

# PARENTS ONLY



## KidQuote:

Six-year-old Jonah grew frustrated when his talking toy knew the word *dog* but not *God*. "Mom," he complained, "this thing needs to read the Bible!"

Vicki Lee  
Seattle, Washington

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.

## Fitting It In

Making time for family is a challenge for everyone—regardless of whether you're a dual- or single-income family. Try these ideas to make time for what really matters.

**Master Calendar**—Place every family member's schedule on one calendar to avoid double booking or missed events. This also helps the career person in your family monitor when to take time off.

**Clock Out**—Technology has made it convenient to stay connected to the office 24/7. Set down the cell phone, log out of email, and devote uninterrupted time to your family every evening.

**Priority Appointments**—Place special appointments on your master calendar that designate quality time with each child. A lunch date, an afternoon at the zoo, or a morning hike lets your children know you value time with them. Put church and daily time with God on the schedule to help your children learn that your relationship with God is a big part of your life.

## Days of Old

To celebrate Grandparent's Day on the first Sunday after Labor Day, gather the generations of your family together or adopt a senior couple from your church. Then celebrate the traditions and history of family with these ideas.

• **Family Tree**—Create a poster of your family genealogy and encourage grandparents to share stories of their childhoods and memories they have of growing up. Pull out old photos and document who's in the picture; then let grandparents share their memories of the pictures.

• **Ethnic Meal**—Chances are your family's origin is from another country. Enjoy a meal together that includes traditional foods and dishes from your family's country of origin. Say a prayer before you eat, thanking God for your family's history and roots.

• **Sundays Gone By**—Church was different when grandparents were growing up. Let the seniors in your family describe what Sunday school was like when they were kids, or teach their favorite old hymns to help your kids understand the roots of your family's faith.

## Artistic Smiles

"Mommy, the mailman came," my 4-year-old daughter says as she points to a kitchen cupboard where she's delivered a colored "letter" for me.

We extended my daughter's love for creating mail beyond our family. "Make a Child Smile" ([makeachildsmile.org](http://makeachildsmile.org)), a nonprofit organization, lets kids reach out to children with life-threatening illnesses through a cheerful card. My daughter and I searched the website and found 9-year-old Emily—who also loves princesses. My daughter immediately ran to draw her a princess and then covered her drawing with stickers. I added, "Jesus loves you" before we placed the card in the real mail.

For my daughter who loves coloring and Jesus, nothing beats sticking a stamp on one of her artistic creations and brightening another child's day.



Juliette Fardulis  
Loveland, Colorado