

The WORD Connection

Devotions

Written by Ami Sandstrom Shroyer

Breakdown of each lesson:

Train the Brain

Take a Bible memory challenge. Some songs have one Scripture verse; other songs have more than one verse. Every devotion has ONE highlighted verse to get into the brain. Extra-motivated kids can take on the challenge and memorize them all.

Make the Connection

This is a short teaching point surrounding the song's Scripture or passage.

Round One—Name Him

Discover a connection to the name of God/character trait that each verse reveals about Him.

Round Two—Thank Him

Take a moment to thank God personally in light of that verse.

Round Three—Ask Him

Take an action step and discover how to live out what that verse means.

The Final Word

This is a final connection to take from the brain to the heart.

Songs:

“The WORD Connection”

“Name that Verse!”

“Romans 8”

“Psalm 121”

“Wordy Birds”

“Call to Me”

“I Will Follow”

“This Word”

“I Believe”

Once upon a Time

Train the Brain

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

Make the Connection

You have a story, and I have a story. Our stories are a small part of a much bigger story. Our "once upon a time" sounds kind of like this: "In the beginning God."

Everything about the story of God can be found in His Word. Within the pages of the Bible, you will read about laws, prophets, poetry, and wisdom. You will also read about battles and love, death and new life, kings and kingdoms rising and falling, and men and women getting themselves in and out of a lot of trouble. There are times when God spoke through the prophets, and times when His voice seemed completely silent. A Rescuer was sent with LOVE to save a sinful world, and to show us how to live. Men and women who were called to live in His light and life started a revolution, and their letters have even reached those of us who are alive today.

The Bible is not just one book; it is a collection of 66 great books that tell ONE story—the story of God's LOVE. God is love. And if God is love, then He made everything with love right in the center of it all! You could even think about our "once upon a time" like this: "In the beginning LOVE..."

The story of God points to His great love for you and His great love for me. His biggest desire is for us to know Him, to know His love, and to make Him known. So, once upon a time, there was LOVE. And I hope that through this musical, you will want to see the Word and every letter on the pages of God's story come alive in YOU so that your small story will be ALL about the much BIGGER STORY of God's great Love!

Round One—Name Him

Dear God—You are the Author, the Writer of Your story, and You are the One who writes MY life!

Round Two—Thank Him

Thank You that You have given me Your Word to show me what Your Love has done in the lives of so many people since the very beginning of time!

Round Three—Ask Him

Help me to get to know Your Word in history, and Your Word today. I want to see who You are, who You've been, and who You want me to be! So as I learn The Word, help me to find my small part of Your Great Story!

The Final Word

Before the world was made, there was a great big GOD,
And time was set in motion with His WORD of LOVE!
Then once upon a time, His Love wrote me in the story,
And now I want to learn to live for more than my own glory!

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“The WORD Connection”

Train the Brain

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30).

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37).

Make the Connection

Everything you know today, you had to learn. Some things, like the answers to a science test, are kept in your brain, and hopefully you can find them when you need answers for the test. Other things you know are kept in your heart, like how it feels to smile at someone who smiles back. Some things you learn use “muscle memory,” like knowing how to ride a bike or swing higher on a swing set. You don’t even have to think about it—you just start moving, and your muscles remember what to do.

The Bible talks about a fourth area: the soul. The soul is where you hold your deepest thoughts and feelings, and, with your will, it is where you make your own choices. God wants you to connect your soul to His Spirit, so that He can help you understand how to live for Him and love others.

Jesus even quoted these verses when He was asked to say what the most important rules are to live by! Having over 400 rules to choose from, Jesus said it all in just TWO! He said to love God with every part of yourself, and love the people around you in that same way! You and I can’t do it alone, and Jesus is ready to connect with us and help us.

As you learn this musical, I challenge you to go beyond your thinking skills and musical abilities. You can connect with Jesus by asking Him to fill you—body, soul, mind, and strength—with His love! Then, “knowing the rules” will become easier. You will want to please Jesus, your best Friend, and you will make choices based on your desire to please Him and make His heart happy. Then people around you will see His LOVE through your life, and you will be doing much more than just memorizing Bible verses with your brain! Your soul will be filled with the active, loving Spirit of God! Imagine what His Word can do through YOU!

Round One—Name Him

Jesus, You are LOVE.

Round Two—Thank Him

Thank You that You made me—my heart, my mind, my body, and my soul.

Round Three—Ask Him

Will You please fill me with Your LOVE, and show me each day how to let Your love reach the people around me in the ways they need most?

The Final Word

I want to KNOW more than just words in my brain!
I want to SHOW Jesus again and again!
I’ll connect my whole life to the Words that You say,
So YOU can love people around me today.

“Name that Verse!”

Train the Brain

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:36). Other verses to memorize—John 1:2-3, Genesis 1:3, 1 John 1:4, Isaiah 53:4-5, Romans 10:13

Make the Connection

Have you ever been given a nickname? Have you ever given someone else a nickname? A name like “glitter grin” lets you know the person has braces. A name like “brainiac” lets you know the person is supersmart. Throughout the Bible, names of God can be discovered. These names let us know many wonderful things about Him. Just as Adam and Elizabeth found out while playing Name that Verse! all of these great names actually describe JESUS!

John 1:1 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” It goes on to say, “He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created” (John 1:2-3). So what does that mean? Try reading that again, but instead of saying “the Word,” say “JESUS,” like this: “In the beginning was JESUS, and JESUS was with God, and JESUS was God.”

God has three incredible ways of showing Himself: He’s the Father, He’s the Son, and He’s the Holy Spirit! Everything began with God and comes from Him. He is the Creator, and everything you and I see, touch, feel, learn about, and even the things that we can create...it all comes FROM Him!

Everything passes THROUGH Jesus! If Jesus is the WORD and the Word spoke things into existence, then Jesus was and is part of creating things. It is through Jesus’ life that we have life, through His death on the cross that we have forgiveness, and through everything that He has done that we can walk in strength and hope. His Holy Spirit comes alive in us when we believe in Jesus, so if we want to know God, it all comes THROUGH knowing Jesus.

And guess what? Everything is TO HIM, which means that the way we live our lives is to be given as a constant gift TO Jesus in order to give God praise. We can help others see His great love and want to connect TO HIM. What could be better than that? Well...I just have one thing to say about that—AMEN! (Amen means, “so be it!” or “Truly!” In our words, we might say, “Oh yeah!” “That’s right!” or “And DONE!”)

Round One—Name Him

Jesus, You have so many nicknames! You are Creator, Light, Life, Healer, Savior, the Way, my Peace, Comfort, and Friend. You are _____. (Keep filling in names of God that are special to you.)

Round Two—Thank Him

Thank You that because You are all of those great things, I can trust and rely on You.

Round Three—Ask Him

Jesus, You are Creator—please create in me a fresh love today. You are the Light—please help me see the right path to take when the way seems dark. You are Peace—please fill my family with peace and help me to be peaceful with those around me... (You get the idea. Now make it your own.)

The Final Word

Help me to see how great You are Lord, as I learn Your name!
Then help me to live in such a way that You shine in me the SAME!

“Romans 8”

Train the Brain

“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!” (Romans 8:39).

You can also memorize Romans 8:28—“We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.”

Make the Connection

What do you like to create? My son loves LEGO® toys! He spends hours building elaborate cities, people, and worlds. I watch him know exactly where every piece goes, and if his little sister messes something up, well, he just rebuilds it and puts it back together—sometimes even better than it was before it was “messed up.”

I am so excited to talk about the connection of this Bible passage! Think about this: If God created everything, then is there anything anywhere that is too big for Him? Is there anything too high or too low? Is there anything that He can’t reach? Is there anything in hiding that He doesn’t see? Is there anything that God can’t handle? Are there any “small pieces” that He cannot find? NO!

Sometimes we think that the bad things we create with our bad choices make us too bad for God to love. Or we might think that the highest, best, most fantastic good thing we create with our good choices makes God love us more than ever. Well, this might come as a surprise to you, but God knows only ONE way to love: COMPLETELY! That’s right! He LOVES His people! There is nothing that you and I can do that will make Him love us more, and there is nothing that will make Him love us less. Why? HE IS LOVE. His love is higher than we can imagine, and goes to places that are deeper than we can imagine! All you and I can see is the stuff around us, sort of like little LEGO people living in a LEGO world. But in our world, God is the One who created it all, and He sees it all!

Think about things you could create, good and bad. Then remember this: God is there—always. And when God is there, so is His love. Love comes with Him because He is Love. His forgiveness is there, and His arms are right there to hold you together (and even put you back together when you need it).

God’s love is also a lot like superglue. Just as God’s love holds YOU together with Him, His love has the power to keep those who love Him together with one another! People who love God remain in His love and have fellowship with one another. Then, nothing in this world can separate you from each other—not even pain or death! God will hold us all, those who love Him, together in the end!*

Round One—Name Him

Father God, You are all-knowing, and You are my ever-present Help, every time I need You! You are with me at all times, and because You are always there, so is Your love for me!

Round Two—Thank Him

Thank You for taking even my painful moments and turning them into times of blessing, teaching me and guiding me as I trust You completely.

Round Three—Ask Him

Please hold me together. Please help me to remember that You are always with me, and help me to live with confidence in the things that You can do! Please hold my family together, and show us how to love You and put our trust in You.

The Final Word

Nothing is too out of reach, far below, or high above,
So hold me in Your hand together with the ones I love.

*What about families that are broken, separated, or even apart because of death? The great news is that God's love is so far-reaching that, in time, He can bring healing to the hearts of those who trust in Him. He can help families learn how to talk to each other. He is always able to make things new, and bring into our lives new people and things that show His love. There is much that you and I can't see with our eyes in this life—that in God's bigger picture will show His love in the end. As for death, when you are in Christ, connected to God's Love, you have hope that you will be with the ones you love again someday. As you hold onto Jesus, He can hold the hand of the ones you love until you see them again and walk together hand-in-hand.

At the time that I am writing this to you, my eight-year-old, J Michael, and I are going to be singing this song at the funeral for our Grandma-the-Great. There is tremendous hope to the people of God, even when someone we love dies, to know that, "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

All week we will be seeing extended family, many who are struggling with tough times. We hope for them that there will be added hope in knowing, "And if our God is for us, then who can make us fall? And if we stand together, we'll see His love was in it all."

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“Psalm 121”

Train the Brain

For this song, your challenge is to memorize all eight verses of Psalm 121.

1—“I raise my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from?”
2—“My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.”
3—“He will not allow your foot to slip; your Protector will not slumber.”
4—“Indeed, the Protector of Israel does not slumber or sleep.”
5—“The LORD protects you; the LORD is a shelter right by your side.”
6—“The sun will not strike you by day, or the moon by night.”
7—“The LORD will protect you from all harm; He will protect your life.”
8—“The LORD will protect your coming and going both now and forever.”

Make the Connection

Being a mom has given me a whole new level of “protector instinct”! For example, my kids know they have to be super-careful in parking lots. My son, the rule follower, learned this quickly, so I could trust him to wait and hold my hand. My spunky daughter is a free spirit, and, even now, at age four, I have to remind her to hold hands, sometimes in a loud, urgent mama voice. Why? I do not want her to get hurt!

If I care for my children like that, I imagine that your parents care for you in the same way. If we, as earthly moms and dads, love to protect our kids from dangers that you cannot see, how much GREATER do you think God wants to protect His kids?

God wants to protect your life! He never grows tired, weary, or frustrated about it. The God of the universe never takes His eyes off of you, and He will not slumber or fall asleep!

You and I live our lives more like my daughter in a parking lot. We can’t see the evil around us in the same way that God sees it. We are too small to know what dangers might be waiting on the other side of our foolish choices. But God sees it all. He wants to hold your hand. He wants to hold mine. And He gave us His Word so that He can protect our lives! And through His Word, we can see the troubles that can hit us from making unwise choices, and we can also see the blessings—all that God promises when we hold tightly to His Word!

Your biggest way to “hold God’s hand” is to know His Word! And then talk to Him. He will always listen. And as you read His Word and learn His promises for you, the Holy Spirit in you will make God’s “Living Word” come alive inside of you to guide you in choosing what is wise.

Round One—Name Him

Father, You are my Protector. Help me to hold Your hand by studying and learning Your Living Word.

Round Two—Thank Him

Thank You that You protect me in ways that I can see and in ways that I can’t. You have the best for me in mind, and I thank You for sharing Your promises with me.

Round Three—Ask Him

Help me to live according to Your Word so that I can receive Your promises in my life!

The Final Word

Life is like a parking lot, with dangers all around.

Help me to hold Your hand and to let Your promises abound!

“Wordy Birds”

Train the Brain

“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17).

You can also memorize James 1:19-20, James 1:2, Philippians 4:13, Philippians 2:14, and Ephesians 4:29.

Make the Connection

This song is full of action! Adam and Elizabeth learned to rely on what God says in His Word when facing temptation. Colossians 3:17 says that “in word” (everything we say) and “in deed” (everything we do), our actions should be “in the name of the Lord Jesus” (with His help and strength that comes in knowing that He is exactly what we need when we need it), while “giving thanks” (thanking God for coming through for us when we would have made poor choices on our own).

You face unwise choices many times every day. There are Scriptures like the ones in this song that combat EVERY foolish temptation! You could make a list of your biggest obstacles. Maybe it is talking back to your mom and dad, being mean to your brother or sister, trying to cheat on a test, lying, or saying bad words. You might think it’s small or big, but the truth is, ANY foolish choice will make you less likely to stay open to God. Every bad choice will make you want to hide and pull away from those who love you most. It’s best to walk in the light of God’s Word for you. Here’s the only catch: you have to read the Word to discover ways to live wisely!

You are freely given the power to face obstacles and live according to what God has to say...His Words are more than letters on a page. The words may start out just getting into your brain, but His Holy Spirit will speak to you, reminding you of God’s promises when you need Him the most! This kind of active faith (like a Wordy Bird launch) comes through daily reading and asking God every day to help you.

Round One—Name Him

Thank You, Jesus, that in the Bible I can learn so many names for You! Knowing who You are shows me the strength that I can rely on in Your name!

Round Two—Thank Him

Thank You for making Your Word “The Living Word” in me. Thank You that as I read and learn, that Your Holy Spirit will use those words to speak to me when I am facing difficult temptations.

Round Three—Ask Him

Please help me to make time every day to read Your Word, and tell You about everything going on in my life. I want You to help me live wisely and be a “doer” of the Word, and not just a kid who knows a lot of Bible memory. Speak to me when it really counts!

The Final Word

When I have a bad day and want to make the wrong choice,
Bring Your Word to my mind; help me listen to Your Voice!
I don’t want to be the kid who only knows a lot of words,
Help me activate Your Power in my life like Wordy Birds!

“Call to Me”

Train the Brain

“Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and wondrous things you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3).

Make the Connection

Have you ever been in a situation where you needed help from someone, but you were too embarrassed to ask a question? Perhaps you were sitting in school and felt totally lost as the teacher was explaining a new math topic. It looked like the rest of the class knew what she was talking about. All of their pencils were moving on their papers, but you had no idea what to do. You desperately needed help, but you felt too embarrassed to ask the teacher to explain the new concept again.

In every situation in life, no matter what, God knows exactly what we need before we ask Him! Too often, we try to solve our problems sort of like we’re going through the questions on a math paper without really knowing how to come up with the solutions. In those moments, there IS a solution: we need to STOP, CALL, and LISTEN.

Don’t make Him the LAST resort; talk to Him FIRST. God promises us that when we call to Him, He will answer. Not only will He answer, but He will talk too! He will tell us great and wondrous things that we do not know! He has the solutions; in fact, He IS the solution! And because God knows everything, He already has all the help we need...and more!

Round One—Name Him

Thank You, Father. You are my Source of all wisdom! You are wise and patient, and You are my great Teacher and my Guide!

Round Two—Thank Him

Thank You for holding my future in Your hands. You know everything before I learn it and before I even dream about it.

Round Three—Ask Him

Please help me to STOP, CALL, and LISTEN to You before I try to create my own solutions. I want You to show me how to walk into the great and wondrous things that You have planned for me.

The Final Word

Every day I have a choice
To walk ahead and stray,
Or I can STOP, CALL Your name,
LISTEN, and obey.
The plans that You’ve prepared for me
Are better than my own.
So help me, Lord, to trust You with
The things I do not know.

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“I Will Follow”

Train the Brain

“Teach me, LORD, the meaning of Your statutes, and I will always keep them. Help me understand Your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart. Help me stay on the path of Your commands, for I take pleasure in it” (Psalm 119:33-35).

Make the Connection

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. Most of Psalm 119 presents the truth and comfort that God’s Word is all-sufficient, having EVERYTHING we need to stay on a good path with our lives, honoring and remaining close to God. The writer of the Psalm experienced all kinds of persecution and affliction, and was bullied and talked about by people who hated him. Even in all of his troubles, God was always giving life faithfully through His Word, and for that, the psalmist is praising God!

This Psalm points out a few things that God’s Word is: Righteous! Trustworthy! True! Pure! Help and Counsel! Strength! Life! Light! Hope! Comfort! Faithful! Forever! Limitless! Sweet! A joy! Just! Everlasting!

Wow! Those qualities AND MORE make God’s Word worth following! On the other side of God’s Word is 100 percent truth and faithfulness. God is Holy and Perfect in ALL of His ways. So on my side and on yours, we are 100 percent in need of Him. He has wrapped such greatness up like a present within the pages of His Word for you and for me. And as we choose to follow a God who is Holy, let’s follow Him WHOLLY—with ALL of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. He will keep His promises to everyone who follows Him like that!

Round One—Name Him

You are the WORD! And You are my Life, my Righteousness; You are Holy and True.

Round Two—Thank Him

Thank You that I can trust Your Word completely, and that You have shown Your Word to be everything that I need to walk in Your ways.

Round Three—Ask Him

I want to follow You with my WHOLE life and discover the life You have for me.

The Final Word

I may not always understand every word I read,
But I can see that Your Word is all I’ll ever need.
Help me, Lord, to follow You with my whole heart today.
You know me more than anyone, so lead me on my way.

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“This Word”

Train the Brain

“Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Make the Connection

Let’s pretend you are on an expedition. You strayed from your group and found yourself alone in a dark forest, unable to find your way out. Then you stumbled upon a treasure. This treasure was hidden for years and years, and when you dusted it off, you discovered that it still worked! It was a light—a most special light—that would shine on a small area right in front of your feet so you could see clearly where to walk. In fact, the longer you held the light, the brighter it shined! By following this light, you were led home to safety.

That is what God’s Word is like! In fact, that is what the Light of Jesus is like! Jesus is a treasure, and when you connect to Him by believing in Him and choosing to follow Him with your WHOLE heart, His Light gets brighter and brighter the more you spend time getting to know Him!

The things that are important to Jesus become important to you, and through His Word, the Bible, He lights the way for you to walk through your life. This world will have problems, and there will be times when people, even those we love the most, will lead us into areas where we could stumble and lose our way.

Remember that you have been given a treasure in Jesus. As you read the Bible and get to know the WORD, then you will be able to listen to His Voice and see His Light guide you safely through even the darkest journeys that your life may take. Your final destination will be glorious! So hold onto Jesus, and keep walking in His Light!

Round One—Name Him

Jesus, You are the Word, and You are my Light!

Round Two—Thank Him

Thank You that You have given me the greatest treasure, the Bible, so I can get to know You more. Help me to not bury it, but to hold Your Word close to my heart, so I can learn to walk in the Light of Christ.

Round Three—Ask Him

Shine brighter in my life and on my path every day.

The Final Word

I know what it feels like to walk in dark places
To stumble with fear while my heart pounds and races.
But You gave me a treasure; You left me Your Word
To light up my path, and help me walk where I should.

I know that it’s JESUS whose Light shines in me,
So thank You for sending Your Son down to be
My Rescue, my Savior, Redeemer, my Way
With Your Light now inside me, with YOU I will stay!

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“I Believe”

Train the Brain

“For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Make the Connection

This song is my prayer for you! I hope that, through this musical—all the fun you’ve had and hard work you’ve put into practicing—the great big LOVE of God for His WORLD and for YOU is what you will remember the most.

God loved the world in this way: WITH EVERYTHING HE HAD TO GIVE! He gave His One and Only Son, Jesus, so that EVERYONE (and that includes you) who believes in Him...Hold on! Let me explain something here: Do you know what it means to believe? It means that you will COMPLETELY put your full faith and trust in Jesus, putting your life in His hands.

Every day you demonstrate in all kinds of ways that you believe in things. You will sit down on a chair or flop onto the couch without even wondering if it will hold you up. You will get into a car, believing it will get you and your family where you want to go. Without question! Maybe some of you have even put your faith in something a little more daring—like a roller coaster ride or an airplane! Now that will really pick your life up off the ground!

Well, believing in Jesus means that You are with Him, in Him, His Life in You...all in order to TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE! Your life is meant to be on a new path, and to really go places—to the places God has prepared for you to go! And that’s exciting! That’s a great adventure!

He never meant for you to perish, but to have eternal life in Him—from Him, through Him, and to Him...starting now, and lasting FOREVER! I hope and pray that you will believe. You will not be alone. Countless others have made this choice, too, and God will be with you, always!

Round One—Name Him

Jesus, You are my Savior! You are the perfect Sacrifice for the entire world, and for me.

Round Two—Thank Him

Thank You that You took all of the punishment for MY sin so that as I believe in YOU, Your Love will fill me, forgive me of my sins, and make me pure and holy.

Round Three—Ask Him

Please take my life into Your hands. Connect my soul to Your Spirit so I can live with You now and forever, and please use my life to help other friends learn about Your Great Love so they, too, can join the Great Story of God’s Love!

The Final Word

You showed Perfect Love to an imperfect world
By sending Your Son here to love and restore.
With thanks in my heart, I can never repay,
So I give You my life, I’m YOURS, now and always.

And They Lived Happily Ever After

Train the Brain

"Pray constantly" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

Make the Connection

I gave you two great verses to end with, and one of them is super easy to memorize, so I hope you will! Prayer is vital to staying CONNECTED to God. So I thought I would end by telling you my heart's desire behind this project.

By now you have probably picked up on the fact that every round in the game show had a theme, and those themes also became part of every devotion. Round One—NAME HIM. Round Two—THANK HIM. Round Three—ASK HIM. This is so important to me because Mike and I have been using these three steps all year, teaching our children how to pray. And more importantly, how to pray believing IN the WORD and in everything God can do!

As a mom, I can't promise that every day for my kids will feel like a "Happily Ever After" part of the story. I really don't know what troubles we will encounter as a family, or what personal struggles my kids will face. I DO know that we will have an indescribable HAPPILY EVER AFTER someday when we are with the LORD in heaven. And thankfully, I know that my kids have chosen to follow Jesus and live with Him. But until then, we have battles, struggles, good times, and bad times—right here in this world.

Some of those struggles we can control, but many of them, we cannot. That is why praying to God and connecting with Him every day (often many times a day) is so important! Here's how it works in our home during our prayer time before going to bed:

NAME HIM—Mike or I say, "OK, Step ONE! Let's tell God who He is." Then we take turns calling out names of God that we have learned. Sadie ALWAYS says, "God, You are Holy and Peace!" And without fail, J Michael always says, "Jesus, You are Emmanuel, God with us!" We try to choose names that will build our confidence most in trusting Him. For example, if I know that we are about to pray for someone in need of healing, I will remind us all who God is by saying, "God, You are our Healer!" And if one of us is in need of courage, Mike might say, "God, You are our Strength and our Protector. Our confidence is in You!"

THANK HIM—After we have each said a few names to the Lord, we take turns thanking Him for answered prayers in our lives, for our family and friends, and for His many blessings. It is always important to thank Him together, even for things we don't quite understand. Believe it or not, we also use this time to pray blessing over people who have hurt us, and to rejoice with others who we know have good things going on in their lives, even if we would be tempted to be jealous of them instead.

ASK HIM—Finally, we move into Step Three, and each one of us takes personal time to lift up to the Lord any needs that are on our hearts for ourselves, for our family, and for our friends.

I hope this musical has helped you in many ways to connect your life in The Word. May you find yourself on a new journey with God, and may your entire family seek a fresh, new journey together!