

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking  
in the truth.” - 3 John 4

# *Family*

## DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE



FBC TULLAHOMA

# PARENT'S GUIDE TO DISCIPLESHIP

Children are an amazing gift from a gracious God! We all desire to see our children living a life full of joy and purpose. As believers in Christ we believe that true joy, lasting purpose and a satisfying life is found only in Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Parents play a crucial role in the process of seeing their kids follow Jesus. It is the parent who has the greatest influence on their child's life. The Bible says in Psalm 78, "We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might and the wonders that he has done." Throughout Scripture parents are given the responsibility to be faithful in passing on the good news of God's glorious salvation to their children.

It is our desire to come alongside you and help you fulfill the Bible's call on your life to pass along the faith that has been entrusted to you. This guide is meant to be a tool to help you, as the parent, to develop healthy habits for family discipleship. It is important to remember that it is not perfect parenting that saves your children but it is only the grace of God! You will not be perfect, but by God's grace you can and will have an impact on your children for his Glory!

Michael Martin  
Minister to Family and Children



## MODEL:

### WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO FOLLOW JESUS

**Your personal example of following Jesus can be more influential than hundreds of lectures about your beliefs.**

**Evaluate your spiritual disciplines in your personal life. Are you modeling prayer, Bible study, worship, service?**

**What areas do you need to improve and change so you say, "follow me as I follow Christ?"**

*"Train up a child in the way he should go- but be sure you go that way yourself."  
Charles Spurgeon*

### DEUTERONOMY 6:4-6

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today **shall be on your heart.**

# 2

## MOMENTS:

USE EVERYDAY LIFE TO POINT TO GOD



**Be present with your kids and be committed to being available.**

**Look for teachable moments.**

**Use moments to teach about the character of God and Godly character.**

### DEUTERONOMY 6:7

“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.”

### HOW CAN YOU USE THESE SITUATIONS TO POINT TO GOD:

- YOU ARE RIDING DOWN THE ROAD AT NIGHT AND SEE THE STARS IN THE SKY.
- AN ELDERLY NEIGHBOR IS STRUGGLING TO GET HER TRASHCAN TO THE CURB.
- YOUR CHILD IS AFRAID OF GOING TO THE DOCTOR.
- SOMETHING COMES ON TELEVISION THAT IS CONTRARY TO YOUR BIBLICAL VALUES.
- WHEN YOU SEE SINFUL PRIDE OR OTHER SINS IN YOUR CHILD
- YOUR CHILD DEMONSTRATES DEMONSTRATES GODLY CHARACTER
- YOUR CHILD WINS OR LOSES THE BIG GAME

# 3

## TEACH:

CREATE INTENTIONAL TIME FOR THE PURPOSE OF THINKING, TALKING AND LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL AS A FAMILY

*Keep it simple and fun!*

**Jonathan Edwards**

**“EVERY CHRISTIAN FAMILY OUGHT TO BE AS IT WERE A LITTLE CHURCH, CONSECRATED TO CHRIST, AND WHOLLY INFLUENCED AND GOVERNED BY HIS RULES.”**

## CONSIDER THE BASIC STRUCTURE:

- **Bible Reading:** Choose a verse or section of Scripture
- **Discuss:** What does this mean? What does it teach us about God? How can I apply?
- **Song:** Sing a song from church. Singing is one of the easiest ways to leave scriptural truth in our mind.
- **Prayer:** Discuss needs, use the ACTS model or Plus one prayer guide

## FIND HELPFUL RESOURCES

### PARENTING RESOURCES:

- SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART (TEDD TRIPP)
- PARENTING (PAUL TRIPP)
- DON'T MAKE ME COUNT TO THREE (GINGER PLOWMAN)
- TECH-WISE FAMILY (ANDY CROUCH)
- THE DISCIPLE MAKING PARENT (CHAP BETTIS)
- THINGS I WISHED I KNEW BEFORE RAISING TEENAGERS (GARY CHAPMAN)

### CHILD

- THE RHYME BIBLE (TONI GOFFE)
- THE BIG PICTURE STORY BIBLE (DAVID HELM)
- JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE (SALLY LLOYD-JONES)
- THE GOSPEL STORY BIBLE (MARTY MACHOWSKI)
- THE OLOGY: ANCIENT TRUTHS EVER NEW (MARTY MACHOWSKI)
- MAKING HIM KNOW SERIES (SALLY MICHAEL)
- LISTEN UP (MARTY MACHOSWKI)

### FOR EVERYONE:

- TAKE HOME SHEETS
- FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDES
- FBC TULLAHOMA KIDS PODCAST
- PARENT RESOURCE SHELF

“Each parent must decide whether he is more concerned that his child is being accepted into heaven, or “harvard.” - Chap Bettis

## SETUP FAMILY DEVOTION

### Choose your plan:

Family devotions don't magically happen...it takes intentionality. Pick a resource and go for it. The goal is not perfection but progress.

### Set expectations:

Make sure everyone is clear about the what and the why of family devotions. Whether you have a three-year old or a thirteen-year old you can expect difficulty but don't give up.

### Set a time:

One of the most important parts of setting up a game plan is setting up a time. Here are three easy times for you and your family to establish consistent family devotions:

1. Do it before school - if you're morning people then try and send the kids out the door with the Word of God on their lips.
2. Do it at dinner - this might be one of the only times in the entire day you are all together for any amount of time.
3. Do it before bed - if you're not morning people try and set up family devotions right before the kids hit the hay.

### Go for it:

Give it a shot for a month or even a week. See what worked and what didn't work. Try different resources, different times. Keep trying!

# 4

## STAY CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH



“AND LET US CONSIDER HOW TO STIR UP ONE ANOTHER TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS, NOT NEGLECTING TO MEET TOGETHER, AS IS THE HABIT OF SOME, BUT ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER, AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY DRAWING NEAR.”

- HEBREWS 10: 24-25

Sports, schools, visitors, and vacations are just a few of the things competing with your family's involvement in the meaningful, life-giving community we call the church.

### BE FAITHFUL:

It's not enough to talk the talk about church...your family has to walk the walk. Begin modeling faithful church attendance. Get involved in Sunday Schools and D-groups. If you want your children to love the church, prove to them first that you love the church. Take your planned priorities and model them well for your kids.

### SERVE TOGETHER:

There are so many opportunities for you and your family to serve. What better way to tangibly put the Gospel on display to your kids than to serve alongside them. Consider going on a mission trip together or serving in the many ministries of the church. Look for ways to put action to your words.



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