



## Suggestions for Family Study Night

- A list of **Watchtower and Awake** articles that can be used for Family Study Night.

Family heads can choose the ones that would be appropriate to the ages of the children, and needs (or interests) of their particular family.

Some articles are very short, and so a couple of them can be considered in one session. Tick them off as you go.

### **Awake:**

Diary of an Unborn Child - g80 5/22 p16

YPA - Why Read the Bible? - g85 8/8 p18

YPA - Can I Beat Stress? - g87 4/8 p25

A Tiny Giant - g91 8/8 p24

Sex Education—Who Should Give It? (For parents) g92 2/22 p3-11

A Letter to Mom and Dad - g92 10/8 p31

"We Are Not Deprived!" (Letters on Christmas) - g93 11/22 p8

YPA - Why Talk About God? (Fear of man, witnessing at school) - g94 9/22 p13

Why Your Body Needs Sleep - g95 6/8 p17; (also g03 1/22 p20)

Your Role in Your Prayers - g95 9/8 p20

Are God's Standards Too Difficult to Reach? (Depression; Self-Worth) - g95 10/8 p22

"If I Could Change a Moment in Time" (The first lie) - g96 2/22 p15

YPA - How Can I Have a Good Time? - g96 9/22 p21

A Mother's Bonding With Her Babies - g96 9/22 p24

Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen? - g96 10/22 p18

How Can I Become a Friend of God? (Not choosing bad associates) - g97 2/22 p11

"Love Never Fails"—Do You? - g98 5/8 p14

Do You Judge by Appearances? - g98 5/8 p31

How Can I Keep My Mind on Things? (Help in concentrating at meetings, school) - g98 9/22 p18

They Are Determined Not to Give Up - g99 8/22 p24

What if I Meet Someone From School? (Fear of man in witnessing) - g02 2/22 p21

What You Should Know About Christmas - g02 12/8 p16

The Power of a Smile - g03 1/22 p31  
Bridling the Horse and the Tongue - g04 5/22 p31  
How to Nurture a Love for Learning - g04 8/8 p4 (Plus Box on p8,9 Enhance Learning, Make It More Enjoyable)  
Youths Who Speak Up for Their Faith - g04 9/8 p12,13  
Facing Illness With a Sense of Humor - g05 4/22 p26  
"Almost Designed"? (Saturn's rings) - g05 6/22 p31  
Leisure Reading Makes for Higher Grades (Watching the World snippet) - g05 8/8 p28  
Youths Who Give a Powerful Witness - g05 9/8 p18  
Rejoice in the Hope - g 4/06 p. 8 (Plus Box on page 9 Nine Ingredients for Happiness)  
Why Do I Have to Read? - g 5/06 p15  
What Should I Do With My Life? (Careers) - g 7/06 p23  
Why I Don't Celebrate Halloween (prepared to defend our beliefs) - g 10/06 p27  
"Do You Observe Grandmother's Day?" (or Mother's Day, similar reasoning) - g 12/06 p20  
Feathers—A Marvel of Design - g 7/07 p23  
What's So Bad About Swearing? (Most of us are exposed to it) - g 3/08 p19  
How Can I Make Worship of God Enjoyable? - g 7/08 p19  
How Can I Resist Temptation? - g 8/08 p26  
How Can I Cope With Stress at School? - g 9/08 p26  
How Can I Improve in My Prayers? - g 11/08 p26  
Do I Need Better Friends? - g 3/09 p18  
Why Am I Afraid to Share My Faith? - g 7/09 p24

#### **Watchtower:**

Her Hope Is Real (If you traveled to the future in a Time Machine) - w81 2/1 p30  
Remember Christian Principles - w88 10/1 p26 (Plus Box on p27 - Some Basic Bible Principles)  
Busy in Dead Works or in Jehovah's Service? - w92 7/1 p26  
Suggestions to enhance your Bible reading - w95 5/1 Box on p16,17  
When They Read It and How They Benefit - w95 5/1 p20,21  
"Remember the Days Gone By"—Why? - w96 12/1 p29  
Do You Long to Serve More Fully? - w97 3/15 p8 (Plus Box on p11 - Goals We Might Set)  
Where Can True Happiness Be Found? - w97 3/15 p23  
Save Your Child's Life! (For parents) - w97 7/15 p20  
Be Sure to Put First Things First! - w98 9/1 p19  
Is God Real to You? - w98 9/15 p21  
When Armed Robbers Strike - w98 12/15 p21  
Safeguarding a Good Name - w99 6/1 p32  
Regularly Study God's Word as a Family - w99 7/1 p13  
Families, Praise God as Part of His Congregation - w99 7/1 p18  
The Wisdom to "Foresee What Will Happen" - w99 7/1 p32  
Benefiting From "the Grain of Heaven" - w99 8/15 p25  
Be a Good Listener (How children can listen better at meetings) - w00 3/15 p17,18 par7-11  
Inner Beauty Has Lasting Value - w00 11/15 p32  
Noah's Faith Condemns the World - w01 11/15 p28  
You Can Avoid a Spiritual Heart Attack - w01 12/1 p9  
Godly Principles Can Benefit You - w02 2/15 p4 (Plus Box on p6 Some Helpful Bible Principles)  
Youths—Are You Making Spiritual Advancement? - w03 4/1 p8  
Youths Who Make Jehovah's Heart Rejoice - w03 4/15 p12  
Youths—Jehovah Will Not Forget Your Work! - w03 4/15 p17  
Is Your Conscience Well Trained? - w05 10/1 p12  
Her Faith Encourages Others - w06 7/1 p31  
Are God's Eyes Upon You? - w07 8/1 p32  
When Christians Are Sifted as Wheat - w08 1/15 p32  
Why Pray in Jesus' Name? (Prayer) - w08 2/1 p11  
God's Power Revealed in the Stars - w08 5/1 p6  
A Young Man's Courage (For Our Young People) - w09 1/1 p31  
Jesus Resists Temptation (For Our Young People) - w09 5/1 p26  
Youths - Make Your Advancement Manifest (Study Articles) - w09 5/15 p13-17  
Do You Allow God to Speak to You Every Day? - w09 8/1 p13 (Plus BR Schedule for a year p15)  
Miracles At Pentecost! (For Our Young People) - w09 9/1 p21

How Paradise Was Lost (For Our Young People) - w09 11/1 p18

How to Prepare a Magazine Presentation - km 11/06 p8

Make Good Use of the Bible - km 9/04 p4

- Use the **Videos and DVD's** that Jehovah's organization has produced.

"Sometimes we replayed a section or paused the video to allow for discussion..." (w07 9/15 p9,10) After watching a particular video, the family can try to answer the **Review Questions** found in the following Kingdom Ministries:

Learning From the Video *The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy* - km 12/00 p7

Building Appreciation for *The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book* - km 2/01 p7 ; km 3/09 p3

Impressions of the Video *The Bible—Its Power in Your Life* - km 4/01 p2

"I Stand Firm! I Stand Firm! I Stand Firm!" *Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault* - km 6/01 p8

A Historical Look at *The New World Society in Action* - km 8/01 p2

*United by Divine Teaching—A View of Real Brotherly Unity* - km 10/01 p7

Witnessing—*To the Ends of the Earth* - km 12/01 p7

Why We Love Our Whole Association of Brothers - km 6/02 p3

A Warm Appeal to Heed *Warning Examples for Our Day* - km 10/02 p7

A Video That Will Enlighten and Inspire You! *Faithful Under Trials—Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union* - km 2/03 p7

We Must Respect Jehovah's Authority - km 9/04 p3

Benefit From the Video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge* - km 12/04 p6

A Video With a Timeless Message *David—He Trusted in God?* - km 3/05 p3

An Example for All Ages *Noah—He Walked With God* - km 2/02 p2; km 5/06 p3

A Video That Highlights an Important Medical Trend *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* - km 1/06 p7

The Highest Quality of Medical Care—What Is It? *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge* - km 1/07 p3

Are You Putting It Off? *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* - km 1/08 p6

A Video That Deserves Serious Thought *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* - km 9/06 p7

What Will You Do With Your Life? *Young People Ask—What Will I Do With My Life?* - km 4/07 p6

\* **31 Q's on Jesus' words in Matthew 5-7** - see w01 12/15 Box on p12,13

\* **Basic principles of the Bible.** These are basic truths or fundamental laws from which other truths or laws can be derived. Look up these principles in the Bible, and discuss how they can be applied in everyday life. The following are some examples:

(Box on p6 of w02 2/15; Box on p27 of w88 10/1; Bottom of p10 of brochure *A Satisfying Life How to Attain It* - FIND THE WORDS OF WISDOM IN THE BIBLE)

\* **Reading the Bible aloud as a family.** When reading some portions of the Scriptures, take turns, reading the various 'voice' parts by assignment. One family member—possibly the father—might read the words of the general account, while the others can assume the roles of Bible characters, reading their parts with suitable feeling. Invite the children to choose the character they want to portray in the reading. (w96 5/15 p14 par18; w97 8/1 p28)

For suggestions on Bible passages to read, see the scriptures listed at the end of any story from *My Book of Bible Stories*, or the Sound Dramas considered at the last few Conventions.

\* List all the books of the Bible on blank cards. Then, taking turns, each family member can practice putting them in order. (w96 12/1 p12 par13)

\* If a **concordance** is available, a youngster can count how many times a certain word appears in the Hebrew Scriptures and the Greek Scriptures. (w89 12/1 p19 par19)

\* **Practice sessions.** These can help young ones to prepare for real-life situations. Practice presentations for the ministry, with a parent acting as the householder. Or the practice session may deal with real-life temptations. (Proverbs 1:10-15) "Rehearsing for difficult situations can build a child's skills and confidence," one individual explained. "The practice might include playing the role of a friend offering your child a cigarette, drink or drug." These sessions can help you to discern how your child will respond in such situations. (w94 5/15 p13 par13)

\* **Children playing the role of parents.** One couple helped their teenage children to reason on a request to attend a school dance. The father says: "We told our children that during a portion of the next family study, my wife and I would play the part of the children, and our girls could pretend to be the parents. Either child could assume the role of Father or Mother, but the children had to work together to research the subject and to give direction about school dances." What was the result? "We were amazed at how responsible our daughters (in their role as the parents) were when explaining to us (as the children) their Bible-based reasons why it would be unwise to go to the dance," the father continues. "What further impressed us were the suggestions they came up with as acceptable alternatives to this activity. These gave us valuable insight into their thinking and desires." (w07 9/1 p28 par12)

\* One family, in the north of Sweden, used to have the children write down questions that came up during the week. These questions were then discussed at the weekly Bible study. The questions were often deep and thought-provoking and proved to be a reflection of the children's thinking abilities and appreciation of Bible teachings. Some questions were: "Does Jehovah make everything grow all the time, or did he do it just once?" "Why does the Bible say that God created man 'in his image' since God is not a man?" "Didn't Adam and Eve freeze during the winter in Paradise since they were barefoot and didn't have any clothes?" "Why do we need the moon at night when it should be dark?" (w98 4/1 p8)

\* Have each child choose a theme on a topic of their choice (or you choose for them), and then assign them to do research in different publications according to their age and ability. Then after half an hour or so, come together and see what each one has discovered on the assigned subject. (w89 12/1 p19 par19)

\* Many choose a study theme that they pursue for some time, such as the fruits of the spirit, background of Bible books, or art of teaching. Some enjoy making chronological charts, such as ones that show the relation between Israelite kings and prophets or Acts of Apostles and the Pauline letters. (w94 6/15 p10-11)

\* Use **time lines** to show sequence of significant events. These can help to understand more readily such prophecies as the "seven times" of Daniel 4:16 and the "seventy weeks" of Daniel 9:24. Such time lines appear in several of our study publications. (be p248 par2)

\* As a family study project, create a time line, consisting of all major significant Bible events from Adam's creation down to our day. The following resources are helpful: si p294-297, jv p718-723, bf p682-690.

\* A few other good suggestions posted on jwtalks:

...families have made up rhymes and songs to help them remember scriptures.

...every other week the kids get to pick what we study for the following week. We have done "what if..." scenarios. "What if " Moses hadn't taken credit for getting water from the rocks. Or "what if " Joseph's brothers hadn't sold him into slavery.

\* More suggestions:

be p248 pars2-4

w94 5/15 p12 par12

w96 5/15 p10-20

w96 12/1 p12,13 pars13-14

w97 8/1 p28 (and entire article)

w98 6/1 p20-23

w99 7/1 p16 par11 (and entire article)

w00 10/1 p15 par12 footnote

w07 11/1 p30-31 pars15-16

