

# PARENTS ONLY



## KidQuote:

When 6-year-old Claire asked her mom what a war ship was, her mom described a naval carrier. Satisfied with her mom's answer, Claire walked away singing, "I will give you all my war ships; I will give you all my praise."

*Rachel Hunsaker  
Buhl, Idaho*

Send your kid quotes with the child's name and age to "Kid Quote," Children's Ministry Magazine, P.O. Box 481, Loveland, Colorado 80539-0481, or email [ckamrath@cmmag.com](mailto:ckamrath@cmmag.com). If we publish your quote, we'll pay you \$25.

## Great Family Banquet

In Luke 14:15-24, Jesus tells about a banquet full of surprising guests. You can dig into this Scripture with your family by planning a night to have a surprise banquet. Allow every family member to invite a secret guest, such as a person who doesn't receive many dinner invitations or a friend who could use some cheer and fun. Have your kids create special invitations and place mats for their guests, and then have all family members help prepare the meal.

When guests arrive, everyone will be surprised and enjoy seeing who was invited. When guests leave, talk with your family about why they invited the person they did, and then spend time praying for your special guests.

*Kristy Coughlin  
Los Angeles, California*

## Family Faith Nights

Our family schedule can get pretty crazy. That's why we started a weekly Family Faith Night. Here's what we focus on each week:

- **Week One: Service**—We choose a project that helps someone else, such as making a meal together to give to another family.
- **Week Two: Prayer Time**—We pray for a friend, family member, country, or church. Then we concentrate on specific prayers for our choice throughout the week.
- **Week Three: Praise and Thanksgiving**—We make lists of things we're thankful for and place them on the refrigerator. Then we pull out CDs or a guitar and sing worship songs together as a family.
- **Week Four: Celebrate**—We celebrate those who've blessed us. For example, we've baked something special to bring to the kids' Sunday school teachers that weekend.

*Danelle Delgado  
Fort Collins, Colorado*

## The Upside of the Economic Squeeze

Finances are tight for many of today's families, but that doesn't mean it has to ruin family morale. In fact, the economic squeeze can free families to enjoy more quality time. Here are creative ways for your family to have fun and grow together.

• **The Gift of Time**—For birthdays this year, instead of spending lots of money on elaborate gifts, give your children coupons to redeem for quality time with you, such as a Saturday sledding outing, a weekend camping trip, or an evening of Charades.

• **Family Nights**—Instead of going out for dinner or a movie, spend the night at home. Rent a DVD and rearrange the living room for optimal viewing, or lay out several board games and have a marathon of play.

• **Emphasize Togetherness**—Remember you're not the only family feeling the economic crunch. Invite neighbors, friends, or other church families over for a night of playing games or a potluck dinner.

• **Talk About It**—You don't need to provide details, but let your children know that it's important your family sticks to a budget. Let them help brainstorm ways to save money, such as carpooling to school, shopping at a thrift store, or cutting coupons. Kids want to be part of the solution, and it's never too early to teach them about putting God first with their money and learning to spend wisely.