

A large, elegant, dark red decorative flourish on the left side of the page, featuring a small flower at the top and a long, flowing scroll that ends in a heart shape.

Resources for Easy, but Engaging, Family Times

Rick Boyer

As a Dad who's had to work a full day and then come home to a house full of children, I know what it's like to be tired at the end of a day and not be at my creative best. Here is a list of resources, many of which we've created for use with our own family, and others we've used and appreciated, to help make your times as a family more productive and fun.

Books we've written that you can just pick up and use—the work is done for you:

All available at <http://characterconcepts.com/store> or come see us at our booth and get a chance to browse them for yourself.

Profiles of Valor: True Stories from the War of Independence—Profiles of Valor brings to life 40 fascinating characters from America's War of Independence.

Your children will love these exciting true stories. And they'll be inspired to strive for the character qualities they illustrate. Provided are discussion questions after each chapter so the family can discuss not only history, but character in action.

Portraits of Integrity—One of the most powerful ways to inspire people to greatness is through the stories of great people from the past. In ***Portraits of Integrity*** you and your children will be challenged to strive for excellence through the examples of 45 people who did just that. Family discussion questions are provided following each selection.


For You They Signed: The Spiritual Heritage of Those Who Shaped our Nation—Endorsed by Christian historian, David Barton of Wallbuilders! Teach your family history, character, and Scripture at the same time. This beautiful volume gives you the tools you need to train up young nation-changers. ***For You They Signed*** provides an abundance of resources within one volume, including: a full year of life-changing, challenging family devotional character studies.

An Added Plus: this comes with free activity book that has coloring pages for the kids to work on while listening and family fun quizzes to encourage attentiveness.

Kids of Character Bible Study—This is a practical study for children of the 45 character qualities I taught my children, learning what God's Word has to say about each one and how to apply it to their lives. An added feature contained in this study is "Ifs," a game we often played to help children learn to make wise decisions before they are even placed in a position of temptation. Our grown kids have testified this helped them many times to choose the right thing from having played a game which prepared them for choosing to do right based on insights gained from God's Word.

Proverbs People Books 1 and 2—Proverbs People 1 and 2 are chock-full of short-answer questions, example stories, fun quizzes, application questions, and coloring pages teaching the types of people found in the Book of Proverbs, and provide practical information for how to deal with those people. Your child may even find himself represented, as in slothful/diligent, finding what God says happens when one persists in the wrong behavior and God's blessings on the righteous. ***Proverbs People Books 1 and 2*** were written for the purpose of training our own 14 children to apply what they read in God's Word to their own lives in a practical way.

Resources for Easy, but Engaging, Family Times



Growing in Wisdom—This study is based on the popular handout, “Identifying and Dealing with Offenses,” by Marilyn Boyer. Your child will learn 32 types of negative behavior and their Biblical consequences. Through insights learned from God’s Word, your child will be guided in making an intentional decision to choose positive, godly character in their day-to-day life. God has the answer for turning our negative natural tendencies into choices which reflect the character of Jesus Christ.

We also have resources for older children as well.

Creative ideas we’ve used:

Read through Proverbs—Let kids stop you to ask questions. Read the chapter corresponding to the day of the month. Pause to discuss as you read.

Alternative—listen as a family to *Uncle Rick Reads the Proverbs*, making his character comments and explanations as he reads, which teaches kids how to meditate on the Word of God. The audio is divided into chapters.

Read through Psalms—this book contains the whole spectrum of human emotion and how to deal with it in daily life.

Alternative—listen to *Uncle Rick Reads the Psalms*, complete with comments.

Uncle Rick has also recorded the Book of John, I Peter, James, and Matthew.

Read through a passage of the New Testament and point out character qualities of Jesus, then others in the passage. Feel free to use our handout, “45 Character Qualities to Teach Your Children,” which offers simple kid-friendly definitions and verses for each. Let us know if you want a copy. We’ll be happy to e-mail you one.

Family Bible Quiz—free handout for you—We used to read a quality Bible story book to our little ones and encourage them to listen carefully, because every Friday we would have a Bible quiz and pass out treats to those who answered the questions correctly. It served to train the kids to be attentive and gave them a purpose for intentionally listening to what was being read. There was an element of excitement, anticipating the Friday quiz.

Read through “stories” of the Old Testament—let kids ask questions; talk about right/wrong, what people should have done, etc.

IFs—fun game we played. We offer this game on our website and also use the questions in *Kids of Character Bible Study*.

Use our questions as a springboard and then make up more of your own. We found this prepared our kids in advance for situations of temptation they would encounter in life.

Our son, Rick, affirms that often he KNEW the right thing to do and this kept him from making bad decisions—prepared in advance, not forced to make a decision in heat of moment.

Read Bible stories to little people—point out character—we had *The Bible Story* set of 10 books plus others through the years.

Resources for Easy, but Engaging, Family Times



Grossroads of Character, Character Trails, Character in Action are books we've written for ages 4-13 to help children put into practice what they learn, relate to other kids struggling to make wise decisions, and plan a reasonable course of action to implement (in *Character in Action*).

Sing hymns—we have hymn books. Daughter-in-law said all your kids are walking hymn books and Bibles. We often would let the kids choose hymns for all to sing. We loved singing ALL the verses.

Obedience Exercises—learning first time obedience—obey first—We're happy to explain why later

BEST THING WE DID- BIBLE AUDIOS AT BEDTIME- GO TO SLEEP MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

You can obtain either CD's at CharacterConcepts.com or digital audio at UncleRickAudios.com

We spent time in Scripture during family nights and then often ended up reading other books as well.

Family Reading Suggestions:

The Little House Books—The Early Years by Laura Ingalls Wilder—OK, I guess this first favorite isn't just one book. It's a whole series of nine books! We have spent many pleasant hours as a family reading through the "Laura books" and reading them over again. The stories are wonderful classics of years-gone-by and the strong bond of a loving family through the good and bad times—perfect to read aloud as a family.

James Herriot Treasury for Children—Another family favorite has been the James Herriot books. Rick has read selected stories from these books to the family. We were glad to see a children's version come available. Sweet, heart-warming stories based on the vet's experience in the Yorkshire hills. Some are hilariously funny and others sweet.

Poetry—had fun with this— great historical poetry book too.

The Best Loved Poems of the American People—Rick often would pull out this next book and read poetry to the kids. There are some of the poems that they still can quote. It made for lots of fun family times. (We've since found others that are strictly history-related about events in American history that we plan to record for you soon. So be watching!)

America's Struggle to Become a Nation and ***The Fight for Freedom***—give Chief Justice Roy Moore quote—read as a family—first sign of decay of a nation is when history is taken from them—let it not be that way in our home

Historical fiction- Boys of Liberty series—old historical fiction used to be for purpose of teaching history—listen to an Uncle Rick Audio together. We recently started the Uncle Rick Audio Club. We are choosing the best we can find to record. We are amazed at what we didn't learn when we were in school. We are resurrecting the selections our grandparents and great-grandparents read and we're excited to be able to share them with your family. As a member of the club you can choose any two audio books each month for only \$10 (a \$30 value). We add at least two new audio books each month so be sure to check it out. Samples are available to help you make your selections. We offer history, historical fiction, character building, and Scripture. UncleRickAudios.com

Rifles for Waite

Johnny Tremain

The Count of Monte Cristo



Resources for Easy, but Engaging, Family Times



See our blog for more of our favorite books. We keep adding suggestions to it.

<https://characterconceptsblog.com/10-favorite-books-family-reading-time/#more-3619>

Presentation by Rick Boyer—Check out our website for a full line of character building resources. CharacterConcepts.com

