



Pastor | Ministry Leader,

Many Children's pastors and Family pastors have a deep burden to help parents talk about their faith at home. Yet it is also one of the biggest challenges they face. You've probably tried everything you can think of to help encourage this. You've sent home summary sheets from the weekly lesson complete with key talking points. You've possibly sent emails with prompts, activities, links, and encouragements. You might even have put together videos for families to watch. Even with all this effort, follow through is often frustratingly non-existent.

Seeds Family Worship has designed a new initiative, called **Fun, Easy Family Devotions** to make it easy for you to equip and encourage parents to talk about their faith with their children at home. In fact, *we've made it almost effortless for families to memorize twenty verses together this year.* It sounds too good to be true, but at the bare minimum, if a family will just play the Scripture memory songs created for this initiative, God's Word will take root in their hearts. Seeds has created the following tools to come along side you and make it easy to equip your families to win at home:

**SONGS:** Twenty word-for-word Scripture memory songs.

**VIDEOS:** Engaging worship videos with hand motions.

**MUSIC:** Song sheets with lyrics and guitar chords.

**DEVOTIONS:** Four devotions per verse to help families engage with the meaning and application of each verse.

**CHARTS:** Track progress memorizing all twenty verses with a downloadable poster or bookmark.

All songs, videos, music sheets, devotions, and charts are available for free on the Seeds **Fun, Easy Family Devotions** landing page.

Here's how to make the most of this for your families:

**STEP ONE:** Decide at what pace you want your families to go through these twenty verses. (We've found it best though if you recommend a schedule and not just leave it open-ended.) Some churches are choosing to spread the twenty verses out across an entire year, while others are focusing on the second half of the year. Either way, it's never too late to start, since it doesn't have to be completed in 2021. Any Scripture memorized is a win, whether one verse or twenty.

**STEP TWO:** Tell your parents about the **Fun, Easy Family Devotions** initiative and the timeline you plan to follow. Remind them to download the songs to their phones, or stream (Spotify, Apple). Encourage them to take advantage of all the free resources on the landing page. You can use the language at the bottom of the page for church bulletins, announcements, and emails.

**STEP THREE:** Print copies of wall charts for the families in your church. Encourage them to hang a chart near their family table. Also hang copies in the children's classrooms and check them off as your church progresses.



through the verses. Email parents each week to remind them which verse your church is memorizing. Also send links to the devotions for the week. Encourage families to read the devotions before a family meal a few times a week.

**STEP FOUR:** Consider hosting a closing ceremony at the end of the year to sing the songs together, or to see who can quote (or sing) all twenty verses. Celebrate together what God did this year!

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## FAQ

**Scripture memorization? Isn't that a little intimidating for most families?** That's the beauty of listening to Scripture memory songs: they make memorizing easy, even effortless. Just play the songs in the background and you can't help but memorize them.

Memorizing Scripture is one of the most powerful things a family can do to grow their love of Jesus. Psalm 119:11 says, *"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."* Hebrews 4:12 says, *"The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edge sword... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* Romans 12:2 says, *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."* Hiding God's word in your heart protects from sin, helps bring wisdom and discernment, and transforms and renews your mind.

**Do families have to read the devotions?** It's your choice on how you encourage parents to engage with the **Fun, Easy Family Devotions** initiative. These devotions were designed to make it easy for families to engage with each verse and apply them. Each verse has four devotions available, most of which are story based. We've found that stories work best for connecting with a wide-ranging audience.

**You said to read them during a meal time. Isn't that a crazy time for families?** For most families, especially with little kids, crazy seems to be the norm. It's already difficult to gather families together to talk about their faith. We've found it easier to connect a family devotion time with some other gathering your family already has, for most that's during a meal. Yes it can be chaotic, but the devotions are designed as stories so that they are more likely to draw in even a younger audience. Some parents like to start reading the devotions at the beginning of the meal when kids are eating and their mouths are full. This makes it harder to interrupt. Like any other new habit in life, expect that everyone's attention will increase over time. Studies have shown that there is a direct connection between the overall health of the family and how many undistracted meals they eat together. And each meal makes a difference. Sitting down at a table at home is best, but these can also be done on the go, when families find their car to be the 'table.' We say it's more important to strive for progress than perfection.

**Families are really busy these days. Make this simple for me.** The simplest approach is to just let the songs play here and there, then read the devotions a couple of times a week. Many families like to play the songs either before dinner while people are milling about, or after the meal, during the clean up. Some let them play in the car once a day, maybe on the way to school or an activity.



**Tell me more about these devotions. What are they like?** Each devotion is designed to highlight and reinforce one of the main ideas in the verse through a story. Devotions also end with a question to help promote conversation. We also encourage families to end with prayer, and for those who don't feel comfortable praying out loud on their own, we've included written prayers. For an example, check out the three part series (one, two, three) from Joshua 1:9 telling the story of John O'Leary, who survived a house fire when he was nine-years-old.

**How do we use the hand-motion videos?** We've found the hand-motion videos appeal best to younger children, ages 3-8. Thus it might work best, if you have a mix of older and younger kids, to let the songs play in the background before or after meals, and read the devotions together, but then later, after the meal, let the hand-motion videos play for those that are interested and make it an optional activity for the older kids. The most important part is to let them hear the songs play, as over time these will become hidden in their hearts.

**Tell me more about the wall charts.** Families have enjoyed keeping track of their progress as they work on memorizing verses together. Wall charts make this easy and serve as a reminder to stay engaged with the initiative.

### **Sample Announcement**

*Feel free to customize this language to fit the needs of your church.*

"This fall our children's ministry will be taking part in the *Twenty-in-2020* initiative. For twenty weeks, starting September 1st, we will focus on memorizing one Bible verse a week. Families will have free access to Scripture memory songs from Seeds Family Worship that help make it easy to memorize the verses. We'll also encourage you to read the devotions, up to four days a week, during a family meal time. Songs can be streamed on Apple or Spotify, or downloaded for free at [www.seedsfamilyworship.com/twenty-verses-in-2020/](http://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/twenty-verses-in-2020/), where you can also find free videos, song sheets, and posters."