

52 At-Home Faith Formation Tips 2019-20

Here's an easy way to share helpful faith formation tips with your congregation! Each week, cut and paste one tip into your church bulletin, post it on your website, email it, or post on your church's social media. We've also included copyright-free photos from [Pixabay](https://pixabay.com/) that you can use to illustrate these posts. Questions? Contact Sandy Swartzentruber, resource coordinator at Faith Formation Ministries, at sswartzentruber@crcna.org.

For 9/1

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Fall can be an overwhelming and anxious time for students of all ages. How might you encourage the students in your family or your church this week? You might bake cookies, share a favorite book, send a card. And pray for them as they discover the gifts God has given them and explore how God might be calling them to use those gifts. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/green-art-wood-sharp-pencil-group-1738220/>

For 9/8

At-home Faith Formation Tip: It's Grandparents' Day today! Invite the Christian grandparents in your life (both official and honorary) to share stories of how God has worked in their lives. Making space for these stories honors the elders in your family and encourages younger family members in their walk with Jesus. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/old-couple-sitting-grandparents-2313286/>

For 9/15

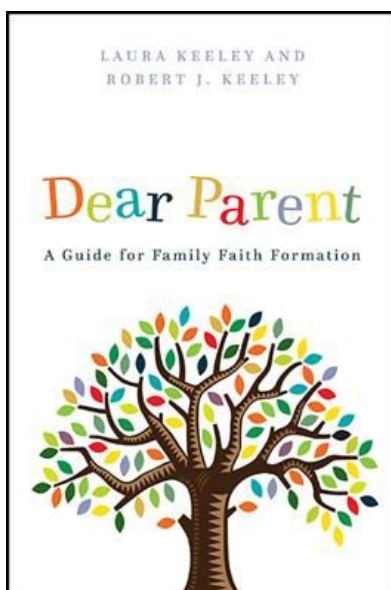
At-home Faith Formation Tip: In the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary* (IVP 2016), Tish Warren writes, “We learn the craft of holiness day by day in the living of a particular life . . . we are part of God’s big vision and mission—the redemption of all things—through the earthy craft of living out our vocation, hour by hour, task by task. I want to do the big work of the kingdom, but I have to learn to live it out in the small tasks before me.” How might this insight change your perspective on the small tasks of your daily life? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 9/22

At-home Faith Formation Tip: What faith practices shape your life and the lives of the people who share your home? “It’s easy for us to think that we create our habits, but our habits also create us. The faith-forming things that we do together deeply affect the way we think and act. Because of this, consistently committing to your faith practices as a family has a significant impact.” —from *Dear Parent: A Guide for Family Faith Formation*, by Laura Keeley and Robert J. Keeley, available at FaithAliveResources.org. (Tip from Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://www.faithaliveresources.org/Products/810760/dear-parent.aspx>

For 9/29

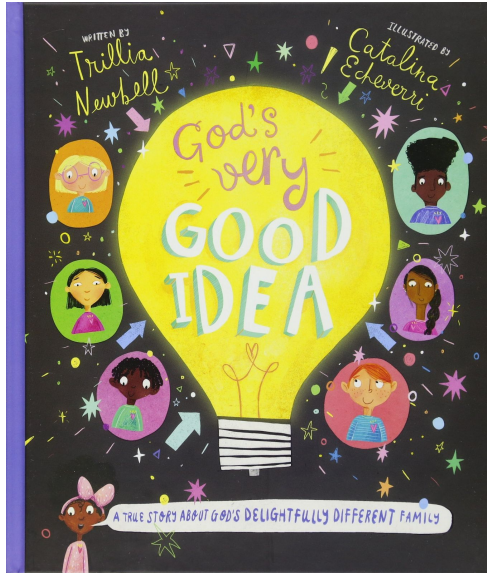
At-home Faith Formation Tip: Thankfulness is an important faith practice. Each day between now and Thanksgiving, notice the things in your life that you can give thanks for. Write those things on slips of paper and collect them in a jar or box to read during your Thanksgiving celebration. Also visit tinyurl.com/ThanksPsalms for some beautiful Psalm printables you can use to decorate your Thanksgiving table. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/thanks-word-letters-scrabble-1804597/>

For 10/6

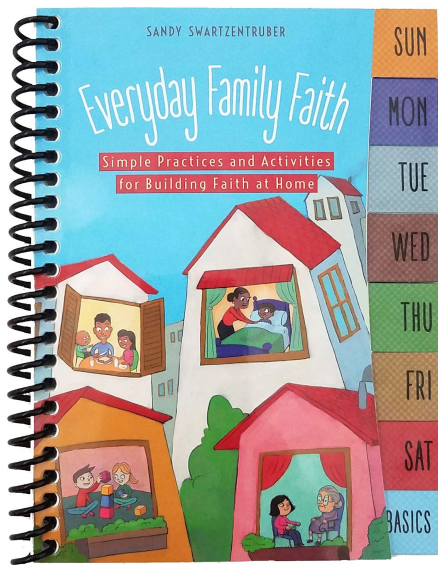
At-home Faith Formation Tip: Today is World Communion Sunday. If you have kids at home, check out the picture book *God's Very Good Idea: A True Story of God's Delightfully Different Family* by Trillia Newbell. It's part of a wonderful series called "Tales that Tell the Truth" from The Good Book Company, all of which would be great additions to your picture book library. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://www.amazon.com/Gods-Very-Good-Idea-Delightfully/dp/1784982210>

For 10/13

At-home Faith Formation Tip: *Everyday Family Faith* is a pocket-sized resource for parents and caregivers who want to weave faith into everyday family life in simple, natural ways. For each day of the week it provides fun, do-able ideas and activities for exploring small portions of Scripture, praying together, talking about God together, and living out faith. Check it out at FaithAliveResources.org. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://network.crcna.org/faitn-nurture/everyday-family-faitn-fresh-ideas-family-faitn-formation>

For 10/20

At-home Faith Formation Tip: The Building Blocks of Faith are four statements that, when they become increasingly true for a person, indicate that his or her faith is growing:

- **I belong** to Jesus and to his body, the church.
- **I know and understand** the story of God's faithfulness, of which I am a part.
- **I have hope**, through Christ, in all of God's promises.
- **I am called** to work in God's kingdom, **and I am equipped** to do that work.

What opportunities do the people in your household have to grow in each of these ways? For more on the Building Blocks, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits/building-blocks-faith. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/puzzle-cube-wood-block-toys-7503/>

For 10/27

At-home Faith Formation Tip: “Regardless of what a family looks like, its adult members can have a big impact on the development of children’s faith. And they do that primarily by modeling faith in everyday moments. What do those moments look like? They are amazingly ordinary. Holding hands, praying at the table, going to bed . . . talking about a bad day at school—those moments all have the potential to form faith”—from *Dear Parent: A Guide for Family Faith Formation*, by Laura Keeley and Robert J. Keeley, available at FaithAliveResources.org. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/cereal-spoon-milk-cheerios-morning-1444495/>

For 11/3

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Some wisdom to think about and talk about this week: "It's a gift to joyfully recognize and accept our own smallness and ordinariness. Then you are free with nothing to live up to, nothing to prove, and nothing to protect. Such freedom is my best description of Christian maturity, because once you know that your 'I' is great and one with God, you can, ironically, be quite content with a small and ordinary 'I.'" —Richard Rohr, *Radical Grace: Daily Meditations*. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/sparrow-sperling-bird-nature-3698507/>

For 11/10

At-home Faith Formation Tip: “Wondering questions” are an excellent way to engage kids (and people of all ages!) with Scripture. For example, after you read the creation story, ask open-ended questions like “I wonder what it looked like when God created the stars?” “I wonder what it would be like if there were no predators in our world?” “I wonder what you would feel like if you were the first person in God’s creation?” (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/star-trails-star-night-light-sky-2234343/>

For 11/17

At-home Faith Formation Tip: In *Liturgy of the Ordinary* (IVP 2016), Tish Warren writes, “In my daily life I’ve developed habits of impatience—of speeding ahead, of trying to squeeze more into my cluttered day. How can I live as one who watches and waits for the coming kingdom when I can barely wait for water to boil?” As the Advent season draws near, how might you more fully embrace the discipline of waiting in your everyday home life? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/bell-hotel-call-ring-hurry-desire-3708209/>

For 11/24

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Advent starts next Sunday! How might you celebrate this time of expectant waiting with the people in your household? Here are two ideas: Participate in the [Advent Word project](https://adventword.org) at adventword.org. AdventWord is a global, online Advent calendar that offers meditations and images to inspire and connect individuals and a worldwide community of believers to the themes of Advent. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/time-timer-clock-watch-hour-371226/>

For 12/1

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip: During Advent, we light the candle of Hope. Through Jesus Christ, God provides us with hope for our daily living and hope for our future. How can you be a messenger of hope this week? Wonder and talk about that with someone this week. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 12/8

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip: During Advent, we light the candle of Peace. Through Jesus Christ, God gives us peace. In what area of your life do you most need God's peace? How might you be a peacemaker this week? Wonder and talk about that this week. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/water-drop-liquid-splash-wet-1761027/>

For 12/15

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip: During Advent, we light the candle of Joy. Joy is not a fleeting happiness, but an attitude of the heart that springs from gratitude. What brings you joy? How might you spread joy to others? Wonder and talk about that this week. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 12/22

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip: During Advent, we light the candle of Love. Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection were all characterized by love. In return, we are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." Consider how your family or household might do those things more fully in the coming year. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 12/25--Christmas Day

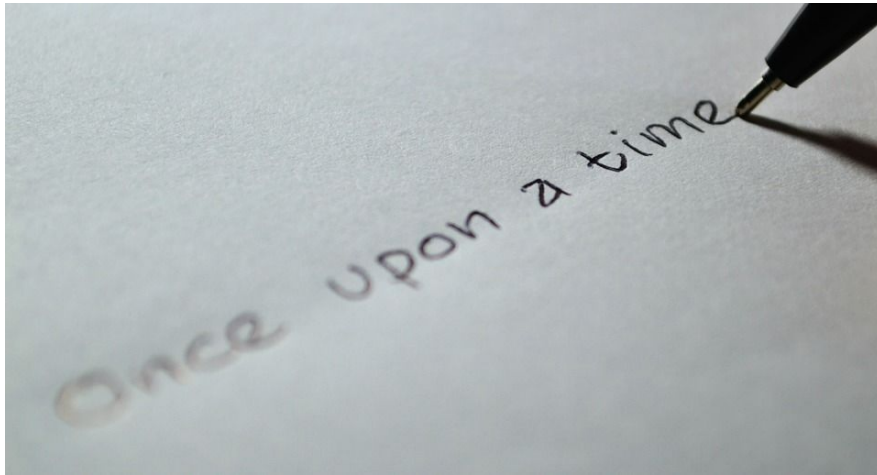
Christmas Day At-home Faith Formation Tip: Today we light the Christ candle to remind ourselves that the light of Christ has come into the world. Light a Christ candle in your own home today as you celebrate. Consider lighting a candle at each mealtime in the coming week (or year!) to remind you that Jesus is always with you. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 12/29

At-home Faith Formation Tip: As the year draws to a close, gather as a family or with friends to reflect on the events of the past 12 months and tell stories of how God guided, protected, convicted, loved, and provided for you. Hearing each others' stories is one of the best ways to grow in faith! (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 1/5

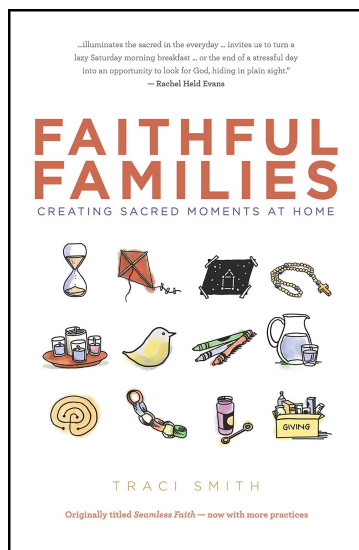
At-home Faith Formation Tip: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance” (Eccles 3:1-4). As we enter a new year full of unknowns, remind each other to take comfort in the knowledge that all your times are in God’s hand. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 1/12

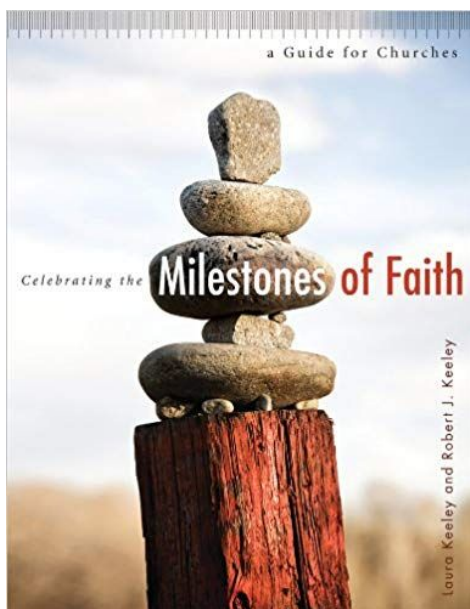
At-home Faith Formation Tip: *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home* by Traci Smith (Chalice Press), contains hundreds of ideas for traditions, ceremonies and spiritual practices that build faith, from creating a “sacred space” in your house, to mealtime and bedtime blessings, to new ways to pray together. It’s an amazing resource that can help families with children start some new household faith habits in the new year. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



https://www.amazon.com/Faithful-Families-Creating-Sacred-Moments/dp/0827211228/ref=sr_1_2?keywords=faithful+families&qid=1566304657&s=books&sr=1-2

For 1/19

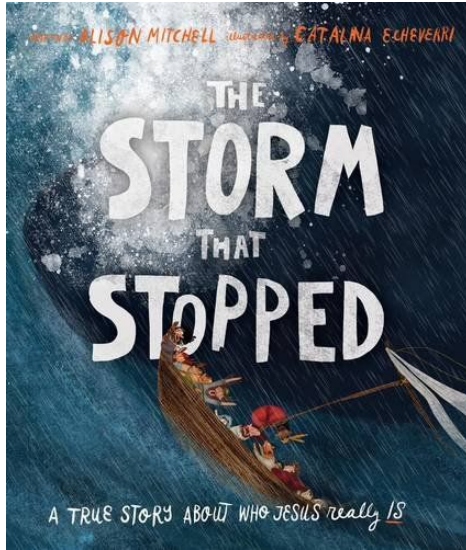
At-home Faith Formation Tip: “Marking faith milestones makes us sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst and helps us identify and share our stories of faith. As we celebrate milestones, we become a community of seekers as well as believers, always on the lookout for God’s hand at work, always expecting to join in God’s mission.” —from *Celebrating the Milestones of Faith*, available from FaithAliveResources.org. How might you mark faith milestones in your family or household this year? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://www.faithaliveresources.org/Products/018018/celebrating-the-milestones-of-faith.aspx>

For 1/26

At-home Faith Formation Tip: “Pausing with children to read and to wonder about meanings in words and in illustrations of Bible stories is a spiritual practice,” writes Elizabeth Caldwell in *I Wonder: Engaging a Child’s Curiosity about the Bible*. For a list of some wonderful Christian picture books the Faith Formation Ministries team loves and recommends, visit tinyurl.com/FFMpicturebooks. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



https://www.amazon.com/Storm-That-Stopped-Alison-Mitchell/dp/1910307963/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=the+storm+that+stopped&qid=1566304724&s=gateway&sr=8-1

For 2/2

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Looking for creative ways to pray with kids? Check out a helpful blog post at network.crcna.org/sunday-school/5-pointers-praying-kids, or take a look at the book *Praying in Color: Kids' Edition* by Sybil MacBeth, 2009 Paraclete Press. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/dad-son-walking-family-father-909510/>

For 2/9

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Rain For Roots is a collective of songwriters that includes Sandra McCracken, Katy Bowser, Ellie Holcomb, and Flo Paris. They came together around a single vision: to make new Scripture songs for children, centered around the poetry of Sally Lloyd-Jones (author of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*). Inspired by traditional folk melodies, Rain for Roots makes new, timeless songs about the old gospel Story. Check them out at RainforRoots.com. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://rainforroots.bandcamp.com/>

For 2/16

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Faith5 is a simple five-step faith formation practice that your family or household can do together. First, **share** your highs and lows of the day. Then **read** a Bible verse or story together. **Talk** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows, **pray** for one another's highs and lows, and **bless** one another. Faith5 is great for people of all ages! Check out Faith5.org for more. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 2/23

At-home Faith Formation Tip: In *The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction* (2019, IVP books), Justin Whitmel Earley suggests eight habits to shape our days. Daily habits include prayer at morning, midday, and bedtime; one meal with others; one hour with phone off; and Scripture before phone. Weekly habits include one hour of conversation with a friend, curate media to four hours, fast from something for 24 hours, and sabbath observance. What habits have you chosen to shape your days? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For Ash Wednesday 2/26

Ash Wednesday At-home Faith Formation Tip: Wearing ashes on one's forehead on Ash Wednesday is a symbol of repentance. At home, invite each person to write an action for which they want forgiveness on a slip of paper. Burn the papers, saving the ashes. Talk with kids about the fact that repentance is more than saying "I'm sorry"—it means asking God to change our heart and mind. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 3/1

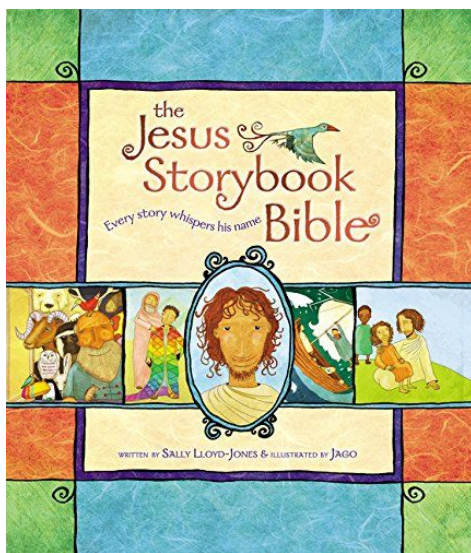
Lent At-home Faith Formation Tip: Engage in Lent with a Lenten journey calendar similar to an Advent calendar. On a large piece of paper, draw a path with 40 stepping stones on it, and an empty tomb at the end of the path. Since Lent started on Feb. 26, color in all the stepping stones from then until today. Each day, color in another stone and pray together. For help with explaining what Lent means to young children, check out tinyurl.com/LentQuestions and tinyurl.com/LentKids. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; cena.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/reed-stepping-stone-ishibashi-1666746/>

For 3/8

Lent At-home Faith Formation Tip: Many Christians practice giving something up for Lent in order to make more space for God. If you have kids in your household, think together about how you might make more space for God this week. For example, you might take a technology break each day and spend the time reading about Jesus' life and ministry in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible* and talking about the stories together. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Storybook-Bible-Every-Whispers/dp/0310708257>

For 3/15

Lent At-home Faith Formation Tip: During Lent, many Christians try to become more aware of the suffering of others as we remember Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. How might you do this? Consider volunteering as a family, with friends, or on your own at a ministry of mercy, or visiting members of your congregation who can't physically join you in worship on Sundays. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 3/22

Lent At-home Faith Formation Tip: As Holy Week nears, create a worship space—a table or corner of a room where you can be intentional about spending time with God this week. For now, decorate it with purple or black cloth, a cross, and other symbols. Then on Easter morning, decorate this space with flowers, butterflies, white and gold cloth, etc. Talk with kids about what these symbols mean. This space can continue as a worship area even after Easter is finished. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; cena.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/passion-cross-good-friday-3111303/>

For 3/29

Lent At-home Faith Formation Tip: Hold a modified Seder meal with your family or friends to draw connections between the traditional Jewish Passover meal and the Last Supper. This also provides a wonderful opportunity to teach children about communion and how Jesus asked us to remember him when we celebrate it. Author Ann Voskamp offers Christian seder meal instructions at tinyurl.com/VoskampSeder. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://www.freeimages.com/photo/matza-for-passover-pessah-25-1194466>

For 4/5

Lent At-home Faith Formation Tip: Spend time in the Easter story this week by engaging with it in a variety of ways. If you have kids in your life, read it and then retell it together as you act it out or use crayons, markers, collage or even Lego to depict various scenes. With other adults or on your own, read the story out loud several times, pausing in between to reflect and to circle or write down words that stand out for you. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/easter-spring-lego-easter-story-4128056/>

For Good Friday 4/10

Good Friday At-home Faith Formation Tip: Take some time today to reflect on the events of Good Friday. Read the story, and then use questions like these as you wonder about it: What would it be like to be a friend of Jesus that day? How would you feel? What would you do? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/cross-good-friday-resurrection-3983452/>

For 4/12

Easter Sunday At-home Faith Formation Tip: Children learn best through story, so create a special time this week to share the Easter story with the kids in your life. Use a picture book like *The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross: The True Story of Why Jesus Died and Rose Again* (Good Book Co., 2016), or read stories from Jesus' ministry, Holy Week, and Easter from a children's Bible. Show kids that God's story is full of hope and joy! (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/empty-tomb-nazareth-israel-3326100/>

For 4/19

At-home Faith Formation Tip: From Psalm 65:8: “The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.” Make this passage your morning and evening prayer this week. During the day, look for God’s “wonders” and point them out to the people you share life with. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/dandelion-dewdrop-flower-close-up-3094349/>

For 4/26

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Count your blessings as a household. When something happens for which you are grateful, write it down or draw it on a piece of paper. Collect these blessings in a bowl or jar, and at the end of the year, reflect on the many ways God has blessed you—and blessed others through you! (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/glass-jars-containers-lights-colors-3875721/>

For 5/3

At-home Faith Formation Tip: God's big family is made up of people from every country on earth! Print off a world map and put it on your refrigerator or kitchen table. Each day, or once a week, choose a country (or if there are kids in your household, take turns). Learn about that country and pray for the needs of its people. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/hands-world-map-global-earth-600497/>

For 5/10

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Today is Mother's Day. For some it's a joyous occasion. For others, it's a reminder of grief. Whatever your experience, give thanks today for the women in your life (biological mothers, adoptive mothers, mentors, teachers, and others) who pointed you toward Jesus and helped you along your faith journey. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/women-sisters-hands-young-moment-1134987/>

For 5/17

At-home Faith Formation Tip: “The most powerful choices we will make in our lives are not about specific decisions but about patterns of life: the nudges and disciplines that will shape all our other choices. This is especially true with technology”—from *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch (Baker Books). As summer vacation draws near, what technology patterns and disciplines might benefit you or your family? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/iphone-mobile-smartphone-cell-phone-2617704/>

For 5/21

Ascension Day Faith Formation Tip: Picture a kite soaring high in a summer sky. “Even though we know scientifically how kites fly, there is still something magical, mysterious, beautiful, and special about the sight of a kite batting back and forth on an invisible breeze, tail twirling in the wind. Talk about how the disciples must have felt seeing Jesus rise to heaven. What emotions would they have felt (nervous, sad, excited, inspired?)” (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/kite-fly-wind-fun-1159538/>

For 5/24

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Although mealtime often serves as a reminder to pray, we can get into ruts about what to pray about. Mealtime placemats like these downloadable versions from Flame Creative Children's Ministry (tinyurl.com/FlamePlacemats) provide prompts for young children. What might you include on a place mat for older children . . . or yourself? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



[http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2017/08/meal-time-grace-placemat-for-under-5s.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+FlameCreativeChildrensMinistry+\(Flame:+Creative+Children%27s+Ministry\)](http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2017/08/meal-time-grace-placemat-for-under-5s.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+FlameCreativeChildrensMinistry+(Flame:+Creative+Children%27s+Ministry))

For 5/31

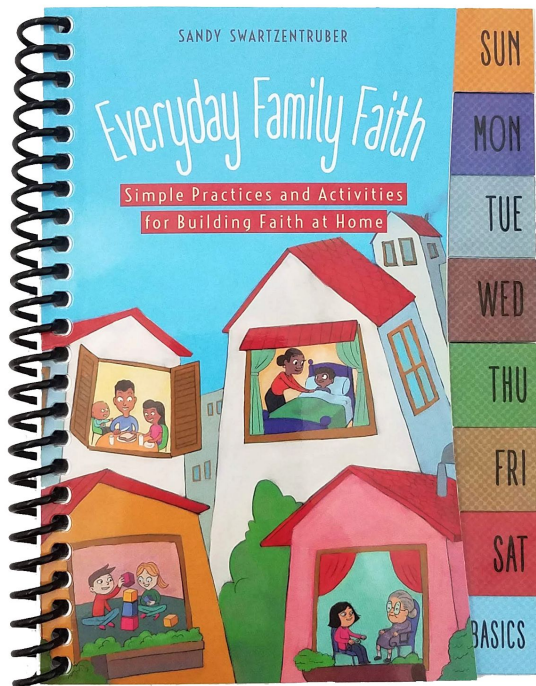
At-home Faith Formation Tip: Today, Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Check out thebibleproject.com/explore/holy-spirit/ for a wonderful five-minute video that traces the movement of God's Spirit from Genesis to today. How might you or your family become more aware of the Spirit's work in your everyday life? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/mosaic-image-art-christen-believe-409427/>

For 6/7

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Vacations can be a great time for families with children to grow in faith together. Check out *Everyday Family Faith*—a pocket-sized resource that helps families build strong faith habits together and make time for God in everyday life. For each day of the week, you'll find creative ideas for exploring Bible verses, talking about faith in daily life, and praying together, as well as fun activities to do. Available from FaithAliveResources.org. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://network.crcna.org/faith-nurture/everyday-family-faith-fresh-ideas-family-faith-formation>

For 6/14

At-home Faith Formation Tip: This summer, watch for how God is revealed in creation. Read Psalm 148 for inspiration, then use your five senses when you explore parks, forests, and beaches. Admire the symmetry of a flower, the strength of a tree, or the pattern of a shell. Let the kids in your life teach you about childlike wonder! (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; [crcna.org/FaithFormation](https://network.crcna.org/FaithFormation))



<https://pixabay.com/photos/green-park-season-nature-outdoor-1072828/>

For 6/21

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Today is Father's Day. While our earthly fathers aren't perfect, God's love is perfect and unconditional. Read Psalm 23 today and celebrate the many ways that God guides, protects, provides for, and comforts us. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/dad-and-son-dad-and-son-outside-1432772/>

For 6/28

At-home Faith Formation Tip: The Examen is a helpful daily prayer tool that Christians have used for hundreds of years to review their day in a godly way. This is a great bedtime practice for people of all ages. A simplified Examen looks like this: First, pray that God will give you insight. Then ask yourself two questions: “What was I most grateful for today?” and “What was I least grateful for today?” Close in prayer, thanking God for the blessings of the day, and asking God’s help with your shortcomings. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 7/5

At-home Faith Formation Tip: “Boredom is a crucial warning sign—as important in its own way as physical pain. It’s a sign that our capacity for wonder and delight, contemplation and attention, real play and fruitful work, has been dangerously depleted” from *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch (Baker Books). How might you refill those depleted areas at home this week? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 7/12

At-home Faith Formation Tip: “Family is about the forming of *persons*. . . . While in one sense a person is simply what we are as human beings, we are also able to *become*—to grow in capacities that are only potentially present within us at first. Family helps form us into persons who have acquired *wisdom* and *courage*”—from *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch, Baker Books 2017. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 7/19

At-home Faith Formation Tip: In the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary* (IVP 2016), Tish Warren writes, “As Christians, we wake each morning as those who are baptized. We are united with Christ and the approval of the Father is spoken over us. We are marked from our first waking moment by an identity that is given to us by grace: an identity that is deeper and more real than any other identity we will don that day.” How might you live out that truth this week? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 7/26

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Mealtime prayers remind us that God provides for us and model for kids how to connect with God regularly and sincerely. Here's a table prayer by Maureen Edwards, from *Blessed Be Our Table*, Wild Goose 2003. "Loving God, bless our food and drink, our friendship and our laughter, that we may be renewed in body, mind, and spirit to work together for the coming of your kingdom of justice, love, and peace. Amen." (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 8/2

At-home Faith Formation Tip: How warm is your family? The good people at the Fuller Youth Institute tell us that “in a comprehensive study of relational dynamics in more than 300 families spanning 35 years, family warmth was more correlated with faith transmission than any other relational factor (including amount of contact between the generations, the type of contact, and the number of children in the family).” Read more in their blog post at fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/warmth-in-your-family. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 8/9

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Telling faith stories to each other is an important part of our faith formation. You can make time for family and household members of all ages to tell stories of how God works in their lives as you celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other milestones. Visit tinyurl.com/FFMStoryStarters for a list of questions to get the storytelling rolling. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 8/16

At-home Faith Formation Tip: As the start of the school year draws near, many kids feel fearful and anxious. It's a good time to gently remind them that their identity lies not in their accomplishments, their popularity, or what others think of them. Their identity comes from being beloved children of a loving God. "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"—1 John 3:1 (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; cena.org/FaithFormation)



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For 8/23

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Something to think about this week: “We need help setting aside all the doing that we clutch so tightly, so that our hands can be open to receive the gifts God has in store. . . . We need time to be. Time to reflect. . . . Time to draw close to a God who revealed God’s own name, which turns out not to have anything to do with doing, but everything to do with being: I Am Who I Am.” —from a blog post titled “When Doing More Isn’t Enough” by Austin Crenshaw Shelley. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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For 8/30

At-home Faith Formation Tip: Philippians 4:8 is a wonderful verse to memorize on your own or as a family. “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)



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