

T-shirt Christians

(Our actions should bring praise to God.)

Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:16

Supplies: Bible, T-Shirt with a message or advertisement on it



Hold up the t-shirt so everyone can see the printing. Look at this shirt. Apparently whoever wears this shirt wants people to think about (the message).

If I had a t-shirt that said "flowers" in big letters and had pictures of flowers on it, what would you think about when you saw the shirt? *Pause.* Of course, you'd think about flowers! Or if I had a shirt that said "I love birds" and had pictures of birds on it, what would you think about when you saw it? That's right. You'd think about birds! *Hold up the t-shirt again.* What do you think about when you see this shirt? *Pause for responses matching the design of the shirt.*

Jesus once said that we should be like t-shirts. Well, he didn't really say, "You should be like t-shirts," but He did say that people should look at us and think of God. He said that people should "see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

That's just like being a t-shirt. *Hold up shirt.* People look at this and they think of (the product). They should look at you and praise God. How can you make people think about God and praise Him when they see you? Here's a hint: God is love. God told us to love one another and love Him. Should you be kind and loving to people? *Pause.* Yes, that's what God told us to do.

How can you be kind and loving to people? Can you share your toys? Can you smile and speak nicely to people? Can you help a friend with chores? Can you obey your parents cheerfully? There are all sorts of ways you can be kind and loving to people.

When you do those things—when you're kind and loving to people—you're just kind and loving to people—you're just like a t-shirt. *Hold up t-shirt.* People see you and praise God.

You don't need a t-shirt to tell about God, do you? Your actions can bring praise to God. But the next time you see a t-shirt like this one with a message on it, look at the shirt and think of the message. That will remind you that people should be able to look at you and praise God.

Let's pray. (Pray together, something like this: *Dear Jesus, help us to love others so well that when people look at us, they can't help but think of You and praise You! Help us remember to praise You when we see others who are loving, too. In Your name, Amen.*)

Some Tips for Family Devotionals:

Pray! Ask God to guide your family time.

Make it fun! Enjoy yourselves and let the kids be silly. They may not remember everything you say, but they will always remember the laughter.

Keep it simple! Don't try to create deeply profound lessons. Just try to reinforce your values and beliefs in a simple, easy-to-understand manner.

Don't dominate! Ask questions, explain the instructions, and invite participation. Your children will learn more when you involve all of their senses and emotions.

Go with the flow! Start with a well-defined plan, but don't kill spontaneity by become overly structured. Some of the best opportunities are completely unplanned and unexpected.