

Discipleship@Home

Now is the time! The greatest gift we can give our children and the absolute best way to spend our extra time at home with them is to

**“Tell to the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
His might, and the wonders He has done...
so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God,
but keep His commandments.”
Psalm 78:4, 7**

Discipleship must happen at home, and from the fullness of Christ we receive all of the daily grace that we'll need to pursue and accomplish it (John 1: 16). Pray for wisdom about how to incorporate the things listed on the back of this paper into your family's daily rhythm. Start with one and go from there! Baby steps lead to great habits!

The elements listed here are more structured, but remember that much of our discipling is spur- of-the-moment and informal as we go about our days. The more we are saturated in Scripture and prayer, the better we can take advantage of the opportunities God gives us to point our children to Christ.

If you miss a day (or more), don't despair! Start again tomorrow.
Remember: "Devotions are not the means through which we gain the favor of God but through which we grow in relationship with the God who has already extended his favor to us." (T. Challies) There is grace when we fail, and new mercies to help us persevere.

Don't neglect Sunday corporate worship.
Nothing can replace it as a means of grace in the life of your family. The Holy Spirit works in a special way through the preaching of the Word, even in the hearts and minds of little ones who might not yet understand all that is going on. Factoring (in-person) masks or (at-home) screens into the worship equation can create challenges, but keep up the good, hard work of teaching your kids to worship!

Most of all, pray, pray, pray for your child's growth in grace and wisdom and knowledge and love for Christ... during a pandemic, and always!

The Children's Ministry Team is here for you!
Love in Christ,
Heather, Patti, Chris, Adrienne, and Jennifer

Options for At-Home Discipleship

Daily Bible Reading & Scripture Memory

- **Reading the Bible book by book, every day, builds Bible literacy and develops an important, lifelong spiritual discipline.**
- Upper-elementary schoolers can begin a daily personal Bible reading habit.
- Doing Community Bible Reading (CBR) and BEP Scripture Memory connects your family to the BEP family as we read and meditate on the same passages together
- Heather is still keeping track of Scripture recitations for a future Sundae Party!
- **For younger kids:** read just the NT CBR chapter; do a family read-aloud while your kids color or do a quiet activity (listening while using hands is proven to help kids learn and concentrate!); have an older sibling read to a younger sibling; use a storybook Bible.

Catechism Game

- **Catechizing provides careful, systematic instruction in doctrine-- teaching us who God is and teaching us about His plan of redemption as seen in all of Scripture.** When kids have learned the catechism well, they will not only have a thorough understanding of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith, but they may also gain a biblical worldview through which they can sift all that they will see and hear as they grow.
- Use the **First Catechism for Children** (what we use in Promised Land and Children's Worship) for preschoolers and elementary schoolers. If your family has older kids, use the Westminster Shorter Catechism. *Training Hearts, Teaching Minds* by Starr Meade is an excellent devotional book for the WSC.
- **For younger kids:** Make it a game! Use the **Catechism Game Board** to track the Q&A's your kids learn. Think of some fun rewards! We'll celebrate as a church family later in the year!!
- Ideas: Quiz each other at the dinner table; choose one night a week to review and update your game boards; kids quiz parents; make it part of your family devotions.

Family Devotions

- **Regularly-scheduled family time spent in God's word is key to the spiritual formation of our kids.**
- One special night a week, every morning at the breakfast table, in the family room before bed... different times will work for different families or different life seasons!
- There are many options! Use a devotional book (*Exploring Grace Together* or *How Great is our God* have been provided by our Children's Ministry), work on the Catechism (see above), have a CBR discussion (see above), or simply read a verse, share your thoughts, and pray together. *Seeds Family Worship* CDs are great music options.

For more resources or ideas, contact Heather
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