many "pulls" of work, education, young people's activities, and their own personal lives. Today's family life is more complex and busier than in prior decades (Roberto et al., 2016). When not emphasized at home, God's Word easily slides down the family list of priorities to where it can become an afterthought.

Family climate in the home can also be a roadblock that gets in the way of regular family engagement in the Word of God. Fathers, today, struggle to be the religious leader that God calls them to be. American social pressures place expectations on males and fathers to be self-reliant and emotionally tough place a negative value on being overly

religious. In many families, sports, after-school activities, recreation, or entertainment take priority over the Word of God (Schulz, 1993).

Many parents today lack a model for spiritual family leadership as they did not grow up in families where their faith was nurtured in the home. This makes it much harder and much less comfortable for parents to establish their own spiritual routines and rituals with their children. Because they lacked a parent who modeled spiritual nurturing, parents often lack the confidence in their own ability to care for the spiritual needs of their children. In addition, Bible illiteracy continues to grow among Christian adults. Parents who lack a strong, foundational understanding of the Bible will struggle to confidently carry out a family devotional life in their own home. Over the last couple of generations, it has become the norm in a growing percentage of American homes that neither the mother or the father have ever experienced a home devotion (May & Stonehouse, 2011).

Inexperience and fear can be powerful roadblocks to beginning a family devotional routine. Parents may lack confidence in their own knowledge of Scripture and, therefore, their ability to lead spiritual discussions or effectively answer questions their children may ask. Fathers, especially, are prone to want to avoid situations in which they may feel embarrassed in front of their family members. Fathers may fear that they are inadequate to carry out the role of spiritual family head (Schulz, 1993).

A WELS Family Ministry Task Force identified a final hindrance to family devotional life is a growing trend of parents wanting to “outsource” the spiritual training of their children to churches, schools, or other programs and groups (Family Ministry Task Force, 2021). The parents, alone, are not to blame for this. Often churches, schools,



or spiritual educational programs attempt to take on the primary responsibility of the spiritual upbringing of children rather than seeing their roles as the supporting agent in the process. This goes against God's plan for parents to be primary spiritual caretakers of their children. Reversing this trend and re-focusing efforts on supporting parents in seizing their role as the primary spiritual leaders of their children is vital in effectively raising children in God's Word (Kastens, 1992). Unless what is taught in church and school is reinforced at home in the words, actions, and priorities of the parents, the spiritual truths children learn will not be seen as fully real, important, relevant, or true (Gurgel, 1996).

### **An Effective Family Devotional Life Program to Assist Parents**

An essential part of every Lutheran school's mission is to make children lifelong disciples of Jesus. If children are most strongly impacted by their parents in remaining faithful to God's Word, then fostering spiritual families must be a goal of our Lutheran schools and the main goal of any family devotional program (Family Ministry Task Force, 2021).

The WELS 2021 Family Ministry Task Force emphasized that Lutheran school teachers, regardless of roles or titles, all play a valuable role in supporting parents in their roles as spiritual family leaders. An effective family devotional program must involve the teachers looking for opportunities to regularly encourage parents to carry out their God-given role as spiritual family heads (Family Ministry Task Force, 2021). Teachers acknowledging and relating with parents about the many challenges of working with children is essential. Parents must have the opportunity to feel safe about openly sharing both their frustrations and joys in their attempts to lead the family spiritually. Stonehouse

and May (2011) mention the importance of taking the time to listen to parents and offering a sympathetic ear as key to building trust. This trust allows teachers to then be able to offer instruction, suggestions, and Biblical encouragement. Teachers must avoid laying loads of guilt on parents for all the things they should be doing, and, therefore, leading parents to despair and a lack of confidence in carrying out their role. Rather, reminding parents of the forgiveness they have in Jesus for the times they have fallen short is essential. Helping parents see that even Lutheran teachers don't have this whole process down perfectly and are also fellow learners is important (Burns, 2011).

Motivating parents with the encouragement that God has given them the tools they need to carry out their role and that the Lord goes with them in all that they do is vital.

Teachers have the joy of assuring parents that God promises that He never gives responsibility without giving his people the strength to carry out the work as passages such as Galatians 2:20 remind us (Gurgel, 1996).

The 2021 Family Ministry Task Force identified teamwork between the pastoral staff and teaching faculty is essential to carrying out a flourishing family devotional program. Regular points of contact and regular encouragement from many different individuals of the church and school leadership helps keep family devotions at the forefront of parents' minds and at the top of family priority lists. Regular reminders, encouragement, and instruction about effectively teaching the weekly devotional readings can take place in the pulpit during sermons, in the Lutheran school classroom, at Sunday school, during Bible studies, and in day-to-day hallway and parking lot conversations. School newsletters, social media pages, organizational websites, and bulletin inserts are all great ways to encourage devotions regularly. Regular encouragement from many

different individuals and publications is key. Consistently steering families towards a unified devotional plan and having the opportunity to be able to regularly refer to weekly devotional readings that everyone in the organization is carrying out together gives many powerful opportunities to encourage devotional faithfulness and builds confidence in parents in carrying out the devotional plan (Family Ministry Task Force, 2021).

Schulz (1993) emphasized the importance of a clear and easy-to-follow plan for regular scriptural readings as key to helping families know where to begin and for developing devotional habits and routines that stick. The family should have a definite and consistent reading plan that they follow. Having devotional books, Bible story books, or suggested reading lists are all effective ways to guide families along. Families should be provided easy access to devotional materials that are grounded in scripture and easily accessible either through materials given to families or materials that are available for purchase. A family devotion display or central location at which all the devotional materials can be advertised and found in an area of the church or school building is an effective way to encourage families to begin a family devotional life and make the materials necessary to get family devotions going easily accessible at any time (Schulz, 1993). Any plan followed should encourage a regular number of readings each week. Families should be encouraged to find a time and routine each day and stick with it to help build long-term habits of reading the Bible together (Burns, 2011).

Along with a clear devotional plan that families can follow, encouraging parents to talk about and apply Bible stories to the lives of their children through family discussions that go together with devotions is essential. Roberto (2016) discovered that young adults best develop their worldview growing up as they imitate the mentors who

left deep impressions on them and who loved them and cared for them most. Parents can guide the development of a Christian worldview in their children when they share with their children the story of their own Christian life journey, how God got them through challenges of the past, and how God's Word impacts all aspects of their current life. Having parents share their own personal narrative that gives a reasoning behind why the devotions and Bible stories are being read and studied is important to and apply to everyday life frames for children the importance of God's Word as the ultimate guide for Christian living (Roberto, Kehrwald, Roehlkepartain, 2016).

Talking about God constantly each day and pointing children to the forgiveness and restoration that Christ gives helps children to make God's Word the "lens" through which they see everything they come across in life. The ultimate goal is for children to understand that their whole lives, all they see and all they do, are guided by the light of God's Word (Heidenreich, 2012). Providing families with both clear Bible story application questions and discussion-spurring, open-ended questions can help families gain a comfort in initiating "faith talk" in the home centered around each family devotion (Stonehouse and May 2011). Three key topics to encourage families to discuss with each devotion include what the reading says or means to each person, what clear Biblical truth or principle is being taught, and how everyone can apply those truths to their lives (Schulz, 1993).

Martin Luther's "four strands" approach is also a useful guide to those designing a family devotional program that revolves around family faith talk. Luther often encouraged families to look at each verse from four points of view by asking the following key questions: What does the Lord expect of me in these words? For what do

I have to give thanks in these words? What sins do these words lead me to confess? For what do these words teach me to pray? These types of questions are a great place to begin in helping families grasp how to lead conversations connected to devotions that help children apply what is read to their own lives (Gurgel, 1996). [L] [SEP]

Often, parents may be reluctant to lead spiritual discussions or be open to questions from their children during family devotions due to a lack of confidence in their own Biblical knowledge. It is important to emphasize with parents that children actually greatly benefit when they see that their parents as fellow, life-long learners of God's Word! Explaining to children that no Christian perfectly knows all aspects of God's Word is an important lesson in helping youths see that growing in faith is a life-long endeavor that continues until the day God calls us home to Heaven. When discussing spiritual questions with the family, parents will eventually have questions asked of them that they are not able to answer. When this happens, parents are able to use that opportunity to work together with their children to seek out an answer by doing such things as speaking with a pastor or teacher or using Bible commentaries. Helping parents understand that is ok to say, "I don't know. Let's work together on finding an answer," helps build parental confidence in carrying out faith talks among their family members when they realize they don't have to be an expert with perfect understanding of God's Word to be able to lead family devotions (Burns, 2011).

Providing training and modeling for families on how to carry out family devotions is a valuable and necessary part of starting up a family devotional program. The leaders of the congregation and school must lead from the front in setting the tone of what Christ-centered homes and lives look like for the families of the school and the congregation.

Having the leaders provide models or examples of what family devotions and spiritual conversations look like is vital for the growing number of parents who did not grow up in homes with parents who modeled this for their children (Family Ministry Task Force, 2021).

Finding a congregational family or family of a called worker to model or role play what a family devotion looks like at events such as a Bible study, parenting class, or parent-teacher organization meeting can be an effective way to help families gain a comfort for how to carry out devotions in their own homes. Afterwards, allowing a time for a free exchange of questions and ideas from those at the meeting can help alleviate other fears or concerns parents may have. Having a free discussion of all in attendance will give families the comfort of knowing that other parents have similar fears and questions. This form of demonstration and discussion also helps families begin to share ideas for what works in their homes and can serve as the beginning of support network for parents to rely upon for help and encouragement as they begin to carry out a devotional program at home (Schulz, 1993).

## **Chapter III: Implementation**

### **Introduction**

There has been a significant decline in religious activities taking place among families in the home. This is especially true in younger generations (Pew Research Center, 2020). In many families the importance and urgency of parents carrying out their role as spiritual heads of their family has been entirely lost. God desires parents to be the primary spiritual leaders of the family, and God makes it clear that parents carrying out this role is the most effective way to nurture the faith of children. With the reality that many parents are not carrying out their roles as spiritual heads, children are left unprepared for the spiritual battle that Satan and our sin-filled world are waging for their souls.

A role of growing importance for Lutheran school teachers must be to encourage parents to see how vital and impactful their roles as spiritual family leaders truly are. The purpose of this field project was to design an organization-wide family Bible study program that gives our Lutheran school teachers the needed resources to encourage parents in this God-given role. The goals of this program are to help parents see the vitalness of their role as the family spiritual leaders, train families on how to carry out devotions, provide necessary resources, and give regular encouragement in many ways to help families develop lasting habits of being in the Word of God together.

### **Procedures**

**The Organizational-Wide Family Devotion Plan.** Schulz (1993) emphasized the importance of a clear and easy-to-follow plan for regular scriptural readings as key to helping families know where to begin and for developing devotional habits and routines

that stick. His findings stressed the importance of a definite and consistent reading plan for families to follow. The research of Burns (2011) supports that a devotional plan should encourage a regular number of readings each week. Families should be encouraged to find a time and routine each day and stick with it to help build long-term habits of reading the Bible together. With these encouragements in mind, a one-year-long organizational-wide family devotional plan was developed for use at Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School (see Appendix A). This devotional plan featured two Bible stories for families and individuals to read each week.

Along with the plan, children's Bible story books and NIV Bibles were given out to each family with children in the congregation and the school. Each family received one or more of the three available age-appropriate books depending on the ages of the children in their home. Each of these Bible story books could be used to read each of the two assigned stories each week at a developmentally appropriate level. The family devotional plan clearly laid out the page numbers where the two stories assigned each week could be found in all the different children's Bible story books as well as the Bible references for older children and adults who followed along with the plan using the Bible. The purchase of the Children's Bible story books was accomplished through a donation sought out and given towards the implementation of the program.

The Family Ministry Task Force (2021) focused on the importance of the full ministry team working together to regularly encourage family devotional life. This was accomplished in a few different ways. Through training that was shared at a family devotion "Kick-Off" event and training given at some streamed family devotions (see Appendix E), families were taught how to discuss the stories that were read with



application questions at an age-appropriate level for their children. Families were also trained at these events to carry out a simple family devotion that consists of a Bible story, questions, song, and prayer.

**Program Kick-Off Event** A family devotion program “kick-off” event was held between church services on January 9, 2022, for both the church and school families on a Sunday. This event was streamed live on our church and school Facebook account and a recording was later made available and directly shared with families that were unable to attend (see Appendix E).

At this event, parents were reminded about their God-given role of spiritual family leadership. Families were also reminded about all the powerful blessings God gives to us when we remain faithful to the study of His word. They also heard some of the research that powerfully connects family devotional life with children remaining faithful to their beliefs for their entire lives. Families were given the yearly devotional plan as well as the children’s Bible Story books or Bibles that they needed to follow the plan. Instructions were shared on how to follow and use the plan each week.

**Family Devotion Modeling Streamed Events** Since it has become the norm in a growing percentage of American homes that neither the mother or the father have ever experienced a home devotion (May & Stonehouse, 2011), modeling of family devotions for our church and school families was an important part of the program. Many families in our church and school likely grew up without family devotions carried out in the home. I demonstrated in two livestream devotions what a family devotion looks like with my family of 5 young children (see Appendix E). One stream took place on January 14, 2002. This date was chosen intentionally as this was one of the first days of the devotion

schedule. The hope was to model a simple devotion for families right as the program was beginning. On the livestream, my family read the first devotion of the plan from our living room and demonstrated a simple family devotion that consisted of a Bible story reading, application questions, song, and prayer.

A second livestreamed devotion was held on March 10, 2022. Once again, the simple format of a Bible story reading, application questions, song, and prayer was modeled. The timing of this event was chosen as a good point in the program to rebuild engagement and serve as a reminder about the program a couple of months into the schedule. This event helped to keep the positive momentum of the program going and to keep our church and school families thinking about having regular devotions at home.

After each livestream, time was provided for the group present to ask questions, share ideas, and encourage one another. Families were encouraged to talk and reflect amongst themselves and agree with their family members on consistent times each week that their family will set aside for devotional time. Recordings of these modeled family devotions were made available after these events and shared directly with any families that could not attend.

**Parent/Teacher Conference Check-In** In late March of 2022, our teachers carried out their second round of parent/teacher conferences for the school year. At these conferences, our teaching staff was encouraged to ask all the school families about their family devotion routines and how following the organizational-wide program was going. These parent/teacher conferences served as a great time for our teachers to answer any questions parents had and to give more encouragement as families started to develop new devotional habits.

**Regular Reminders and Encouragement** The advantage to having everyone in the congregation and school using the same devotional plan each week is that many natural opportunities for encouragement of one another resulted. The full ministry team of our pastors and teachers used faculty meetings throughout the year to brainstorm ideas for continually encouraging families to engage with the devotion program. The ideas we came up with included having teachers tie in lessons at school to the Bible stories being read each week, having our pastors make connections to the weekly stories in their Bible classes and sermons, and using parking lot and hallway conversations to ask families how devotions are going at home. Knowing which Bible stories our families were focusing on each week allowed our staff to give parents advice and suggestions about key applications to make, insightful facts to share, and make important connections to other parts of scripture or to current events going on in the world.

Our ministry team was able to come up with a variety of ways to remind families about the plan and the twice-weekly Bible stories using the various forms of communication used on our campus. Reminders about the two stories assigned each week were shared on the church and school website, on church and school social media accounts, in the weekly church email, and in the weekly school newsletter.

## **Participants**

### ***Parents and Their Families in the Congregation and School***

This project attempted to engage as many of the parents and their families of Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School in Saint Peter, Minnesota into joining with us in following an organizational-wide family devotion plan for a full calendar year. The school consists of approximately 102 students from preschool through 8th grade. These

students come from about 70 different families. The congregation has approximately 20 additional families with children who are not part of Saint Peter Lutheran School whom we also attempted to engage in participating with the program as well.

### ***Teaching Staff***

The teaching staff at Saint Peter Lutheran School consists of a preschool teacher, kindergarten teacher, 1-2 grade teacher, 3-4 grade teacher, 5-6 grade teacher, and 7-8 grade teacher. The teachers were regularly encouraged by the principal to use parent/teacher meetings to ask families about their progress with family devotions as well as to encourage families to develop devotional habits. Ideas for keeping the program on the minds of families throughout the full year and about how to tie the Bible stories regularly into school lessons was discussed regularly at our twice-monthly faculty meetings. The staff was also encouraged to think of their own creative ways to encourage engagement from the students and their families in participating in the program throughout the school year.

### ***Pastoral Staff***

The Family Ministry Task Force (2021) identified teamwork between the pastoral staff and teaching faculty as an essential part of carrying out an effective family devotional program. Our pastor was encouraged to use purposeful, planned tie-ins to the devotion program during sermons, Bible classes, and hallway and parking lot conversations throughout the year to encourage families to be faithful in carrying out family devotions and in following along with the program. He also served as a great resource for questions families may have about being spiritual family leaders and in

helping to answer difficult questions that children asked their parents during family devotional time.

One goal we had was for parents to see that it was ok if they could not answer every question that their children asked them about the Bible stories being read. The families were encouraged to make a list of questions for our pastor when that happened. This modeling of a life-long learning and growth in faith and in seeking out a pastor to get difficult Biblical questions answered is a key life skill for parents to model for their children. This also was a great way to connect non-member families to our church and our pastor.

### **Assessment**

The organizational-wide family Bible study program was evaluated for how effectively it engaged families in carrying out family devotions and for how well it increased the confidence in parents in their ability to carry out the role of devotional leaders of the family. Assessing the success of the program was accomplished using surveys both prior to the beginning of the program and after three months of carrying out the program.

**Initial Online Survey** Both prior to the kick-off event and at the event itself to “kick off” the organizational-wide family Bible study program, a survey was taken of all families using Google Forms (see Appendix C). This survey done in January of 2022 collected both quantitative and qualitative data.

Families were asked how many days they take part in family devotions in a typical week. They were also asked to rate their confidence in leading family devotions

on a scale of 1 to 5. This quantitative data provided a good picture of the current family devotional habits of the families we serve at Saint Peter Lutheran School.

The survey also collected qualitative data in that it asked families to share the roadblocks they have run into that prevent them from carrying out family devotions and any concerns they might have about their ability to do so effectively. This qualitative data will allow us to continue to develop the program to meet the specific needs and concerns of the families which we serve to improve the program's effectiveness each year we carry it out.

**Focus Groups** Two separate focus groups sessions were carried out on March 24, 2022, to assess the effectiveness of the designed family devotion program (see Appendix B). A collection of both congregation members and nonmembers as well as families with older children and younger children were included in both groups to get a diverse set of feedback from a wide variety of perspectives on the effectiveness of the program. The teaching staff gave feedback regarding families they observed actively engaging with the family devotion program. This helped us select the parents of three families for each of the two focus groups who could give feedback on their experience in using the program. For each session, we purposefully chose one family that was a member of our congregation and one non-member family. The third family for each session was purposefully chosen to include a family with children of an age group that wasn't yet represented in each group. This ensured that we had multiple perspectives from both within and outside our congregation represented as well as perspectives of parents with both younger children and older children.

To aid in receiving honest feedback, a congregation member with strong conversational skills was asked to lead the focus group discussion sessions rather than me. The questions were scripted for the moderator to help guide the discussion towards feedback that would be useful in improving the program for future use (see Appendix B). With consent of the focus groups, the conversations were recorded using a smartphone app. I later listened to the recordings of both sessions and took notes on common responses, ideas, and themes that were uncovered.

The focus group sessions attempted to identify any remaining roadblocks to successfully implementing regular family devotions that the devotion program did not address or help families to overcome. The discussion also focused on the effectiveness of the program and the guidance provided in carrying out family devotions. Families were asked for their opinions about how well the Children's Bible Story books and program schedule worked for them. Participants were asked to share any additional suggestions to improve, clarify, and tweak the program. All feedback received from these focus group sessions was recorded and will be valuable in continuing to improve the program for future years of use.

**Second Online Survey** A second survey was taken using Google Forms in late March of 2022 (see Appendix D). Families were again asked how many days each week they were currently carrying out family devotions. They were asked again to rate their confidence in leading family devotions on a scale of 1 to 5. This second round of quantitative data was compared to the quantitative data gathered in the first survey from the beginning of the program in January. This helped us to assess the effectiveness of the program in engaging families in leading family devotions as well as in building parent

confidence in their ability to do so. In addition, families were asked what strengths and weaknesses they saw in the program, which components of the program they found useful, and how helpful the program was in starting or continuing a family devotion routine. This feedback was essential in helping us continue to think about how we can update and tweak the program for use in future years.

### **Program Cost**

Donations for \$1500 were sought to cover the cost of purchasing Children's Bible story books to be given out to all families at the beginning of the program in January. Due to this program being carried out in a limited way in earlier school years, many families already owned one or more of the books needed to follow along with the program. Shortly after the need for donations to help start the program were shared, a generous congregation member stepped forward and gave us a check for the full \$1500 needed to purchase the needed books.

The cost of the three books used for the program were \$16.00 per book for the *120 Bible Stories* book from Concordia Publishing House, \$7.50 per book for the *Beginner's Bible* book from Amazon, and \$16.50 per book for the *Complete Illustrated Children's Bible* from Amazon. The \$1500 donation allowed us to purchase more than 90 new Children's Bible story books which proved to be plenty to supply each school and church family with children with at least one book.

### **Artifacts**

One additional joy that came out of completing this field project was the opportunity to share the program with fellow teachers at the Western Wisconsin Teachers Conference on March 18, 2022 (see Appendix E).



In addressing an audience of teachers, we reminded ourselves that we cannot view our roles as the primary spiritual caregivers of our students. While we as teachers certainly play an important role in the spiritual training of children, we reminded one another that God tells us spiritual training is most effective when parents take on this lead role in their homes. This was a great opportunity to encourage one another as teachers about the importance of encouraging the parents of our students to be spiritual leaders in their families. Helping WELS teachers see how important this encouragement for parents is and providing resources, such as the family devotion program designed as part of this field project, to teachers to aid in this encouragement was a joy. I hope to be able to continue to use the work from this field project to encourage more WELS teachers in this way moving forward. I firmly believe Lutheran teachers don't receive these reminders and encouragements often enough nor do Lutheran teachers have ample resources or programs to choose from that aid in training and encouraging families towards beginning a family devotion life habit. I hope to help change this.

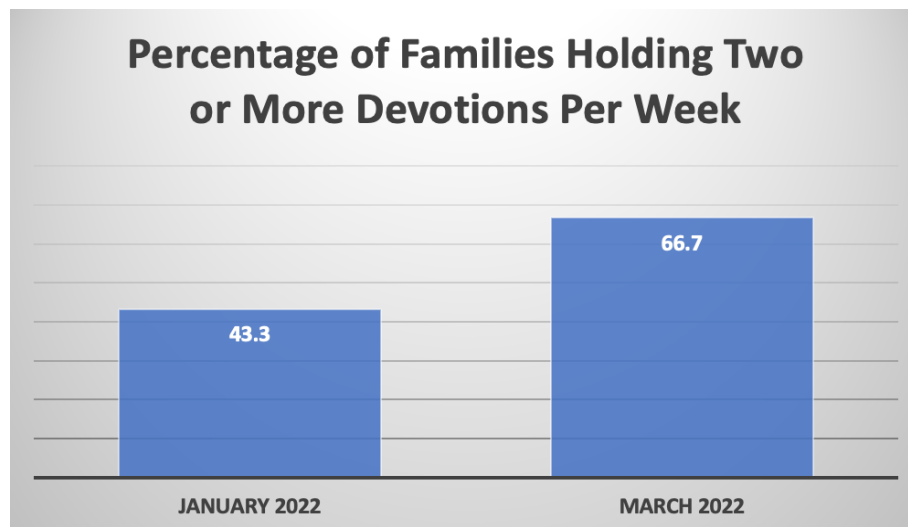
## **Results**

The two online surveys and two focus groups were used to assess the success of the Organization-Wide Family Devotion Program in meeting the four goals of this project. These four goals were to help parents see the vitalness of their role as the family spiritual leaders, train parents to increase their confidence in carrying out devotions, provide necessary devotional resources, and give regular encouragement in many ways to help families develop lasting habits of being in the Word of God together. The data collected by the online surveys and the feedback provided during the focus group discussions support that the project had some success in meeting these goals.

### ***Increase of Weekly Family Devotions***

Data collected from the online surveys showed an increase in the number of weekly devotions families and individuals in our congregation and school were carrying out. Data from the January 2022 survey showed that nearly 58% of our congregation and school families who responded to the survey carried out family devotions once or less per week. The March 2022 survey taken after three months of carrying out the Organization-Wide Family Devotion Program indicated that only about 33% of our church and school families were taking part in family devotions once or less per week. The number of church and school families carrying out devotions two or more times per week increased from 43.3% in January of 2022 to 66.7% by the end of March 2022.

*Figure 1: Percentage of Families Holding 2 or More Devotions*

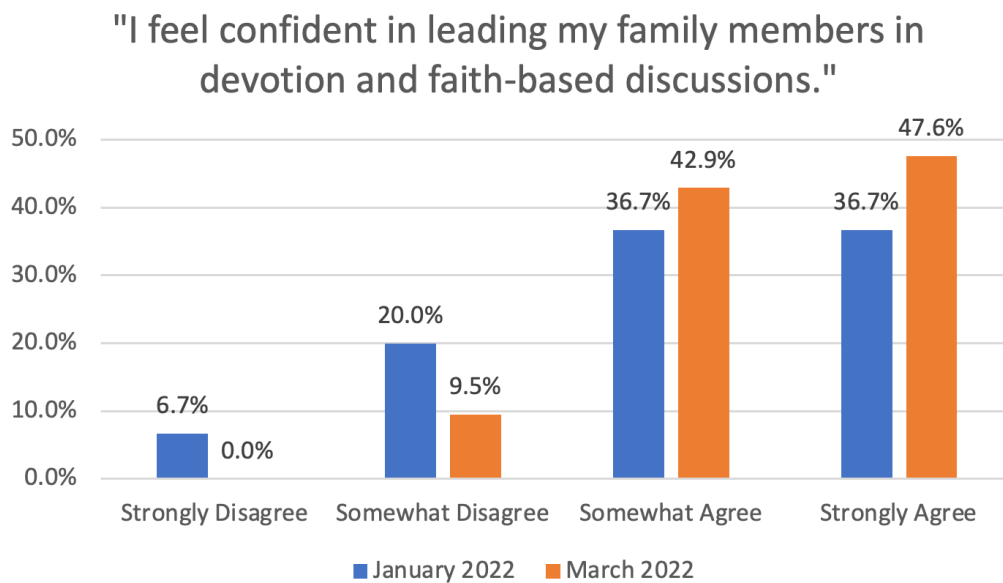


### ***Confidence Increase***

The online surveys also showed an increase in confidence from church and school parents in carrying out family devotions. In January 2022, about 37% of survey respondents strongly agreed with the statement, “I feel confident in leading my family members in devotion and faith-based discussions.” By March of 2022, 47.6% of survey

respondents strongly agreed with this statement. In fact, by March of 2022, about 95% of those who responded to the survey said they either agreed or strongly agreed that they felt confident in carrying out family devotions!

*Figure 2: Parent Confidence in Leading Devotions*



### Program Helpfulness

In the March 2022 survey, families were asked how helpful they were finding the family devotion program in starting and maintaining a family devotion routine in their homes. Over 71% of respondents said that the program helped their family start or continue a consistent or somewhat consistent family devotion routine.

*Figure 3: Program Helpfulness*

How helpful did you find the Saint Peter Lutheran family devotion program in starting and maintaining a family devotion routine at home?

21 responses



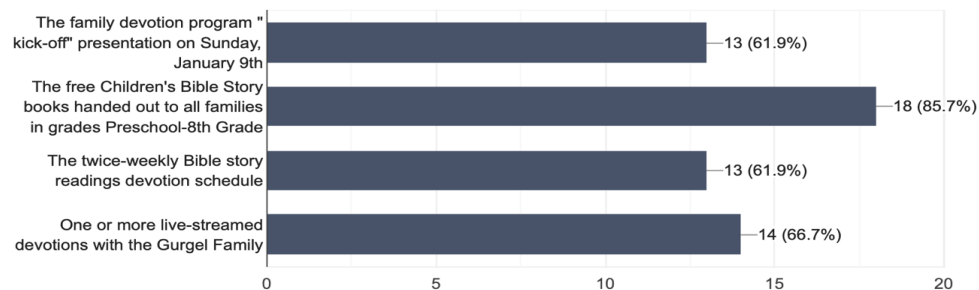
### Most Helpful Components

The March 2022 online survey asked families to indicate which components of the devotion program they made use of and found helpful. The results of this question showed how useful it was to provide each family with children with a developmentally appropriate children's Bible story book. Most respondents indicated that they made use of these books with their children to follow the reading schedule. A high percentage of respondents also made use of the various other events and components to engage with the program.

*Figure 4: Most Helpful Components*

Which parts of the family devotion program did you or your family participate in, make use of, tune in for, or watch recordings of? (Check all that apply)

21 responses



### Round Table Discussion Feedback

The focus group discussions held on March 24, 2022 (see Appendix B), gave further insight into the effectiveness of the family devotion program. One common theme that came out from the parents who attended was that their children were often the ones who most pushed the families to carry out devotions. Since teachers were encouraging students to read the devotions each week at school, the students would often go home and tell their parents that this was something they wanted to do. This further amplified the

importance and impact of having Lutheran school teachers encouraging family devotions amongst the students and the families that they serve.

Another common theme found in the focus group discussion feedback was a desire from parents to have more guidance with application questions and faith-based conversation starters to use with their children following the reading of a Bible story. Many felt that having a few questions or discussion ideas for each age level to go along with each lesson would have been helpful. Adding this component to future versions of the devotion program would be helpful to increase engagement for families.

A handful of parents expressed appreciation for the family devotion livestream demonstrations carried out. Some remarked that they did not grow up in families that read the Bible together. They found it very helpful to see what a family devotion looks like and were encouraged by seeing how simple and quick a devotion routine could be. They liked how the livestream showed that a devotion carried out with young children can sometimes be unpredictable or imperfect even for a trained teacher. They saw on the livestream young children sometimes struggling to pay attention or short interruptions the reading of the story or the discussion afterwards. The participants mentioned that this helped take away some of the pressure of starting a routine, because they saw the benefits of being in the Word of God together despite the challenges that doing a devotion routine with small children can sometimes bring. This amplified the importance of modeling for families what a family devotion looks like when trying to establish devotion routines among church and school families.

A final theme that came out in the focus group discussions was an appreciation of the fact that everyone knew many other families were making use of the same devotion

program. This allowed families to discuss the stories, encourage one another, and see that other families were struggling with similar roadblocks as they were in implementing a devotion routine. Participants mentioned that knowing many other families were participating in the program right along with them was a strong motivator and encouragement to keep going with the program.

## **Chapter IV: Reflective Essay**

### **Introduction**

A role of growing importance for Lutheran school teachers must be to encourage parents to see how vital and impactful their roles as spiritual family leaders truly are. The purpose of this field project was to design an organization-wide family Bible study program that gives our Lutheran school teachers the needed resources to encourage parents in this God-given role. The goals of this program were to help parents see the vitalness of their role as the family spiritual leaders, train families on how to carry out devotions, provide necessary resources, and give regular encouragement in many ways to help families develop lasting habits of being in the Word of God together.

### **Conclusions**

As part of this field project, I created and planned several components that could all work together to give teachers the resources to encourage family devotions as well as give the families of the congregation and school the training and resources to carry these devotions out. These components were a year-long schedule of two devotions per week that could be followed from a variety of children's Bible story books, a kick-off event presentation to help get the program up and running, and two family devotion livestream events that modeled a family devotion.

One key blessing that helped make this program more successful was the ability to find a donor to cover the cost of purchasing a children's Bible story book for every family with children in both our church and our school. This ensured that all families had the resources needed to participate with the program. If families did not have a developmentally appropriate book for their children to use to follow the program or

would have needed to purchase their own book, this would have significantly reduced the number of families who were able to seamlessly participate. For this reason, providing each family with a book to follow along with the program from day one is a vital part of using an organization-wide family devotion program successfully.

Also key to the success of the program were regular reminders for church and school families to keep devotions going. We used many different methods to keep the program on the minds of those that we serve. From putting the devotion schedule in newsletters, to having our teachers reference stories the families were reading in classroom discussions, to using our website and social media accounts to remind families of the weekly readings, constant reminders were shared to encourage families to engage with the program each week.

Yet, we clearly found that face-to-face reminders to carry out family devotions were most effective. Families easily scroll or skim past reminders in emails or newsletters without much deep reflection on their devotional habits. However, real conversations about the importance of devotions and encouragements to carry them out using the provided materials typically resulted in reflective conversations about how to do this more effectively. These types of face-to-face conversations made it easier to do regular check-in and follow-up conversations with families during the program as well. Planning to have these types of face-to-face conversations in the form of parent/teacher conferences, at school and church events, and in “parking lot” conversation with families as they pick up or drop off students at school will be most effective in encouraging a high level of engagement in a devotion program.



Also key to keeping positive momentum going were the livestream events where my family was able to model a simple family devotion plan while we carried out one of the weekly devotions. These online events were well attended and created a lot of discussion and excitement about the program. Excitement about and engagement in the devotion program seemed to increase right after these livestreams were held. If we were to carry out this program again, we would have at least one of these livestreamed devotions per month. These events could serve regular times throughout the year to encourage engagement with the program.

### **Recommendations**

While I felt that the family devotion program was successful, there are some recommendations that I would make that would help increase the success of the program.

#### **Recommendation One: Plan to do a devotion livestream every month.**

The livestreams proved to be a great way to remind families about the program and rebuild excitement and engagement as the program was being carried out over multiple months. I would recommend having a monthly livestream of a family modeling a simple devotion plan for those that tune in to help keep engagement high throughout the year.

#### **Recommendation Two: Use faculty and staff meetings to plan engagement strategy**

At Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School we used occasional discussions at faculty and staff meetings to talk about ideas for keeping families thinking about and engaged in the devotion program. Looking back, I wish that we had planned to spend 5 minutes at each meeting purposefully brainstorming and planning ways to keep families engaged in the program. We noticed engagement in the program would increase when we

purposefully made plans to connect the weekly stories the families were reading to school lessons, Sunday School lessons, church sermons, and Bible study discussions that were going on in our organization. Taking just 5 minutes at each faculty or staff meeting to share ideas for how to do this more often would keep the staff thinking of and sharing ways to engage families in the program during the year. Great ideas for how to connect the weekly stories to current events and lessons at school were shared during the times we did discuss this topic. Adding a planned discussion to all agendas, even if it is only a very brief time that is set aside, would further help the staff collaborate together to carry out the program successfully.

**Recommendation Three: Continue to explore other Bible story book options**

The two books that I would like to eventually replace in the program would be the *The Beginner's Bible (Grades Preschool-Kindergarten)* and *The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible (Grades 1-4)*. While these books were serviceable to the program, neither made strong and clear gospel applications and both contained a few doctrinal errors that needed to be pointed out to the families making use of the program.

If no stronger book options can be found, continuing to encourage the WELS publishing house to produce children's Bible story books that contain a high enough number of Bible stories to be used over a full year for a variety of age levels would be important to do.

**Recommendation Four: Faculty In-service study focusing on encouraging devotions**

One major purpose of this field project was to give Lutheran teachers the training and resources needed to feel confident in encouraging parents to carry out their God-given roles as family spiritual heads. Taking the time to train faculty on the importance of

parents carrying out this role faithfully as laid out clearly in God's Word and also supported by the research shared in this field project is important. Helping the faculty see that children will be most effectively spiritually "fed" when their parents carry out spiritual leadership in the home is vital. This helps the teachers keep the proper perspective of their role as a supporter of the parents in carrying out this work rather than the lead in doing so.

A faculty in-service study also helps engage the teachers in being key encouragers towards keeping engagement in the devotion program high throughout the full year. This in-service study would be a great time to plan how events such as parent/teacher conferences, school and church gatherings, and tie-in opportunities during lessons in the classroom can be used to keep the devotion program at the forefront of the minds of the students and their parents.

#### **Recommendation Five: Develop application questions and discussion starters**

A key piece of feedback received from the round table discussions was the desire from parents to have more guidance on knowing how to discuss and apply the Bible stories being read during family devotions. Many requested that various levels of questions and conversation starters be provided to go along with the weekly readings to aid families in discussing the stories together and in engaging in faith talk with one another. With this feedback in mind, I plan to work on adding application questions and discussion starter ideas to each of the stories for future years that I make use of the family devotion program that was developed for this project. I also plan to look for resources that may already be developed and readily available that have pre-made discussion questions and conversation starters for various age levels.

## Limitations

One limitation to this program was the lack of quality children's Bible story books available that included enough Bible stories to allow them to work well with the year-long program. While I was able to find a book to use for each developmental level from preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, a couple of the books we had to resort to using had a few doctrinal errors in them that we needed to point out as we made our way through the program. In addition, the *Beginner's Bible* book used for the youngest age level could be overly cartoonish in nature and was often devoid of clear gospel messages or key personal applications that would be desired for many Bible stories. This put the burden on the parents to make those connections and applications on their own which could be challenging for families still gaining confidence in spiritual leadership of their children. With the WELS synod moving away from high quality hard cover books in favor of individual leaflets for the Christ Light grade school curriculum, there does seem to be a void of doctrinally reliable children's hardcover Bible story books that contain enough key Bible stories to be used for a full year of family devotions.

Another limitation was time. This program was designed to run the course of a full year. However, for the sake of using the program to finish off my degree in school administration, I needed to study the results of the program after only three months of having it be carried out. I plan to continue to study the program after this initial study concludes, but how effective the program remains beyond three months is yet to be determined.

One final limitation of the study was the full anonymity of the two Google form surveys carried out to assess the family devotion habits of the members of our church and

school both before and after the program was carried out. I purposefully set up the surveys to not ask for any names or contact information so that families could feel free to be open and honest about their devotional habits. Since this is considered a very personal topic by many, I didn't want those who responded to feel pressure or judgement about their responses to the survey. I wanted to get a fully honest and accurate picture of where families were at in their family devotional life. However, this made it challenging to know if all the responses to the second survey were the same families that responded to the first survey to get a clearer picture of how the program impacted those that participated on a family-by-family basis. If I were to carry out this study again, I would want to come up with a system for families to identify themselves in an anonymous way that would allow me to compare the progress of specific family devotional habits before and after the program without having me be aware of the identity of the families.

## REFERENCES

- Burns, J. (2011). How to pass your faith to your kids. *Lifelong Faith*, 5.3(Fall 2011), 41–42.
- Downey, A. B. (2014, March). Religious affiliation, education and internet use. [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Allen-Downey/publication/261030364\\_Religious\\_affiliation\\_education\\_and\\_Internet\\_use/links/54732eba0cf24bc8ea19c6b3/Religious-affiliation-education-and-Internet-use.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Allen-Downey/publication/261030364_Religious_affiliation_education_and_Internet_use/links/54732eba0cf24bc8ea19c6b3/Religious-affiliation-education-and-Internet-use.pdf).
- Family Ministry Task Force. (2021). (rep.). Final report to the CECW.
- Gurgel, R. (1996). A workshop to help parents build a strong Christian home. In *Sharing the promise with our children*. Milwaukee, WI; WELS Board for Parish Services.
- Heidenreich, E. (2012). Raising children in the paideia of the Lord. The Hausvater Project. <https://www.hausvater.org/articles/248-raising-children-in-the-paideia-of-the-lord.html>.
- Hein, J. R. (2016). (rep.). A demographic study of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
- How faith heritage relates to faith practice. Barna Group. (2019, July 9). <https://www.barna.com/research/faith-heritage-faith-practice/>.
- Kastens, G. F. (1992). Joint Metro-North Pastoral Conference and Dodge-Washington Pastoral Conference. In *a changing world...An unchanging challenge: God's plan for rearing children*. Manitowoc.
- Kehrwald, L., Roberto, J., & Roehlkepartain, G. (2016). *Families at the center of faith formation*. LifelongFaith Associates.
- MacPherson, R. (2016). Have you built a family altar? The Hausvater Project. <https://www.hausvater.org/articles/354-have-you-built-a-family-altar.html>.
- May, S., & Stonehouse, C. (2011). Nurturing the faith of parents. *Lifelong Faith*, 5.3 (Fall 2011), 26–30.
- "Nones" on the rise. Pew Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project. (2020, May 30). Retrieved September 17, 2021, from <https://www.pewforum.org/2012/10/09/nones-on-the-rise/>.
- Powell, K. E., Clap, C., Crawford, C. A., & Griffin, B. M. (2011). Parents and "sticky faith" - Building a lasting faith in young people. *Lifelong Faith*, 5.3(Fall 2011), 32–34.

Schultz, A. J. (1993). Symposium: The uniqueness of the christian scriptures. In *The proper use of scripture in family devotion*. New Ulm.

Smith, C., & Snell, P. (2009). *Souls in transition: The religious and spiritual lives of emerging adults*. Oxford University Press.

Stanton, G. T. (2013, February 21). Millennial faith participation and retention. Focus on the family. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/millennial-faith-participation-and-retention/>.

## Appendix A: Organization-Wide Family Devotion Plan

### Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School Organization-Wide Family Devotion Plan

Week	Story Focus	Beginner's Bible (Grades Pre-K)	The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible (Grades 1-4)	The Jesus Storybook (Grades 1-6)	120 Bible Stories (Grades 5-8)	Bible Reference (Grades 5 and Up + Adults)
						
January 16-22	Creation	P. 7-13	P. 16-17	P. 18-27	P. 6-7	Genesis 1
January 16-22	Adam and Eve	P. 14-17	P. 18-19	P. 28-37	P. 8-9	Genesis 2
January 23-29	Fall into Sin	P. 18-25	P. 20-21	P. 28-37	P. 10-11	Genesis 3
January 23-29	Noah's Ark	P. 26-33	P. 24-27	P. 38-47	P. 14-15	Genesis 6-9
Jan. 30-Feb. 5	The Tower of Babel	P. 34-38	P. 28-29	P. 48-55		Genesis 11
Jan. 30-Feb. 5	Abraham + Lot	P. 39-45	P. 30-33		P. 18-19	Genesis 12-17
February 6-12	Promise of a Son	P. 46-51	P. 34-37	P. 56-61	P. 22-25	Genesis 18, 21
February 6-12	Abraham and Isaac		P. 42-45	P. 62-69	P. 26-27	Genesis 22
February 13-19	Isaac and Rebekah	P. 52-57	P. 46-47		P. 28-29	Genesis 24-25
February 13-19	Isaac's Blessing	P. 58-62	P. 48-49		P. 30-31	Genesis 27
February 20-26	Jacob's Dream	P. 63-65	P. 50-51		P. 32-33	Genesis 28
February 20-26	Jacob, Rachel, and Leah		P. 52-53	P. 70-75	P. 34-35	Genesis 29-30
Feb. 27-Mar. 5	Jacob and Esau Reunite	P. 66-70	P. 56-57		P. 36-37	Genesis 32-33
Feb. 27-Mar. 5	Joseph and His Brothers	P. 71-77	P. 60-63	P. 76-83	P. 38-39	Genesis 37
March 6-12	Pharaoh's Dreams	P. 78-85	P. 69-73	P. 76-83	P. 40-41	Genesis 39-41
March 6-12	Joseph Saves His Family	P. 86-91	P. 74-81	P. 76-83	P. 42-45	Genesis 42-46
March 13-19	Moses	P. 92-97	P. 82-85	P. 84-91	P. 46-49	Exodus 1-2:10
March 13-19	The Burning Bush	P. 98-103	P. 86-87	P. 84-91	P. 50-51	Exodus 3
March 20-26	Ten Plagues	P. 104-110	P. 88-93	P. 84-91	P. 52-55	Exodus 7-12
March 20-26	The Red Sea	P. 111-115	P. 94-99	P. 92-99	P. 56-57	Exodus 14
Mar. 27-Apr. 2	Food from Heaven	P. 116-119	P. 100-101	P. 100-107	P. 58-59	Exodus 16
Mar. 27-Apr. 2	10 Commandments	P. 120-123	P. 102-103	P. 100-107	P. 60-61	Exodus 19-20
April 3 - 9	Twelve Spies	P. 124-127	P. 114-115	P. 108-115	P. 64-65	Numbers 13
April 3 - 9	Joshua and the Spies	P. 128-131	P. 132-133	P. 108-115	P. 70-71	Joshua 2
April 10-16	Battle of Jericho	P. 132-135	P. 136-137	P. 108-115	P. 72-75	Joshua 6
April 10-16	Deborah	P. 136-139	P. 140-141		P. 76-79	Judges 4



## Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School Organization-Wide Family Devotion Plan

Week	Story Focus	Beginner's Bible (Grades Pre-K)	The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible (Grades 1-4)	The Jesus Storybook (Grades 1-6)	120 Bible Stories (Grades 5-8)	Bible Reference (Grades 5 and Up + Adults)
April 17-23	Gideon	P. 140-145	P. 142-145		P. 80-81	Judges 6-7
April 17-23	Samson	P. 146-151	P. 148-151		P. 82-83	Judges 13, 16
April 24-30	Ruth	P. 152-155	P. 152-153		P. 84-85	Ruth 1-4
April 24-30	Hannah & Samuel	P. 156-159	P. 154-155		P. 86-87	1 Samuel 1:1-20
May 1-7	God Calls Samuel	P. 160-163	P. 156-157		P. 88-89	1 Samuel 3
May 1-7	Israel's First King	P. 164-167	P. 160-161	P. 116-121	P. 90-93	1 Samuel 8-10
May 8-14	King David Anointed	P. 168-172	P. 162-165	P. 116-121	P. 94-95	1 Samuel 15:1 - 16:13
May 8-14	David and Goliath	P. 173-180	P. 166-167	P. 122-129	P. 96-97	1 Samuel 17:1-51
May 15-21	David and Jonathan	P. 181-185	P. 168-169		P. 98-99	1 Samuel 16:14-23; 18-20
May 15-21	King David	P. 186-189	P. 176-177	P. 130-135	P. 100-101	2 Samuel 1:1-2:4; 5:1-12
May 22-28	Psalms 23	P. 190-193	P. 336-337	P. 130-135		Psalms 23
May 22-28	King Solomon	P. 194-200	P. 188-197		P. 102-105	1 Kings 2:1-4; 1 Kings 3:5-10:13
May 29-June 4	Elijah and Ahab	P. 201-205	P. 202-203			1 Kings 16:29-17:7
May 29-June 4	Elijah and the Widow	P. 206-208	P. 204-205		P. 106-107	1 Kings 17:8-16
June 5-11	Elijah and Prophets of Baal	P. 209-215	P. 206-207		P. 108-109	1 Kings 18
June 5-11	Chariot of Fire	P. 216-221	P. 210-211		P. 110-111	1 Kings 19:19-21, 2 Kings 2:1-13
June 12-18	Jars of Oil	P. 222-225				2 Kings 4:1-7
June 12-18	Elisha	P. 226-229				2 Kings 4:8-17
June 19-25	Naaman is Healed	P. 230-234	P. 212-213	P. 136-143	P. 112-113	2 Kings 5:1-15
June 19-25	Jonah	P. 257-264	P. 314-319	P. 160-169	P. 114-115	Jonah 1:1-3:10
June 26-July 2	King Josiah	P. 235-239	P. 232-233		P. 120-121	2 Kings 22:1-23:3
June 26-July 2	Fiery Furnace	P. 247-250	P. 264-267		P. 124-125, 130-131	Daniel 3
July 3-9	Daniel and the Lions Den	P. 251-256	P. 274-277	P. 152-159	P. 132-133	Daniel 6
July 3-9	Esther	P. 240-246	P. 298-311		P. 140-143	Esther 1-10
July 10-16	Angel Visits Mary	P. 266-270	P. 374-375	P. 176-183	P. 146-147, 150-151	Luke 1:26-38
July 10-16	Jesus is Born	P. 271-276	P. 382-383	P. 176-183	P. 154-155	Luke 2:1-7
July 17-23	The Shepherds Visit Jesus	P. 277-281	P. 384-385	P. 184-191		Luke 2:8-20
July 17-23	Simeon and Anna	P. 282-285	P. 386-387			Luke 2:25-38
July 24-30	The Wise Men	P. 286-290	P. 388-389	P. 192-199	P. 156-157	Matthew 2:1-12
July 24-30	King Herod	P. 291-295	P. 390-391	P. 192-199		Matthew 2:13-23
July 31-Aug. 6	12 Year Old Jesus	P. 296-302	P. 392-393		P. 158-159	Luke 2:41-52
July 31-Aug. 6	John the Baptist	P. 303-307	P. 394-395	P. 200-207		Matthew 3:1-17, Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-22, John 1:1-34

## Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School Organization-Wide Family Devotion Plan

Week	Story Focus	Beginner's Bible (Grades Pre-K)	The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible (Grades 1-4)	The Jesus Storybook (Grades 1-6)	120 Bible Stories (Grades 5-8)	Bible Reference (Grades 5 and Up + Adults)
August 7-13	Baptism of Jesus		P. 396-397		P. 162-163	Matthew 3:13-17, 40-46, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, John 1:28-34
August 7-13	Jesus Is Tempted		P. 398-399	P. 208-214	P. 164-165	Matthew 4:1-11
August 14-20	Jesus Rejected in Nazareth		P. 406-407		P. 176-177	Luke 4:14-30
August 14-20	Parable of the Sower		P. 448-449			Mark 4:1-20
August 21-27	Choosing of the Disciples	P. 308-313	P. 400-401, 408-409, 428-429	P. 208-214	P. 166-167	Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9, 10:1-4, Mark 1-3, Luke 5-6
August 21-27	The Wedding at Cana	P. 314-317	P. 402-403		P. 168-169	John 2:1-11
Aug. 28-Sept. 3	Sermon on the Mount	P. 318-321	P. 432-435	P. 228-235	P. 180-181	Matthew 5:1-12, 6:25-34, Luke 6:17-23, 12:22-31
Aug. 28-Sept. 3	Jesus and Nicodemus		P. 416-417		P. 172-173	John 3:1-21
September 4-10	Jesus & Samaritan Woman		P. 418-419		P. 174-175	John 4:1-26
September 4-10	The Lord's Prayer	P. 322-327	P. 436-437	P. 222-227	P. 180-181	Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-4
September 11-17	The Centurion's Faith	P. 324-327	P. 420-421			Matthew 8:5-13
September 11-17	Jesus Heals a Paralytic	P. 328-333	P. 412-413		P. 178-179	Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26
September 18-24	Jesus Calms the Storm	P. 334-339	P. 444-445	P. 236-243	P. 182-183	Matthew 8:23-27
September 18-24	Raising of Jairus's Daughter	P. 340-350	P. 424-425	P. 214-221	P. 184-185	Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:21-43, Luke 8:40-56
Sept. 25-Oct. 1	The Parable of the Treasure			P. 250-255		Matthew 13:44-46
Sept. 25-Oct. 1	The Parable of the Net	P. 351-356				Matthew 13:47-49
October 2-8	Young Man of Nain Raised		P. 422-423			Luke 7:11-17
October 2-8	Jesus Feeds the 5,000	P. 357-363	P. 442-443	P. 244-249	P. 186-187	Matthew 14:13-22, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-15
October 9-15	Jesus Walks on Water	P. 364-370	P. 452-453		P. 188-189	Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-51, John 6:15-20
October 9-15	Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar	P. 371-374			P. 198-199	John 9:1-41
October 16-22	Money in a Fish	P. 375-378				Matthew 17:24-27
October 16-22	The Good Samaritan	P. 379-384	P. 470-471		P. 196-197	Luke 10:25-37
October 23-29	Mary and Martha	P. 385-390	P. 472-473			Luke 10:38-42
October 23-29	The Lost Sheep	P. 391-396	P. 464-465		P. 200-201	Matthew 18:10-14, Luke 15:3-7
Oct. 30-Nov. 5	The Lost Son	P. 397-404	P. 466-467	P. 272-279	P. 204-205	Luke 15:11-32
Oct. 30-Nov. 5	The Ten Lepers	P. 405-408			P. 206-207	Luke 17:11-19
November 6-12	Jesus and the Children	P. 409-412	P. 458-459	P. 256-263	P. 208-209	Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16, Luke 18:15-17
November 6-12	Zacchaeus	P. 413-417	P. 486-487	P. 264-271	P. 210-211	Luke 19:1-10

## Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School Organization-Wide Family Devotion Plan

Week	Story Focus	Beginner's Bible (Grades Pre-K)	The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible (Grades 1-4)	The Jesus Storybook (Grades 1-6)	120 Bible Stories (Grades 5-8)	Bible Reference (Grades 5 and Up + Adults)
November 13-19	The Raising of Lazarus	P. 418-422	P. 474-475		P. 202-203	John 11:1-44
November 13-19	Mary Anoints Jesus's Feet	P. 423-426	P. 488-489	P. 280-285		John 12:1-8, Mark 14:1-11, John 12:1-11
November 20-26	Palm Sunday	P. 427-432	P. 490-491		P. 212-215	Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:29-42, John 12:12-19
November 20-26	A Poor Widow's Gift	P. 433-436	P. 500-501		P. 216-217	Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4
Nov. 27-Dec. 3	Jesus Washes Feet	P. 437-441	P. 506-507	P. 286-293		John 13:3-30, Mark 14:12-31
Nov. 27-Dec. 3	The Last Supper	P. 442-445	P. 508-509		P. 218-219	Matthew 26:17-29, Mark 14:12-25, Luke 22:7-19, John 13-14
December 4-10	The Garden of Gethsemane		P. 512-515	P. 294-301	P. 220-221	Luke 22:39-53, Mark 14:32-51, John 18:1-14
December 4-10	Jesus Arrested & Crucified	P. 446-452	P. 518-529	P. 302-309	P. 222-227	Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, John 18-19
December 11-17	Jesus is Risen	P. 453-458	P. 530-533	P. 310-317	P. 228-229	Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-10, Luke 24:1-11, John 20:1-18
December 11-17	Road to Emmaus		P. 534-535		P. 230-231	Luke 24:13-35
December 18-24	Jesus Appears to Disciples	P. 459-461	P. 536-537		P. 232-233	John 20:19-20
December 18-24	Jesus and the Catch of Fish	P. 462-465	P. 538-539		P. 234-235	John 21:1-14
December 25-31	Jesus Ascends to Heaven	P. 466-472	P. 540-541	P. 318-325	P. 236-237	Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:44-51, Acts 1:6-11
December 25-31	Pentecost	P. 473-479	P. 542-543	P. 326-333	P. 240-241	Acts 2
January 1-7	The First Church	P. 480-483	P. 544-545		P. 238-239	Acts 2:42-47
January 1-7	The Lame Man	P. 484-487	P. 546-547		P. 242-243	Acts 3:1-10
January 8-14	Saul's Conversion	P. 488-493	P. 556-559	P. 334-341	P. 248-249	Acts 9:1-19
January 8-14	Paul's Journeys	P. 494-499	P. 568-571, 576-587		P. 254-259	Acts 9:20-43
January 15-21	Paul Rescued from Prison	P. 500-503	P. 572-575		P. 260-261	Acts 16:24-34
January 15-21	Jesus is Coming Again!	P. 504-508	P. 600-601, 606-607	P. 342-349	P. 266-267	Revelation 1:1-2, 5, 21:2-4, 22:12-21

*Appendix B: Focus Group Moderator Script***Family Devotion Program  
Focus Group Discussion Script****Greeting/Snacks****1. Opening Discussion (Icebreaker):**

- Go around the group and ask participants to share their name, the age of their children, and one thing they like to do together as a family.

**2. Explanation of Focus Group Purpose**

- This will be a safe place to share ideas and thoughts with no contributions judged
- Introduction of main purpose of group as a chance to study and improve the family Bible study program used at Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School

**3. Investigation into the effectiveness of the Bible study program**

- Write down a number from 1-5 for how transformative the Bible study program was in helping your family's life and be prepared to share & give a reason for the number you wrote. (1 = It had no impact on our family, 5 = the program was transformational for our family in developing a regular devotional routine)
- What were the strengths of the devotional program?
- What were the program's weaknesses?

**4. Investigation into roadblocks that still exist towards keeping family devotions from becoming a regular habit and that keep parents from being confident in carrying them out**

- How did it feel when you were leading devotions/faith discussions?
- What struggles or roadblocks made it difficult to carry out a devotional routine?

**5. Feedback on Improving the Program**

- What can we do or provide to aid your family in engaging more often in family devotions?
- What is one thing regarding family devotions that we didn't ask about or are missing?
- What other insights might you have for improving the program or encouraging the devotional life of families?

*Appendix C: Family Devotion Life Initial Survey – January 2022*

## Family Devotional Life Survey

Principal Brad Gurgel of Saint Peter Lutheran School is currently completing his Master's Degree in Educational Administration through Martin Luther College. As part of his degree, he is working on a Field Project in which he is developing a family Bible devotion program for use at Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School. In order to design a family devotional program that best fits the needs of the families of Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School, this survey is being used to better understand family devotional habits.

Please feel free to respond to the questions below openly and honestly. All responses to this survey will be kept fully confidential. No personal information or identification of any survey participants will be shared as part of the published portions of the field project. Rather, general thoughts shared and statistics gained from this survey will be used to guide the continued development of the family devotion program.

The total time to take this survey will be less than 5 minutes.

 [bradgurgel@gmail.com](mailto:bradgurgel@gmail.com) (not shared)  
[Switch account](#)



\* Required

What age groups do the children who live in your household fall into?  
(Select all that apply):

- ☐ Newborn-Toddler
- ☐ Preschool-Kindergarten
- ☐ 1st - 4th Grade
- ☐ 5th - 8th Grade
- ☐ High School
- ☐ College
- ☐ No Children Currently Live in Our Household



How many days per week on average do you engage in Bible study or devotion with your spouse or your children? \*

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7

What "roadblocks" exist in your family's life that make keeping a devotional routine or habit difficult? \*

Your answer

React to the following statement: "I feel confident in leading my family members in devotion and faith-based discussions." \*

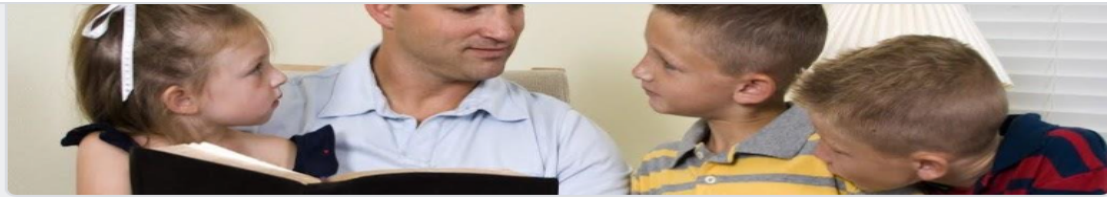
- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Somewhat Disagree
- ☐ Somewhat Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

What, if anything, hinders your confidence in leading family devotions and faith-based discussions?

Your answer

Submit

Clear form

*Appendix D: Family Devotion Life Follow Up Survey – March 2022*

## Family Devotional Life Survey #2

Principal Brad Gurgel of Saint Peter Lutheran School is currently completing his Master's Degree in Educational Administration through Martin Luther College. As part of his degree, he is working on a Field Project in which he is developing a family Bible devotion program for use at Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School. In order to design a family devotional program that best fits the needs of the families of Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School, this survey is being used to better understand family devotional habits and the impact of the designed program.

Please feel free to respond to the questions below openly and honestly. All responses to this survey will be kept fully confidential. No personal information or identification of any survey participants will be collected or shared as part of the published portions of the field project. Rather, general thoughts shared and statistics gained from this survey will be used to guide the continued development of the family devotion program.

The total time to take this survey will be less than 5 minutes.

What age groups do the children who live in your household fall into? (Select all that

- ☐ Newborn-Toddler
- ☐ Preschool-Kindergarten
- ☐ 1st - 4th Grade
- ☐ 5th - 8th Grade
- ☐ High School
- ☐ College
- ☐ No Children Currently Live in Our Household

How many days per week on average during the first few months of 2022 did you engage in a Bible study or devotion with your spouse or your children? \*

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7

What "roadblocks" continue to exist in your family's life that make keeping a devotional routine or habit difficult? \*

Long answer text

React to the following statement: "I feel confident in leading my family members in devotion and faith-based discussions." \*





- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Somewhat Disagree
- ☐ Somewhat Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

What, if anything, hinders your confidence in leading family devotions and faith-based

Long answer text

Image ...

#### Saint Peter Lutheran Church and School Organization-Wide Family Devotion Plan

Week	Story Focus	Beginner's Bible (Grades Pre-K-K)	The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible (Grades 1-4)	The Jesus Storybook (Grades 1-6)	120 Bible Stories (Grades 5-8)	Bible Reference (Grades 5 and Up + Adults)
						
January 16-22	Creation	P. 7-13	P. 16-17	P. 18-27	P. 6-7	Genesis 1
January 16-22	Adam and Eve	P. 14-17	P. 18-19	P. 28-37	P. 8-9	Genesis 2
January 23-29	Fall into Sin	P. 18-25	P. 20-21	P. 28-37	P. 10-11	Genesis 3
January 23-29	Noah's Ark	P. 26-33	P. 24-27	P. 38-47	P. 14-15	Genesis 6-9
Jan. 30-Feb. 5	The Tower of Babel	P. 34-38	P. 28-29	P. 48-55		Genesis 11
Jan. 30-Feb. 5	Abraham + Lot	P. 39-45	P. 30-33		P. 18-19	Genesis 12-17
February 6-12	Promise of a Son	P. 46-51	P. 34-37	P. 56-61	P. 22-25	Genesis 18, 21
February 6-12	Abraham and Isaac		P. 42-45	P. 62-69	P. 26-27	Genesis 22
February 13-19	Isaac and Rebekah	P. 52-57	P. 46-47		P. 28-29	Genesis 24-25

How helpful did you find the Saint Peter Lutheran family devotion program in starting and maintaining a family devotion routine at home? \*

- ☐ It had no impact on our family devotional habits
- ☐ It helped our family engage in family devotions slightly more often
- ☐ It helped our family engage in family devotions somewhat consistently
- ☐ It helped our family begin or continue a consistent routine for engaging in family d...



How helpful did you find the Saint Peter Lutheran family devotion program in starting and maintaining a family devotion routine at home? \*

- ☐ It had no impact on our family devotional habits
- ☐ It helped our family engage in family devotions slightly more often
- ☐ It helped our family engage in family devotions somewhat consistently
- ☐ It helped our family begin or continue a consistent routine for engaging in family d...

Which parts of the family devotion program did you or your family participate in, make use of, tune in for, or watch recordings of? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ The family devotion program "kick-off" presentation on Sunday, January 9th
- ☐ The free Children's Bible Story books handed out to all families in grades Preschoo...
- ☐ The twice-weekly Bible story readings devotion schedule
- ☐ One or more live-streamed devotions with the Gurgel Family

What were any strengths or positives of the family devotion

Long answer text

What were any weaknesses of the family devotion

Long answer text

What suggestions would you give for how to improve the family devotion program for future years? (What additional resources, training, guidance, encouragements, etc... would help make the program more effective for you or your family?)

Long answer text

***Appendix E: Online Family Devotion Event Recordings & Editable Resources***

Recordings of the “Kick Off” event and livestream devotion demonstrations as well as downloadable resources that include editable versions of the yearly devotion plan and “Kick Off” event slideshow can be found at:

<https://saintpeterlutheran.org/familybiblestudy/>

# Family Bible Study Resources

[Family Devotion Plan 2022-2023](#)

[Editable Family Devotion Plan](#)

[Family Bible Study Program “Kick-Off” Event PowerPoint](#)

[Teachers Conference Organization-Wide Bible Plan  
Presentation](#)

[Video of Bible Class Kick-Off Event](#)

[Video of Family Devotion Demonstration/Modeling #1](#)

[Video of Family Devotion Demonstration/Modeling #2](#)

**Address:**

427 W Mulberry St.  
St. Peter, MN 56082

**Phone:**

507-931-1866

**Email:**

[office@saintpeterlutheran.org](mailto:office@saintpeterlutheran.org)

[Contact Us](#)

**WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES****Sunday Mornings:**

8:00 and 10:30 A.M.

\*10:30 A.M. is livestreamed on

[Facebook](#)

**Communion Worship:**

1st and 3rd Sundays each  
month