

DISCIPLING CHILDREN

1. First and foremost, we must be seeking to grow in our own relationship with Christ daily.

Remember, as we are seeking Jesus, it is out of the overflow of our hearts that we lead them. WE must first be seeking after the Lord daily, being filled with His Word, and in prayer if we want to share Christ with them.

2. It's a process!

We will never “get there” or finish the process of discipling our kids. Be patient and focus on the relationship you have with your child, and they have with Christ.

3. Your children are never too young to start!

Even as babies, you can begin the habit of doing Family Worship time each night before they go to sleep. Many read to their babies and begin this practice—so, why not read a short children's Bible and make it a part of your family rhythms from the beginning?

4. Keep it simple.

Make sure not to overdo the number of things you want to do. It can make what is meant to be a life-long process an immediate overwhelming task. Keep whatever you choose to do for a Family Worship time or other discipleship times simple and centered on God.

5. Point them to God in everyday moments.

Point out beautiful things in nature and talking about how God created all those things—He is powerful, mighty, and the Ruler of the world. He is the creator of both the world and of us. There are so many truths that we can point out to them as we go through life if we only stop and take the time to notice for ourselves!

6. Let them see you in your relationship with God.

Lead by example. Maybe you read your Bible and pray before anyone else gets up in the morning. You may like that quiet time alone with God without the interruptions—and it's good to have those quiet times. But make sure *some* of those times they see you do those things, to notice the priority that you give to getting daily time with God, and to discuss with them why you do what you are doing. Other chances might be allowing them to be a part of your weekly Bible study you go to or sit in on the conversation you are having with someone else you are discipling. It may even be just discussing something you are learning about God as you go through the day. It is good for them to see how much you care about these things, are pursuing to share Christ with others, and are seeking the Lord for yourself.

7. Family Worship Time

Family Worship time or family devotions (whatever you like to call them) are an incredible way to model how to worship God and give you an opportunity to worship Him together. Choose one new thing to try at a time and slowly add it into your family life and see how it is a blessing to your entire family. This is a great opportunity we can have as parents to share truth with them, show them how to read the Bible, pray, and discern truth for themselves.

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8. Walk alongside each child individually.

Walk alongside each child individually to help them learn what it looks like to follow Jesus for themselves. Discipleship is a “modeling” thing. Don’t just tell them what to do but do it with them. Sit down and show them how to spend time with God on their own. Pray together with them. Spend time individually with them to discuss their relationship with God and to invest in them personally and specifically. (This will look very different between different aged children, so be creative and adapt to each child.)

9. Pray for your children! It is the role of God to save your children.

It is not up to you to save your children, that is the role of God. While we can be faithful parents to pass on a love for Christ to our children, it is not up to us if they decide to follow Christ. As we faithfully share, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and transform them by the power of the gospel of Jesus. Prayer and dependence on God are keys to discipling children and are the only way true heart change will come about in them.