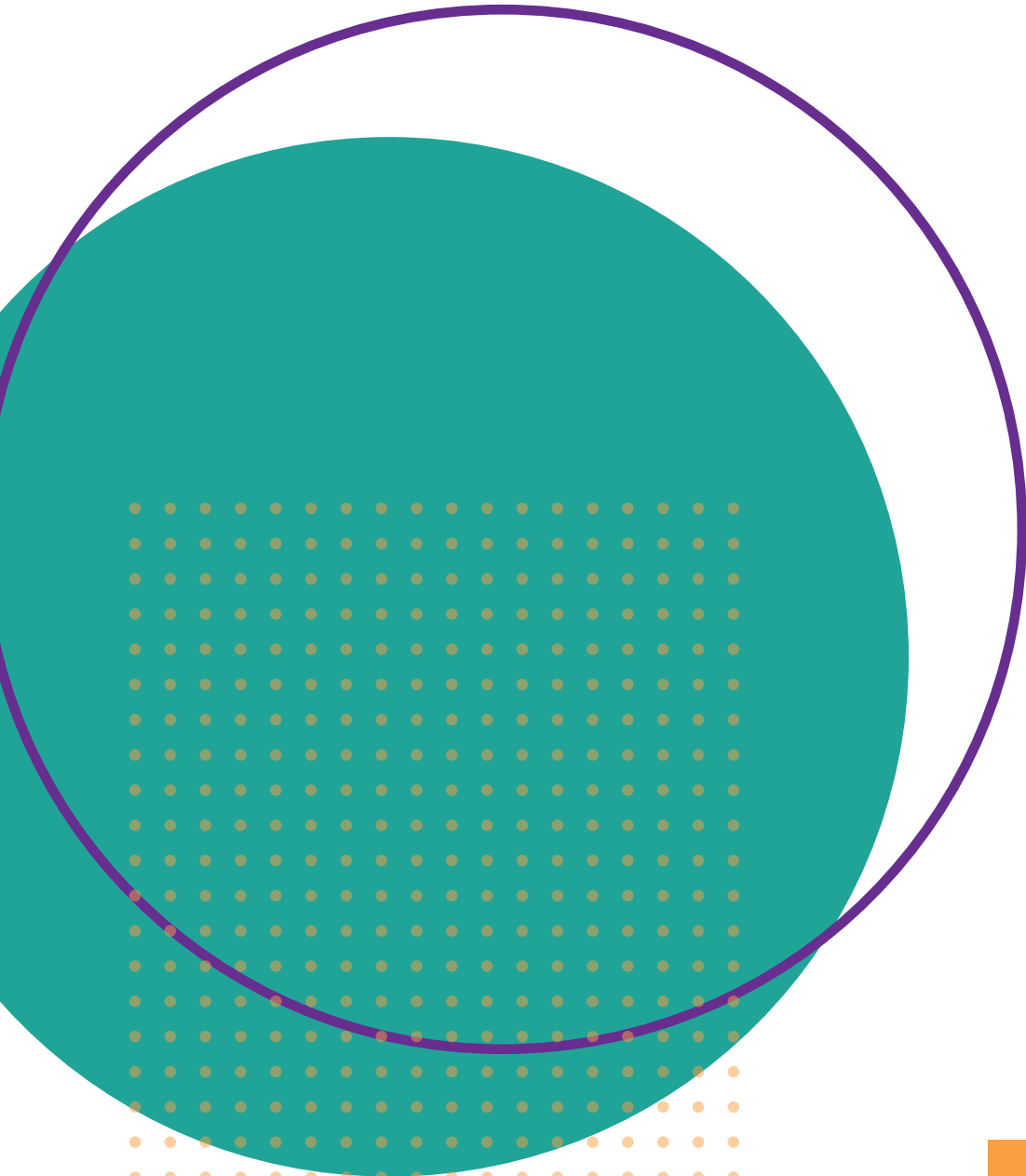
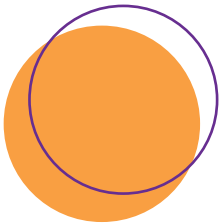


FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

WEEK 1 FAITHFUL EXILES



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP IS KIND OF A BIG DEAL.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 instructs parents to make God front and centre in home life; talking with children, impressing upon them and working with them at all times of the day and night. Put simply a parent's primary ministry is to raise their children to be disciples of Jesus.

For some of you it's already a regular part of the rhythm of your family's week; keep up the good work. Some of you will feel like you could be doing better; keep on trying, practice builds confidence and competence. And some of you feel overwhelmed and don't know where to start; that's ok, your church family is here to help.

Our prayer is that this Family Discipleship Guide will give you some helpful tools in developing a weekly rhythm of discipleship practices to help you and your family to grow together in love and service of God.



THE FAMILIES

We've broken the guide in into 5 parts each with its own specific way of engaging the bible passage that week:

REFLECT encourages family members to reflect on the bible passage and what it means to them.

REACT engages your emotions and helps bringing those reactions before God.

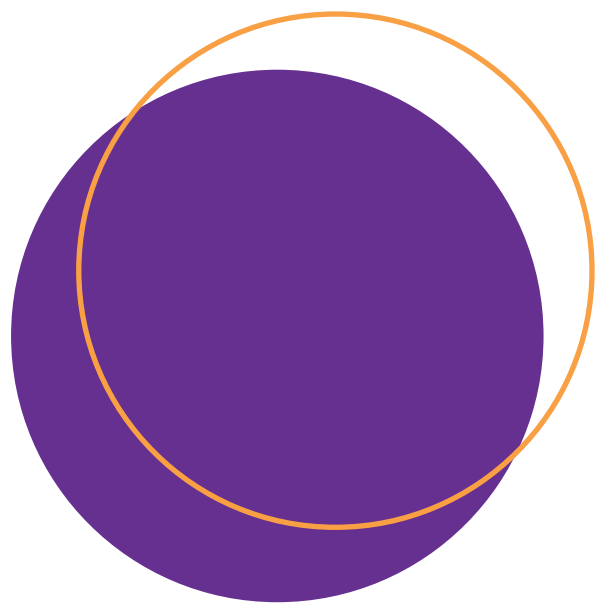
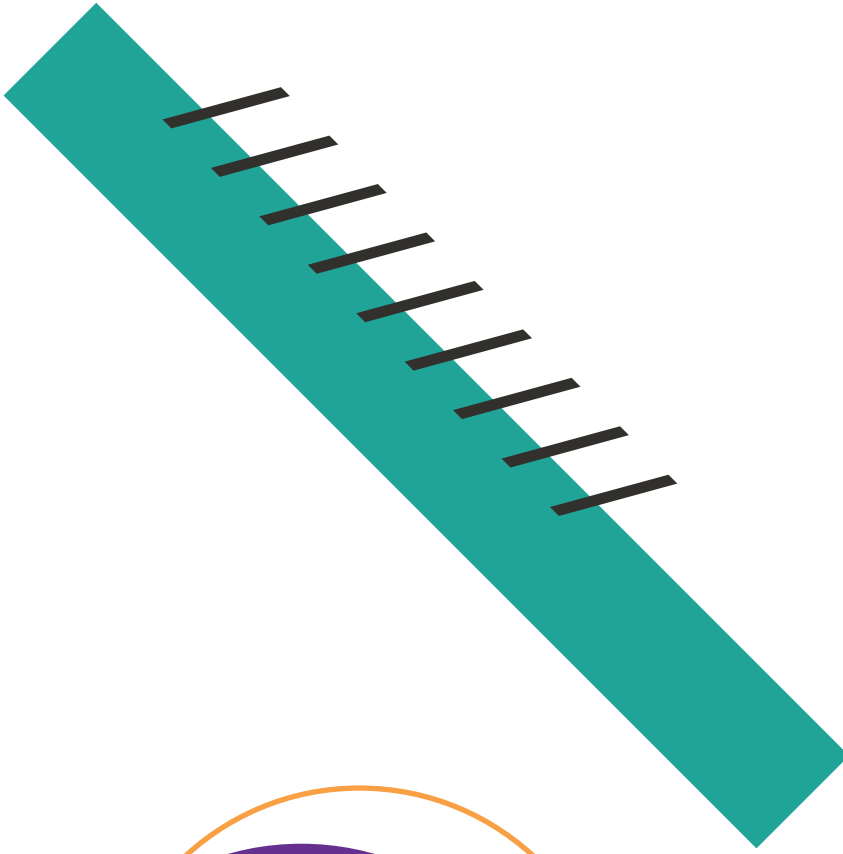
RELATE encourages families to share honestly, and listen deeply to how one another are growing as disciples.

RESPOND helps families to work out real and practical ways they can respond to God in light of the weekly bible passage.

REVIEW encourages families to review the bible passage for the week and engage with it in a different way.

You might like to use these as 5 separate daily devotions, OR you might like to group some of the sections together to make a couple of family devotional times but leave yourself room to use other resources you've found elsewhere. Remember these are a collection of tools, not rules, for family discipleship.

Don't forget to show us how your family are discipling one another by sharing your photos and reflections on our social media pages with the hashtag #WeAreLivingChurch.



WEEK 1 QUICK VIEW

QUICK VIEW

This week is about recognising the reality of our condition as children of God living in a fallen world. We introduce and explore the term 'exiles' and the challenging idea that just because you have lived somewhere your whole life, it doesn't mean it's your home. Our best approach to tackling the everyday moments where we must be brave enough to stand apart from the world, is to band together as a church, and to stay connected to Jesus.

DATE OF SERMON

25.04.2021

BIBLE READING

Daniel 1

BIG IDEA

Like Daniel we are foreigners and exiles in our own Babylon, but through Jesus we have freedom from exile, therefore we must resist the deforming patterns of our world and wisely choose when to make a stand in the strength of Jesus.

KIDS BIG IDEA

Daniel was a foreigner and outsider in Babylon. Jesus followers sometimes feel like outsiders in our world, but Jesus gives the power to wisely resist the temptations to be like the world around us.

KIDS APPLICATION

To resist the temptations in the world, stay connected to Jesus (through prayer and scripture) and help encourage each other to please Jesus (through Christian community).

KEY VERSE

Daniel 1:8 - But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

KEY SONGS

Early Years and Kids :
A King Like God - Ben Pakula



Youth: Where the Light Is - Dan Bremnes



MOMENTS

This week we are thinking about what it means to be exiles.

- Highlight moments in the week where we as Christians may be called to stand out and be different because of our salvation in Jesus

- Encourage kids to share when they felt conflicted in the day, even if they didn't feel like they took the right action. This is not something any of us do perfectly, so sharing our struggles in this is just as important as our victories

- This week, in your prayers together, continue to ask God for strength to resist temptations and for our support for each other on mission together in Christ

PRAYER

Dear God,
Thank you for your son Jesus, who left His home beside You to walk this earth with us so that we could call heaven our home, too. Please, Spirit, be with us in the challenge of living as exiles and strangers in the world we live in now. Please give us courage, focus and determination to live for you in our Babylon. Thank You for the Christian community You have given us and the ways we can encourage and support each other in our goal to live for you. Thank you for the great gift of Your Word that we have to draw strength and wisdom from. In particular, we praise You this week for the book of Daniel, and the way it glorifies You. We pray that through it we might understand You better, by Your Spirit.
In Jesus' name,
Amen

REFLECT

As parents, encourage your family to personally reflect on the bible passage, and what it means for them. Try to guide this so it lands close to the big idea.

EARLY YEARS / KIDS

Read Daniel 1 in a park or outside (in exile from the comforts of home)

How would it feel to be taken out of your home and told you couldn't go back?

Kids question:

Discuss worldly kingdoms - Why did God let his 'kingdom/Israel' get taken over by other kingdoms? Did God's kingdom really get taken over? (no)

Bible story is told in Sharefaith Kids video - Daniel Chapter 1: The Captivity Bible Story for Kids



PRAY

Dear God,

Thank you for your son Jesus, who left His home beside you to walk this earth with us. Thank you that because of Him we can have a home in heaven, too. But Lord, it is hard to live in this world with all of the temptations around us that seem like shiny, exciting things - good and easy options! We know some of these things do not honour You, and are not Your will for us. Please, Spirit, be with us to help us know how You want us to be living, and give us the strength and discipline to say no to the things that will not honour You.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

YOUTH

Read Daniel 1 in a park or outside (in exile from the comforts of home)

How would it feel to be taken out of your home and told you couldn't go back?

What did the exiles resist, and what did they not. Why?

How do we make similar choices to live for God?

How does Jesus free us from exile?

REACT

As parents, encourage your family to see how they are reacting emotionally to the Bible passage. Engage emotionally and bring it before God.

EARLY YEARS

Read or Review Daniel 1 together.

If you have a spot in your house that is considered ‘time out’, go there together. Discuss how this spot is about you being separated from other people to think about what you have done wrong. This is what God does to Israel in times of exile, except Israel has been in time out for 70 years. What do you think about that?

KIDS / YOUTH

Reflect on Daniel 1 together as you watch the Bible Project ‘The Way of Exile’ Video



How does it feel to know you’re an exile?

PRAY

Dear God,

Thank you for your son Jesus, who left His home beside you to walk this earth with us. Thank you that because of Him we can have a home in heaven, too. But Lord, it is hard to live in this world with all of the temptations around us that seem like shiny, exciting things - good and easy options! We know some of these things do not honour You, and are not Your will for us. Please, Spirit, be with us to help us know how You want us to be living, and give us the strength and discipline to say no to the things that will not honour You.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

RELATE

As parents, encourage your family to share honestly, and listen deeply to how one another are growing as disciples.

Parents it will be important for you to model honesty and vulnerability as you answer these questions, so your kids know they can do the same. Allow time for everyone to reflect and answer each question openly and honestly. Make sure you listen well to one another, and pray from the heart.

FAMILIES

Go for a family drive (maybe get dessert) discuss how the city around you is like your Babylon.

What does it mean for you all to live as exiles in this city?

What are the challenges?

How have you seen God at work in and around you?

How does this remind you of Daniel 1?

PRAY

Dear God,

Thank you for opening our eyes to the ways that our world around us is distracting us and pulling us away from You. We are sorry for the times when we let that happen, and when sin wins in our hearts. We praise You that You are greater than our sin, and that Jesus bore our punishment for it, so we can have hope in our exile. Please give us courage, focus and determination to live for you in our Babylon.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

RESPOND

As parents, encourage your family to work out real and practical ways they can respond to God in light of the Bible passage. Land the application in this section.

EARLY YEARS

Do a task or job around the house together as a family.
How does working together make the job easier?
Now think about the story of Daniel 1.
How does staying connected with God help make living for him easier?

KIDS / YOUTH

Reflect on the word 'Defile'/'Unclean' in Daniel 1:8. We don't usually use these words anymore - these were associated with 'ceremonial uncleanness' from the Old Testament. Does this idea still apply now? What might it mean for us now?
What strategies can we use to be living as exiles now?

- Discuss the challenges with knowing what to resist in our lives
- Staying connected to Jesus and staying in Christian community

PRAY

Dear Father,
Thank You for the brothers and sisters You give us in our church family and in our own families. Thank You for the way we can uphold each other, encourage each other, and support each other in our goal to live for you. Please help us all to resist the temptations around us. Thank you for the great gift of Your Word that we have to draw strength and wisdom from. We praise You for the freedom we have to read it openly, in our own language, and to be able to meet with our Christian community without fear, so that we may be encouraged and grown. We pray for our brothers and sisters in places where they do not have this freedom. We pray that Your Spirit will be with them to fortify them and grow them with Your wisdom and knowledge.
In Jesus' name,
Amen

REVIEW

As parents, encourage your family to review the Bible passage for the week. This section tries to find a way to engage with the passage in a different way.

EARLY YEARS

Read or Review Daniel 1 together.

Craft: Make a paper people chain. On each person, write different ways to stay connected to God and His family.

KIDS

Read or Review Daniel 1 together, think about how Daniel and his friends helped each other live for God.

Think about the people who help you stay connected to God and his family, now write one of these people a short thankyou letter.

YOUTH

Read or Review Daniel 1 together.

What does God do for his people in this passage?
How does God do the same for us, only better, in Jesus?

How does believing this good news change how we live now?

PRAY

Dear Lord,

We praise You for the book of Daniel, and for the ways in which You have used it so far to help us to grow in our knowledge and love for You. Please help us to be inquisitive and curious with open hearts, so that we can deepen this further and be challenged to live differently.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

