

Why a Family Altar?

Every home is built on something: noise, hurry, screens - or **intentional presence**.

A family altar is not a piece of furniture. It is a **pattern of meeting God together** - simple, repeatable, and rooted in Scripture.

This liturgy is designed to work in:

- Busy weekday evenings
- Early mornings before school
- Weekly "Family Night" slots

Aim for **15-20 minutes**. Consistency is more important than perfection.

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1. Call to Attention

The leader (usually a parent) simply says:

> "Let's come to the table. Phones down, TV off. This is our time before God as a family."

Then a short call:

> **Leader**: "The Lord is our Shepherd." > **Family**: "We will not fear."

You can choose any simple verse to repeat every time. Repetition builds memory.

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3. Conversation & Reflection

Ask **simple, open questions**:

- "What stood out to you?"
- "What does this tell us about God?"
- "What does this invite us to do or change?"

Do not turn it into an exam. The aim is **heart engagement**, not perfect theology.

For younger children:

- "Where do you see God being kind in this story?"
- "How can we show that same kindness this week?"

You can end with one clear takeaway:

> "Tonight's truth: God is our shepherd. He sees us, leads us, and provides for us."

Write it on a sticky note and leave it somewhere visible.

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Weekly Rhythm Example

Monday: Psalm focus (comfort and trust) **Wednesday:** Gospel story (character of Jesus) **Friday:** Thanksgiving night (what God has done this week) **Sunday evening:** Look ahead (school, work, major events)

The goal is not to manufacture perfection. The goal is to **anchor your home in the presence and Word of God.**

Start small. Stay consistent. Let the atmosphere of your home shift over time.