

# TRANSFORMING TRADITIONS

## Reclaim the Ordinary

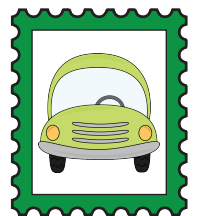
“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” DEUTERONOMY 6:7

### “Sit in your house...” - MEAL TIME



- 1. THE THANK YOU GAME** - Go around the table, each person taking a turn to share one thing they are thankful for until they run out of things to share. The last person who can think of something to be thankful for wins.
- 2. WATERMARK KIDS BLOG** - Print off the Watermark Kids Blog for the week and use the family discussion questions and conversation starters to review the previous week's lesson. [watermark.org/blog/preschool](http://watermark.org/blog/preschool) OR [watermark.org/blog/elementary](http://watermark.org/blog/elementary)
- 3. PRAY FOR AN UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP** - Go to [joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday](http://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday) and pray as a family for a people group each day who needs to hear the Gospel of Jesus. If your family sponsors a child in another country, this is a great time to pray for them as well.
- 4. HIGHS & LOWS** - Build your family's relationships by having everyone share their highs and lows from the day. What was the best part of their day? What was the hardest?
- 5. FAMILY PRAYER** - Before the meal, have everyone pray for the person on either their left or right. Encourage your kids to know something specific to pray for each member in your family. If they don't already know what to pray for each other, use this time to share prayer requests.

### “When you walk by the way...” - DRIVE TIME



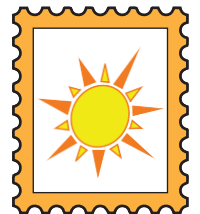
- 1. ASK GOOD QUESTIONS** - Rather than asking, “How was your day?” ask them to tell you something specific about their day. What did you and your friends talk about? How can we pray for your teacher? What made you laugh? What are you looking forward to?
- 2. SPOT THE TRUTH, SPOT THE LIE** - Listen to music your kids and/or their friends are interested in. As you listen to the words, encourage your kids to spot the truths in the song and also spot the lies (if any) that may be in the lyrics.
- 3. PICK A PROVERB** - Read one proverb and ask your kids what they think it means. Spend time discussing what the proverb means, how it might change the way they act that day, and/or how it has personally changed your life.
- 4. CAR GAMES** - Simple games like “I Spy,” the alphabet game, or the license plate game can be a lot of fun, create memories, and keep you and your kids engaged with one another. For long road trips, consider scavenger hunt games or check out other free printable games online.
- 5. ASK ME ANYTHING** - Tell your kids that it's their turn to ask you questions. You can leave it wide open or give them a topic to ask you about. Tell stories to your kids about your childhood. Let them get to know you and what you were like at their age.

## “And when you lie down...” - BED TIME



- 1. THE BLESSING** - Each night as you put your kids to bed, speak a word of blessing over them, acknowledging ways you see God at work in their lives, areas of their character you are proud of, and pray a prayer for them to be a blessing to others as they grow older. Check out [theblessing.com](http://theblessing.com) for more information.
- 2. FAMILY READING TIME** - Pick great story books and read them out loud together as a family. The Narnia books by C.S. Lewis are a great place to start. Also check out The Wingfeather Saga by Andrew Peterson, The Green Ember series by S.D. Smith, and the Jesus Storybook Bible.
- 3. 15 MINUTE FAMILY DEBRIEF** - Together, ask the following 4 questions: What did you learn today? Where did you win? What was hard? Where did you see God?
- 4. ONE-ON-ONE TIME** - If you have multiple kids, get individual time with them. Physical touch is so important for kids, so enjoy some time snuggling while asking them about things they may be anxious about, fearful of, or worried about. Pray together for those things and remember to ask about them later.
- 5. THE BEST DAY** - Ask everyone, “Who thinks they had the best day?” Give everyone a chance to make their case for why their day was the best. Afterwards, pray and thank God for those things.

## “And when you rise up.” - MORNING TIME



- 1. THE JOURNEY** - Take time to read the passage from the Journey together as a family. This can be done around the breakfast table or in the car on the way to school. Reading God’s Word and praying for others is a great way to start your day!
- 2. ENCOURAGING NOTES** - Write a word of encouragement, a verse, or a prayer on a sticky note and leave it on the mirror for your kids the next morning. As kids get older and have phones, this can turn into text messages for them.
- 3. FAMILY VALUES** - Take time to create a list of family values based on the letters of your last name. Each morning as you leave or send your kids off, challenge them to live out one of those values that day, reminding them they can do it because God is with them.
- 4. SHARE WHAT YOU’RE LEARNING** - Don’t underestimate the value of your kids seeing you up early, before them, reading your Bible. As you get ready or are on your way to school, share one thing that you read or learned that morning that encouraged you.
- 5. GOTTA SERVE SOMEBODY** - Ask your kids who they will have a chance to serve at school that day. Remind them of Philippians 2:3, to think of others as more important than themselves and give them practical ways they can do that for their teachers, friends, siblings, and parents.

For more ideas on how you can TRANSFORM TRADITIONS  
and RECLAIM THE ORDINARY with your family,  
visit [watermark.org/blog/family](http://watermark.org/blog/family).

“So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that  
you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.”

2 THESSALONIANS 2:15