

KIDSIDE

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. - Deuteronomy 6:6-7



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TIPS FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

God calls parents to serve as the primary disciplers of their children. How this is accomplished varies from family to family. Family discipleship isn't a one-size-fits-all strategy, and it isn't easy. We want to come alongside parents to help them craft their own strategy for family discipleship.

WHEN?

- Leverage gathering points that you already have, like:
 - + Family meals
 - + Bedtime routine
 - + Car rides

WHAT?

- Reading the Bible together, praying together, or singing a song as a family.
- How can you be creative with this?
 - + Read and then act out the story.
 - + Read the Bible in a special place or fun way in your house (in a closet with a flashlight for example).
 - + Turn singing into a dance party!
- For younger children, consider a picture bible such as the Jesus Storybook Bible.
- For older children, consider taking turns reading to keep their attention.
- Ask good age appropriate questions (Kidside provides you with questions that correspond with the lesson your child learned on Sunday, look for these questions on their take-home activity sheets).

HOW?

- Keep it simple (you're not planning a full-blown worship service).
- Keep it short (attention span rule preschool age children: child's age + 2 mins = attention span. i.e. a 3 year old child + 2 mins = 5 mins attention span. Attention span rule elementary age children: child's age + 5 mins = attention span. i.e. a 6 year old child + 5 mins = 11 mins attention span).
- Keep it fun! (it may not go as planned, so resolve to roll with it).

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FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP EXAMPLE

In an effort to come alongside you as the primary disciplers of your children, as a part of our weekly Northside Life email we include a section titled "Kidside Corner". Here you will find what your child learned at Kidside, the key Bible verse and family discussion questions. This should assist you with facilitating a Family Discipleship Time during the week.

THE PLAGUES & THE PASSOVER / EXODUS 5-12

- 1 Open the family discipleship time with prayer
 - + Having a child pray is helpful
- 2 Read the passage together or recap in your own words
 - Bible story summary
 - + God sent plagues on Egypt because Pharaoh would not let God's people go.
 - + God told the Israelites to put the blood of a lamb over their doors
 - + God rescued his people from being slaves in Egypt
- 3 Ask age appropriate questions
 - Babies and Toddlers
 - + Can God do anything? (Yes He can!)
 - + Did God show he was powerful? (Yes He did!)
 - + Did God keep His people safe? (Yes He did!)
 - Preschool
 - + Which of the 10 plagues sounds the worst to you?
 - + Why did God tell the Israelites to put the blood of a lamb over their doors?
 - + Who is the lamb of God and why is he called that? (see John 1:29)
 - Elementary
 - + How did God prove his power to the Egyptians?
 - + What animal did the Israelites kill at Passover?
 - + Who is known as the lamb of God and why? (see John 1:29)
- 4 Ask your children if they have any questions from the passage today or about God.
- 5 Sing a song or close with praying for each other.

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WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP IDEAS

Family discipleship times might be small things you do every day. They might also be weekly or monthly times your family spends together. Here are some ideas to get you started:

FAMILY NIGHT

Plan a night that involves family, food, fun and your faith.

- **Game Night:** play a board game, a card game or a sport together and then spend some time encouraging each other in the fruit you see the Spirit growing in each other, i.e. patience, kindness, self-control, joy.
- **Special Dinner Night:** Grab some take out or head to the park for a picnic and talk about what the Lord is doing in your lives. Seek opportunities to live out your faith in public and to love your the people you encounter while you are out and about or in your neighborhood.
- **Worship Service:** Go to church service together and afterward, over lunch, discuss what you remember or learned from the teaching.

COMMUNITY

Attend Community Group together with other families and involve your kids with all or part of the discussion.

WEEKLY FAMILY TRADITIONS

In general, consider anything that your family does on a regular basis and think about how you might intentionally design the time for family discipleship. This could be just about anything, from watching your favorite show or sports team together, yard work, grocery shopping, etc.

How did your family discipleship time go? We would love to hear about it! Take a picture and share with us on social media. Don't forget to tag us at @gonorthside.