

# December 2019 Devotional Discussion + DIY Activities

**Verse of the Month...** Deut. 6:7 says, “And you shall teach them (God’s precepts) diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

Diligently is an adverb which has to do with sharpening. Imagine one of those long pole-like sharpeners. You run the knife blade down its ridges again and again to buff away dull edges. If you do a lot of cutting, you may have to sharpen the knife every time you use it. God wants us to repeatedly teach so that your child is sharpened, like the knife. You remove the dull places so that child knows the truth. It’s interesting that we think of someone who knows a lot as ‘sharp.’ Teach so your child gets a love of learning and longs to know God more deeply.

Here’s why God wants parents to make teaching a way of life:

1. Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child. Prov. 22:15. Never forget your child was born a sinner. Often, the first reaction will be disobedience. He or she is a sheep who has gone astray.
2. Children are naïve and don’t have wisdom Prov. 1:4. Many in our society today believe a child is wise because of their youth. The Bible disagrees.
3. Naïve people are vulnerable. They “...inherit folly...” Prov. 14:18. The naïve are easily led into bad situations and sinfulness. Sin destroys. “The wages of sin is death.”
4. Without the Word, people walk in darkness. Prov. 2:13, Eph.5:8. If you walk in darkness, you can fall over things you can’t see.
5. God’s word brings life – John 6:88
6. “...a child left to himself brings shame to his mother...” Prov 29:15. This verse looks into the future and shows the outcome. None of us want to be ashamed of our children.

Think about the verbs in the verse. You are to be teaching when you sit, walk, lie down, rise up. How often do you perform those actions? How often should you teach?

## **F-U-N + Application...**

**DIY Stringing Popcorn...** a great activity that’s also cheap. If you don’t want your kids to get greasy fingers, get dry popcorn in a jar. Put a cup or so in a small brown paper bag and pop in the microwave like you would the bags of microwavable popcorn. String popcorn when it’s cool. Get a needle and thread. Tie a knot in the end of the thread and string the popcorn, making sure you go down the middle of the popcorn. Hang on the tree or around the house when you are finished. You can make them sparkly with glitter, but if you plan on eating the popcorn later, get edible glitter.

**DIY Sparkly Pinecones...**you will need pinecones, glitter, and white glue. Kids love glitter because it reflects the light. You can tell them they can be like glitter if they reflect the light of God’s love. Get pinecones and let them dry out. Some people dry them in a warm oven (100 degrees) for a couple hours. Put a dab of glitter on the pinecones and sprinkle on glitter. Or you might roll the cones in glitter. When dry, put a string through the top to hang on the tree or sit them around the house to reflect light.