

# Practice @ Home

## **Activity:** Family Devotionals

### **Age Group:** Kids & Teens

*Here are some quick readings to get you started on family devotions. Just read through and talk about it with your family!*



This was copied from Josh McDowell's *Family Devotions* by Tyndale House Publishers. If you would like more devotionals like this one, consider buying his book. Enjoy!

"You mean you've never said a cuss word?" Jackie's eyes widened in disbelief as she rode to volleyball practice with April. They sat together in the back seat of the van that April's dad drove.

April shrugged and shook her head.

"I can't believe that," Jackie said. "I mean, everybody cusses sometimes." "Not everybody," April said.

"Nobody in my family uses bad language."

"Why not? I mean, there's nothing wrong with it," Jackie said. "God just said 'Do not misuse my name' or something like that. He didn't say we can't cuss."

"Well, yeah, but..." "If we don't say his name when we cuss, it's not bad," Jackie concluded. April didn't know what to say. She was sure Jackie was wrong, but she wasn't sure why.

That night, she told her dad what Jackie had said and asked him if he agreed. "Well," he said, "Jackie's half right. The third commandment says not to misuse God's name. but that doesn't mean it's OK to say

anything we want as long as we don't use God's name."

"I didn't think so," April said. "The Bible says to let no unwholesome talk come out of our mouths. That includes obscene or profane language, cruel insults, and dirty jokes." "I knew it!" April said in a voice of triumph.

"But wait a minute," Dad said. "Do you know why that kind of talk is wrong?" April shrugged as if the answer were easy. "Because God said not to do it!" Dad nodded. "Yes, but why did God say not to do it?" April's face clouded with confusion. She answered, "I don't know."

"It has to do with purity and self-control. Do you know why he values self-control? Because he is self-controlled himself, April. God doesn't just control the universe. He's in perfect control of himself. He never gets carried away. He never loses control. He never says anything obscene, or coarse, or foolish. And he wants us to imitate his self-control."

**TO DISCUSS:** Are you ever tempted to "lose control" in your speech? If so, when are you most tempted? How can you follow God's example in the words you speak?

These two devotionals were copied from *Whit's End Mealttime Devotions: 90 Faith-Building Ideas Your Kids Will Eat Up!*

By Crystal Bowman and Tricia Gover.

(Adventures in Odyssey Books)

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## Plain Ole Vanilla

### Mealttime Prayer:

Let each person offer his or her own kind of prayer— short or long, silent or aloud. Have the last person thank God for your different tastes in prayer— and food!

### Appetizer:

Which ice-cream flavor is the top seller: Strawberry, Cookies 'N' Cream, Chocolate, or Vanilla? (Answer: *Vanilla*) What's your favorite flavor?

### Main Course:

Why isn't there just one flavor of ice cream? If you were ice cream, which flavor would you want to be: Mysterious Mocha, Cheery Cherry, Quiet Kiwi, Grumpy Grape, or Outrageous Orange? Why? Why didn't God make just one kind of person? Every one of us has different "tastes." Your flavor is what makes you you. Each of us has a different way of praying and worshipping God, too. Some like to sing praises. Some are champs at quoting Bible verses. Others would rather sit quietly and think about God's goodness. All of these are part of your flavor.

### Table Talk:

Take a vote on the following questions: Would you rather sing a praise song with motions or without? Why? Would you rather pray standing up, sitting, kneeling, or bowing with your face to the floor? Why? Now that you've voted, should you all have to sing and pray in the ways that

got the most votes? Why or why not?

### Vitamins and Minerals:

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord (1 Corinthians 12: 5).

## Water, Water Everywhere

### Mealttime Prayer:

After the leader prays each phrase, everyone says, "We thank You, dear Lord."

Leader: "For food to eat and water to drink,  
For healthy bodies and minds that think,  
For all that we have and all we enjoy,  
For every girl and every boy."

### Appetizer:

Try to come up with 10 uses for water. Go!

### Main Course:

Eat as much of your dinner as you can without taking a drink. How long could you last? Why do we need to drink? What makes us thirsty? When do you most appreciate an ice-cold glass of water?

### Table Talk:

Jesus is called the Living Water. How is He like water? Why do we need Him? Where can we find living water? How can we drink living water? Why does the satisfaction of living water last forever?

### Vitamins and Minerals:

[Jesus said,] "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4: 14).



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