

Hanukkah is the story of one godly family turning the tide in a nation



6And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

One Godly Family

As we prepare for Hanukkah starting in just over a week, I'm reminded of the power of a godly family. After all, it was a God-fearing father and his five sons (one family) which turned the tide and brought salvation to an entire nation.

I find this reality both encouraging and sobering for me. I realize I have such a far way to go as a parent. But here are some things I am trying to implement as a Dad with my children who I will only have for a few more years. I realize this might not be relevant for many of you receiving this, but I think the points below can be adapted towards those who are important in our lives in this season and can also

be a motivator to pray for the families around us.

1. *Pray for my family daily.* I strongly believe this is the most important of all the ideas here. My parents consistently prayed for me and my brother and I think that is the best thing they did for us. Their number one prayer was that we would "grow up to love Jesus." I purpose to pray this prayer as well as a prayer list of important things for my kids each day. I don't always feel like doing this (and some days I miss it), but it is a declaration of need before the LORD and a petition for His help.

2. *Follow the divine nudges that come to me.* As I've done this, I've found a number of things that don't work well but also have found some things that have. I want to keep trying out new things as they come and not to be afraid to change out on things that aren't working.

3. *Use the time before the kids go to bed to have a time to focus on God together.* This is a time where Jess and I typically alternate in spending time with each child and setting apart time to pray with them, read from the Bible or some edifying book, and have time to talk together. I often don't feel like it, but am usually glad that I spent this time with them.

4. *"I'm sorry I was wrong, will you forgive me" should regularly be on my lips.* I am a work in progress and have need for much improvement. My family (and friends) see this reality so I'm not fooling anyone by trying to hide this. I have seen my children softest after I've repented when I've missed the mark with them, and I've also seen them own it more frequently when they've messed up too.

I'm sure that I'll think of other things after I send this, but these are the things that are specifically on my heart right now.

In closing, I'm not that confident that I'll rise to the order of the godly Mattathias who was the father of the Macabbees, but I can consistently strive to be faithful at doing the little things that are in front of me and ask God to bridge the gaps. You can do this too.

Below is an eight night Hanukkah devotional that I put together years ago. We've used it as a family the last couple years and found benefit with it. Each of the eight night focuses on a different theme.

Here's the 8.5x11

document: [https://mcusercontent.com/bb047e8705192b2817b6fc897/files/f497db39-e4c5-2003-cb29-](https://mcusercontent.com/bb047e8705192b2817b6fc897/files/f497db39-e4c5-2003-cb29-af9d10f3c37e/Hanukkah_8_Day_Teaching_Handout_2019b_.01.pdf)

[af9d10f3c37e/Hanukkah 8 Day Teaching Handout 2019b .01.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/bb047e8705192b2817b6fc897/files/f497db39-e4c5-2003-cb29-af9d10f3c37e/Hanukkah_8_Day_Teaching_Handout_2019b_.01.pdf)

Here's the booklet

format: [https://mcusercontent.com/bb047e8705192b2817b6fc897/files/d7274707-f5e9-7b07-52e0-](https://mcusercontent.com/bb047e8705192b2817b6fc897/files/d7274707-f5e9-7b07-52e0-7d5ce589bf55/Hanukkah_8_Day_Teaching_Handout_booklet_2019b_booklet.02.pdf)

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