

ALTARPRENEUR
e-book.

A CONSISTENT ALTAR

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It doesn't take much effort to be inconsistent.

If you want to be average, at pretty much anything, you don't have to put in much effort. But if you want to be great, you must be consistent.

Christians are not perfect people. But we are being perfected by the ongoing work of God, through the Holy Spirit. This should motivate us to make the most of our calling, just like Paul...

Philippians 3:12 - *It's not that I have already reached this goal or have already become perfect. **But I keep pursuing it,** hoping somehow to embrace it just as I have been embraced by the Messiah Jesus.*

Daniela snapped this picture while we were praying one night before bedtime. I may not be able to buy my children a car or a house when they're older, but I want them to know that I led them in the presence of God.

Small disciplines repeated with consistency every day lead to great achievements gained slowly over time.

- J. Maxwell



When it comes to striving to meet consistently with God, there is a significant difference in the long-term impact between having a family altar every day versus once every so often. If our boys, Levy and Seth, see us praying together, singing, and reading the Bible consistently it's more likely that they will pick up the same habits. (Not a given, of course. After all, ***parenting is not a formula that guarantees an outcome, it is a sacrifice that brings a harvest.***)

So, how do I lead my family in building an altar (meeting with God) on a consistent basis?

NOTE: These simple tips are especially for families with younger children, but they can be adapted for families with children of any age.

1

Start Small

Can't get through all of Psalm 119 in one sitting? The reality is, not many of us can, especially if you have little children running around.

The goal isn't to start big.
The goal is to start!

Reading one verse a day together for an entire year, just as an example, is much better and more meaningful than reading all four gospels in one day just to say that you did it (been there, done that).

TRY IT TODAY:

Read one verse together as a family. Read it aloud and take turns.
(Bonus challenge: Come up with a catchy song using the words to that verse!)

2

Set a Time & Place

We should take our example from none other than the Lord Jesus who *'often withdrew himself to the wilderness to pray.'* See Luke 5:16. Do you have that place and time where you withdraw *often*? It should be marked as sacred.

Of all the meetings and activities
on our agenda today, none are
greater than meeting with
our Lord and Creator!

This sets the pace for everything else in life. If I get this wrong, nothing else matters.

TRY IT TODAY:

If you haven't already, gather your family members and make it official - Tell them the (fill in the blank) will be the new meeting place for your family devotion time and you will be meeting there at so and so day/time.

3

Get Everyone Involved

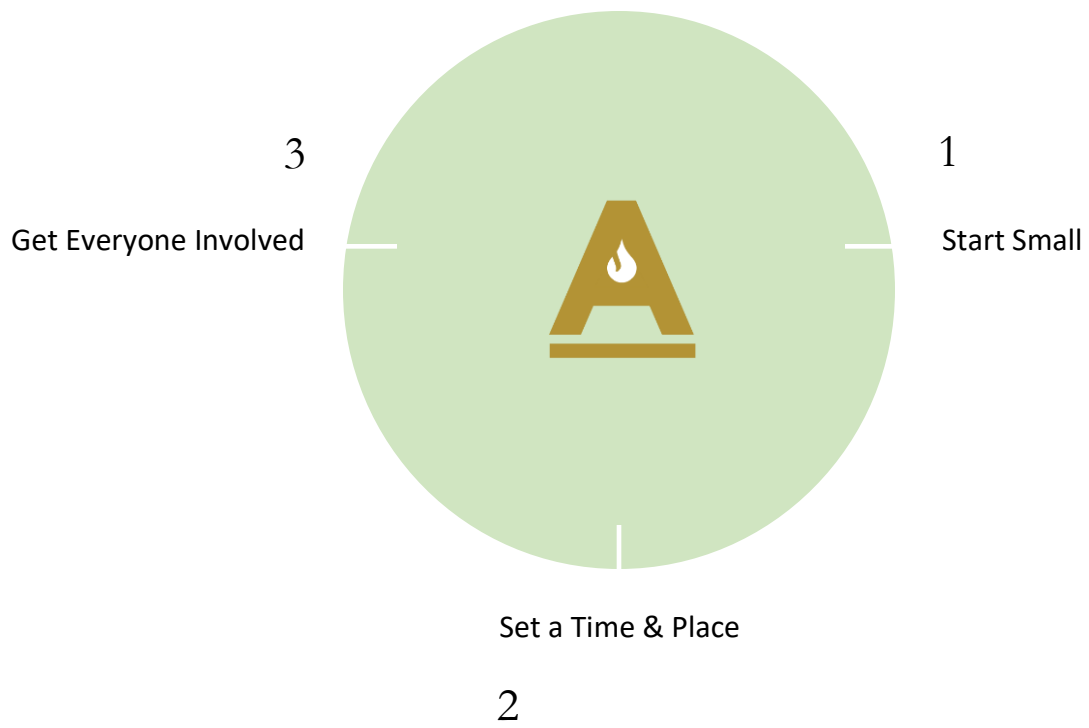
As a parent (especially fathers), when you're first establishing a family altar you might have the tendency to hold on to the reins and want to lead everything, probably with good intention. With time, getting everyone involved means hearing them out and allowing them to share and contribute.

Getting everyone involved in building an altar can add such a nice dynamic to your time together, and you may be surprised to see how God speaks to you.

'As for me and my house (everyone), we will serve the Lord - (Joshua 24:15)

TRY IT TODAY:

At some point during your family devotional, ask your spouse and/or child(ren) to pray, share an experience, sing or read from the Bible.



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The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.

Leviticus 6:13



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Keep the Fire Burning.