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FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

“Never expect families to do at home what they haven’t first practiced at church!”

God’s Big Plan: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Donna Menard’s letter: Why this really, really matters!

So, what is the Arkansas Conference UMC doing for you?

- Beyond Conference
- Melinda Shunk
- Networking all of you
- Giving you a book and leader’s guide to get you started
- Helping you build a Children’s Ministry Council
- This time together to listen, speak, plan, and network

Never alone:

- In addition to parents, who holds your families?
- My Gramma Carlson
- Four faith parents at my church - not married, no children, no legal relationship to me
- Forty-one years of Parents Share

It’s not that hard: “So, Marilyn, this isn’t exactly rocket surgery!” “No, no, it’s not!”

FOUR KEY FAITH PRACTICES

CARING CONVERSATIONS

- Where, when, and with whom do you have the best caring conversations?
- Practicing presence (Available)
- Listening to words ... and so much more
- Seeing a child of God before you (Affirming)
- Being real and vulnerable and transparent (Authentic)
- Confession and absolution
I am so sorry. Can you forgive me?
I forgive you.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

- A book with “devotions” on the cover
- Beginning with your Bible ... and a picture Bible counts
- Table grace
- Bedtime prayers
- Popcorn prayers

- Blessings
- Listening to one another's lives ... and naming God's presence
- Listening to children and hearing them name God's presence
- Siren Prayers
- Marilyn's props ... and what might yours be?
 - Newspaper
 - Map
 - Christmas cards
 - Highlighter
 - Seeds
 - Tape
 - White Out
 - Band-aids
 - Tea light candles
- Kenda Creasy Dean: The four big rocks your kids need
 - Creed to believe in
 - Community to belong to
 - Call of their own
 - Hope for the future Jeremiah 29:11

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

RITUALS

- Remembering your baptism every day
 - Water
 - Sign of the cross
- Light a candle
- Saying, "Good morning," "Good-bye for the day," "Welcome home at the end of the day," "Good night" – keep tucking them into bed
- Marking the end of a fight

TRADITIONS

- "You Are Special Today" plate
- Celebrating birthdays
- Baptism birthdays
- Celebrating anniversaries
- Marking the hard anniversaries
- Visits, trips, and vacations

FAMILY SERVICE

- What do you have each person do for the family at home?
- What do you do as a family for others?
- How do you show you care about God's world?
- A way of life - modeling a life of service
- Joining others