



HOW
TO...

FOUR KEYS

faith practices

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

DEUTERONOMY 6: 4-9

Faith Formation Goals

As people of faith, we want to encourage the members of our church family to continually grow in their faith. Our primary goal as followers of Christ is that all should know who their heavenly Father is and that He wishes to have an intimate and purpose-filled relationship with each and every one of His precious children.

We can encourage this by inspiring our congregation members to:

- live as disciples of Jesus Christ at home, in the workplace, in the community and the world
- develop an understanding of the Bible and their faith tradition
- deepen their spiritual life and practices
- engage in service and mission
- relate the Christian faith to life today
- participate in the life and ministries of the faith community.

The Four Keys of Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, Rituals and Traditions provide some ideas that can assist us. Christian values and faith are passed on to the next generation when they are seen in action. Faith becomes real when others can see God working in the lives of people.



Christian values and faith are passed on to the next generation through supportive conversations.

- In your conversations with others, listen closely to the important issues, core values, passions, faith and doubt expressed.
- Respond to the concerns of others, showing God's love and understanding.
- Pray together - bring God into the conversation.
- Tell others about the gifts you see in their lives - encourage them.
- Discuss with others how to use resources wisely, faithfully and joyfully.
- Look up the words **stewardship**, **discipleship** and **vocation** and talk about what they mean in a Christian life.
- Be intentional and instigate conversations with family and friends about the way you spend your time, money and how you can allow God into every part of your life and seek His guidance and instruction.
- Share your faith with others - hearing faith stories is one of the most important influences on the faith of children and young people.



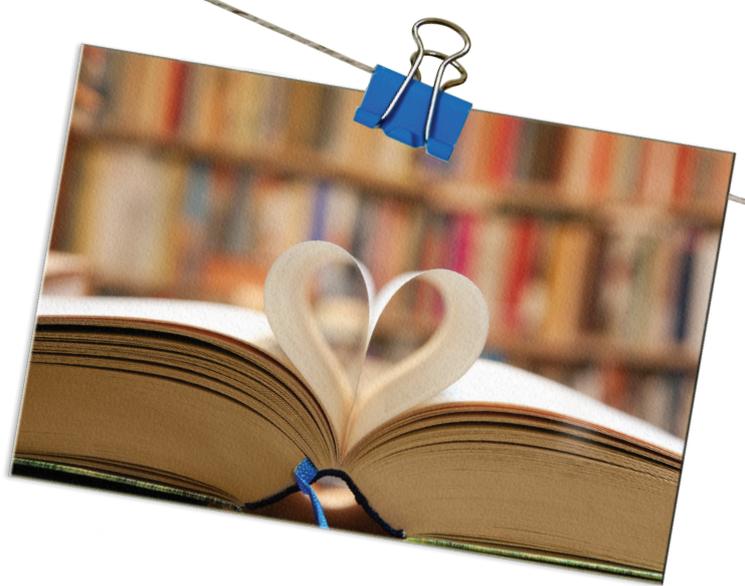
Our faith shapes the whole of our lives and involves a lifetime of Bible study, reflection and prayer.

- Pray at all times.
- Instead of feeding the insatiable quest for more news and social networking, consider beginning and/or ending the day reading, praying or meditating on Scripture.
- Family devotions and learning provide a way to learn more about the Bible and Christian tradition as a family.
- Apply these teachings to daily life.
- Share your testimony with others - share a 'God moment', a time when you have been keenly aware of God's presence and interaction in your life.
- Fast (from food or technology etc.) and use the time in prayer and scripture, seeking God.



Serving others together provides an opportunity for children to see people's gifts, faith and values in action.

- Service is the day-in and day-out lifestyle we lead that manifests the faith in us and involves our children and young people in the faith. Congregations and families can engage in this key every day.
- Do simple things that show God's love in the world. Open the door for someone, give up your seat, smile!
- Both children and adults are more likely to have a growing, strong faith when their family serves others together.
- Find a charity, locally, nationally or internationally that you can assist. Get your congregation involved in a service event in your community!



Rituals and traditions communicate meaning, values and relationships that exist between people and with God.

- Rituals and traditions are those patterns of behaviour that occur with regularity.
- Family rituals can take many forms, from daily rituals such as mealtime, bedtime, leaving and returning, to celebrations such as birthdays, anniversaries, and special achievements.
- Celebrate church year rituals at home such as Advent and Lent, recognise milestones such as births and deaths, first days of school and graduations, etc.
- Sing songs of praise and thanksgiving.
- Dance with the Lord of the Dance.
- Welcome people.
- Bless people when they arrive and when they leave.
- Have symbols in your home that express your faith.

* Vibrant Faith in the Congregation;
David W Anderson
Vibrant Faith Publishing 2011

* Best Practices in Family Faith Formation;
John Roberto
(<http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net>)