

# FAMILY STORY HOUR

## Introduction

Make Family Story Hour the highlight of the day and prepare for it all day.



## Why

- ◆ Unify and turn the hearts of family members toward each other
- ◆ Shape the imagination of children
- ◆ Relive history and gain heroes
- ◆ Develop an outreach program that will go far beyond the confines of your home

## When

You should do the story hour when it suits the family schedule. If a father works second shift, do it when you can include him. It should be done before everyone is too tired to sit and enjoy. It can be done in the mornings.

## How

- ◆ Do table readings and assign parts.
- ◆ Have parents take turns reading while children do handiwork, color, play with Legos, etc.
- ◆ Trying snuggling by the fire or oil lamps and popcorn.
- ◆ Read during meals.
- ◆ Use the basic principles of oral interpretation of prose and poetry, as well as visual characterization.
- ◆ Use creative/visual drama and put muscle to your verbs.
- ◆ Experiment with characterization.
- ◆ Do choric readings—Reader's Theater.
- ◆ Tape the family story time and send the tapes to shut-ins, relatives, or missionaries.
- ◆ You can call shut-ins or others and ask them to join you via phone for this time.

## Helps and Hints

- ◆ Use only the very best literature that you can locate.
- ◆ Avoid and omit objectionable elements.
- ◆ Show special gratitude for everyone's contribution to this time.

## Who

- ◆ Include family members, guests, shut-ins or others via phone.
- ◆ Extend special invitations to grandparents to come and join you.

## Resources

- ◆ Books on tape or the Family Story Hour tape series. Call 330-725-5767 for ordering information. We recommend Albums 6 and 7 only.
- ◆ Flash cards such as the ones Abeka publishes. Their phone number is 1-800-874-3592, and their website is <http://www.abekabook.com>.
- ◆ Betty Luken felt sets—you can train the children to organize the pieces, and/or you can save them for the Lord's Day. We recommend purchasing the backgrounds and file system boxes as well, if you are able to do so. Have a party to cut out the pieces since there are so many! These sets are available from Timberdoodle Company at 360-426-0672 or <http://www.timberdoodle.com>.
- ◆ Soundforth of Bob Jones University Press offers plays and vespers that can be read aloud as a family. Call 1-800-258-7288 for more information. Their website is <https://secure.bju.edu/mall/catalog/storefront.asp?vendorid=bjupsdf>.

## Recommended Books

Choice Stories for Children  
Sabbath Readings for the Home Circle  
Stepping Heavenward  
*Available from Timberdoodle*

Martyr of the Catacombs  
Missionary Biographies Set  
*Available from Barbour Books*