



Winter 2023

Dear Families,

Raising children in the faith doesn't happen just at church, but at home and in everyday life. As parents, you have the unique role to walk alongside your children every day and teach them about Jesus. In order to help promote and encourage faith development at home, I have included several resources for you to use in your homes:

- Family Devotions
  - Jesus Storybook Bible
  - Little Big Heroes
- Smart Moves for Little Ones
  - Love Languages
- Family Traditions
  - New Years
- Scratch and Reveal Advent Calendar

“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 11:18-19).

Blessings,

Jen Roettjer, DCE

Director of Youth and Discipleship





## [ FAMILY DEVOTIONS ]

### LEARN

#### Jesus Storybook Bible

Each Bible story is woven together into one big story about what Jesus came to do for us.

Several videos of the Bible stories are available on YouTube produced by Zondervan.

### SHARE

Highs and Lows from the day  
What are you thankful for today?

### PRAY

Confess  
Honor  
Ask  
Thanks

### MUSIC

Little Big Heroes

Search for Artist on Spotify Music..

Visit Little Big Heroes channel on YouTube for music videos.



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## LOVE LANGUAGES

### Love Languages

As your child begins to grow, you will likely start to notice how they enjoy expressing their love to you, whether it's by giving you small gifts, cuddling, spending time with you, speaking kind words to you, or through acts of service. For some children, their love language is very easy to identify, even at a very young age. Other children will take more time. Once you identify what love language your child speaks, use this to show your love to them. If possible, use their love language as you express forgiveness and teach discipleship to them. However, while your child may gravitate toward one type, don't forget to use all the types of love languages to show your child love.

### Discovering Your Child's Love Language

Typically, your child will express their love, using their love language. Or they may ask for specific things that they need to feel loved.

- Physical Touch – Hugs, cuddle time, chasing, wrestling on the floor, tickling, sitting with them
- Gifts – Finding small items around to give to you, making things to give away, excited you remembered them with a gift, finding unique items
- Words of Affirmation – Asking to be affirmed they did something well, telling you how much you mean to them, Lots of "I love yous"
- Acts of Service – Asking you to do something for them, finding something special for them, fixing something that broke
- Quality Time – Showing you things they did, Asking to come to their room or to play with them, listening to their stories



# [ FAMILY TRADITIONS ]

## NEW YEAR'S

### Thoughts to Consider

A new year has come upon us. What a great time to start a new tradition with your family. Some traditions reflect on the previous year. Other traditions look forward to the year to come. No matter the tradition, the new year provides us with a time to remember that God is at work in our lives.

### New Year's Traditions

- Slumber Party – Spend the night with a family slumber party filled with games and snacks. Consider hosting your family slumber party in a hotel room.
- Put regrets in the fire – Write down the regrets from the last year and then burn them
- Eating Chinese food (or whatever kind you want to make it unique) – If you're tired of the traditional holiday foods, here is your chance to mix it up with something new
- Create a Family Bucket List for the upcoming year
- Remembering God's blessings – Each person needs to find items throughout the house that represent a blessing from God during the past year. Put them in the center of the room to share.
- Family Photo Booth – Set up a photo booth with a variety of props to take pictures with
- Write down your prayers for the upcoming year. Then next year on New Years, open them up and reflect on how God answered those prayers.
- Send Thank You Notes – Pick a person who has influenced you and tell them thank you
- Put a surprise inside a dessert
- Movie Marathon – Pick your favorite movie series and watch away!
- Late Night Waffle Bar – Set out a variety of waffle toppings to create your ultimate waffle
- Balloon Pop – Pop a balloon each hour with a different activity inside