

7

Supporting Scriptures

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.—2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NAS)

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.— Psalm 25:8-9 (NIV)

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.—

Deuteronomy 6:5-7(NIV)

Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.—Proverbs 29:17 (NKJ)

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.—Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)

Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men.—Proverbs 4:13-14 (NIV)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."—Ephesians 6:1-3 (NKJ)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22 (NIV)



Parent's Guide

TO HELP MOMS AND DADS WITH QUICK & EASY FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

Our Time Together®



- 1 *Our Time Together*® In the Home
- 2 Set and Maintain the *Our Time Together*® Priorities
- 3 Controlling These Special 10 Minutes
- 4 Making *Our Time Together*® Free of Conflicts and Negative Emotions
- 5 Helpful Hints
- 6 Frequently Asked Questions
- 7 Supporting Scriptures

1

In the Home

A Very Special 10-Minutes Committed to God, Where:

- *God's Word* is applied.
- A "Safe Haven" is established.
- Family members are open about real life issues.
- Moms & Dads maintain control (not the kids).
- Forgiveness is granted by each family member—*Resulting in a peaceful 10-minutes committed to God.*
- Moms & Dads train their children based on *God's moral values.*
- *Christ's love* is expressed through each family member.
- *God's Word* establishes patterns for righteous and victorious conduct—reinforced by parents.
- Children observe their parents' commitment to *Christ and God's Word.*
- The importance and benefits of righteous choices are openly discussed.
- The consequences of unrighteous choices are openly discussed.



"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
Joshua 24:15 (NAS)

6

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What is the best time for *Our Time Together*®?

Answer: Whatever time that works best for your family is the best time ...so long as, you can be consistent and you follow through. This is one of the friendliest features about *OTT*; you can dovetail it to any schedule. You select the times that fit your individual schedules.

Question: What do you do if a child refuses to participate?

Answer: Use the normal disciplinary actions for your family, but don't allow an unruly child to disrupt or control what you are accomplishing during *Our Time Together*®. Remember, this is your family's special "Safe Time"; you can keep it that way by maintaining control.

Question: What if there is just silence or no response during *Our Time Together*®?

Answer: Break the silence with prayer, or Mom and Dad can jump in and answer a difficult question ... Kids love to hear Mom or Dad's answers to things.

Question: Can a single Mom or Dad do *Our Time Together*®?

Answer: Absolutely, single parents can be as effective participants as a two-parent household. With the moral minefield out there, it's more important than ever that a single parent have this special time with his or her child.

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.
James 1:5 (NIV)

5 Helpful Hints

OTT Questions to Ask

Every *Our Time Together*[®] session has prewritten questions to discuss during the 10 minutes. If the wording seems unnatural for your family's make-up, silently read the questions and then put the questions in your own words.

Ending Each *Our Time Together*[®] Session

Near the end of each 10-minute session, the leader asks everyone to pick a word or words that best describe their understanding of that day's session. To help the selection process, sample words are listed in the Monthly Newsletter.

Picking the words provides the leader an effective way to end each session. As time goes on, this will become very natural, and the kids will be ready to pick the words. However, don't dwell on this aspect of *OTT*; just write down what pops into each family member's mind.

Some families have found that asking for the words, starting with the youngest child first and then going up in age, works best. That way younger children don't just copy an older family member's answer.

Don't take more than 1 minute to select the words when ending each *Our Time Together*[®] session.

How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding.

Proverbs 3:13 (NAS)

2 Set and Maintain OTT Priorities

Your home is the moral *training ground* for your children. *Training* requires hands-on working with your children, just as learning to hit a ball or play the piano. It requires repetition and practice. You can "teach" the game of baseball in a classroom, but developing hitting and throwing skills require *training* using a bat and ball.

If you abdicate the moral training of your children to the world's ways, you are assured that they will be unprotected, and you will watch them experience the hurt and pain resulting from the lies, seductions, and deceptions of the world's ways.

God's Word instructs us how to live, so we can obtain peace and rest, not perversion and corruption. With *OTT*, you are providing long-term protection for your children. By consistently conducting *OTT*, your children are being trained for at least 40 minutes each week from their very best trainer, **You**. This is less than 1% of all the time available from all diluting influences including TV, music, peers, movies, internet, schools, etc.

Of the remaining 99%, who and what influences your children?

Do not allow anything to interrupt or defer *Our Time Together*[®]. Plan and schedule around *OTT*. Do not squeeze in *OTT* between all the other chaotic activities that are inevitable in family life. With God's help, you can do it!

"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men."

Proverbs 4:13-14 (NIV)

3

Controlling These Special 10-Minutes

God has established you, Moms and Dads, as the proper authority in the family. The 10-minutes of *Our Time Together*[®] (OTT) can be an easy starting point for many parents to establish this God-given responsibility.

Children want boundaries, but they will also try to get you to move these boundaries. Parents, be strong in the Lord and keep control for the 10-minutes of *Our Time Together*[®]...you can do it!

Moms...Dads, you set the mood for *Our Time Together*[®] by turning off TV's, computers, etc., and eliminating other distractions.

Excuse any member who continues to hold bitterness during the 10-minutes (see the model prayer on page 4). Also, excuse an unruly child and *continue with the remaining 10-minutes*.

Over time, when children see that they are excluded from this rich family discussion time, they will return and be obedient. (Tell your child that he/she is excluded until he/she agrees not to disrupt and is willing to forgive.)

Do the above even if the result is only Mom and/or Dad finishing the remainder of the 10-minutes alone. If this occurs, take the remaining time to pray for God's strength and direction for your family.

Exercising control over the 10-minutes of OTT can be contagious, and God can empower you to maintain similar control at other times.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

4

Making OTT Free of Conflicts and Negative Emotions

Make each 10-minute *Our Time Together*[®] a very unique and special time dedicated to God. This is a time when the trials, conflicts, negative emotions, etc. are given to God. This is a time-out for any negative attitudes and emotions. The following is a suggested prayer for a family member who is having difficulty with another family member. (Use this prayer prior to the start of OTT.)

Heavenly Father,

*I come to You with feelings of _____ (be specific) about _____ (specify family member's name). I commit my negative feeling(s) to You for Your 10 minutes of safekeeping. I ask You to guard my heart and mind, so that my family's Our Time Together[®] will be honoring to You. I **CHOOSE** to forgive _____ (specific name) because You tell me to forgive, and because You forgive and cleanse me.*

In Jesus' Name , Amen.



There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
Romans 8:1 (NKJ)