



MORNING
TIME
SNAPSHOTS

JEN'S MORNING TIME

“READING GOOD BOOKS TOGETHER SEEMS TO BEAR THE MOST FRUIT IN OUR FAMILY. EVEN THOUGH READ-ALoud TIME IS STILL NEVER PERFECT, IT STILL SEEMS TO BE THE BEST PART OF OUR DAY. I LOVE IT WHEN I HEAR MY CHILDREN TALKING TO EACH OTHER AND ONE OF THEM SAYS ‘REMEMBER WHEN WE READ...!’”

How many kids do you have and what are their ages?

We have six children - Jacob, 14, Jonah, 12, Sarah, 11, Anna, 10, Leah, 9, Levi, 8.

How long have you been doing Morning Time?

We have been doing a morning time type of group activity for a long time. I have always been a fan of group learning, because I liked the dynamic of all of us working together, and it made life easier for me as well. Interestingly enough I used to feel a little guilty doing Morning Time; I thought I was being a bit lazy! I realize now it was a very efficient use of my time as well as my children's time.



What do you call your Morning Time?

Homeschool Power Hour - I recently came up with this name because I used to say "come on, let's do our stuff!" I wanted a name that would appeal to all of our ages and stages and knew that "Morning Time" wasn't going to fly with my teen and sometimes we do our Power Hour at different times of the day. Hence the name "Power Hour."

Typically how long does your Morning Time take on an average day?

Roughly an hour, give or take, depending on how long we read our literature book.

What is your kids' favorite Morning Time subject or activity?

Good question. I would say in general my kids really like Power Hour; it tends to be a more fun and interactive part of our day. I try to mix it up with songs for memory work. I use videos from Youtube for States and Capitals etc. I also like to keep our time together fluid. If someone asks a question we take the time to rabbit trail together. That is an important part of our day in general — the option to explore something not on the schedule. I believe that helps set the stage to show our children that learning isn't boring, and we never stop having questions!

What is your biggest struggle with Morning Time?

We used to do our Power Hour first thing in the morning. As my kids have gotten older (my oldest is 14) our morning routine has changed a bit. One of the aspects of homeschooling that I like the most is the flexibility of our day. As my teen and my tween have started to gradually shift sleep patterns and sleep later in the morning, I have struggled a bit to find another natural stopping point in our day. I don't want the younger kids to have to wait on the older kids to start the day. So the younger kids get up and get their independent work done, we work together a bit, and then later in the morning gather for our Power Hour. We will have a new dynamic again this year as my oldest is starting high school and will be taking three classes at the local public school. The tides are ever shifting in our homeschool day!

How have you seen Morning Time bear fruit in your home?

I like our prayer time together as I hear that the children are praying for each other or for another family member. Reading good books together seems to bear the most fruit in our family. Even though read-aloud time is still never perfect, it still

seems to be the best part of our day. I love it when I hear my children talking to each other and one of them says “remember when we read....”

What are some of your favorite Morning Time resources?

I use a variety of resources - YouTube, library etc

The Book of Virtues by William J Bennett

Favorite Poems Old and New by Helen Ferris

The Catholic Bible for Children - Ignatius

What are some of the ritual practices you include in Morning Time?

Our only ritual is that we always say the rosary to begin our time together. When my

kids were little and we started

saying the rosary as a family,

everyone was pretty squirmy so we

started out only saying a decade.

During Lent and Advent we say two

decades. Our children are older

now so we could say all the

decades, but I have found it works

best to stick with one. I would

rather them pray one heartfelt

decade than five distracted ones.

We still go through all of the

prayers and all of the mysteries. My

kids know the mysteries better than

I do! We save entire rosaries for when

we are driving in the car and have a captive audience ;)



ABOUT JEN

Jen is a Catholic homeschooling mom of six children ranging in age from high school to early elementary. You can find her occasionally blogging at [Forever, For Always, No Matter What](#), on [Pinterest](#) where she would rather pin crafts than actually do them, and [Facebook](#) too.



