



SALT OF THE EARTH

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

WEEK 4

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP IS KIND OF A BIG DEAL.

The Bible instructs parents to make God front and centre in home life. To teach them at all times of the day about God and his ways (Dt 6:4-7). To show them Jesus and why he is worth following more than anything (Luke 18:15-17). To bring your children up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4). Put simply a parent's primary ministry is to raise their children to be disciples of Jesus.

Family Discipleship is the vitally important, yet mostly ordinary spiritual leadership of your family.

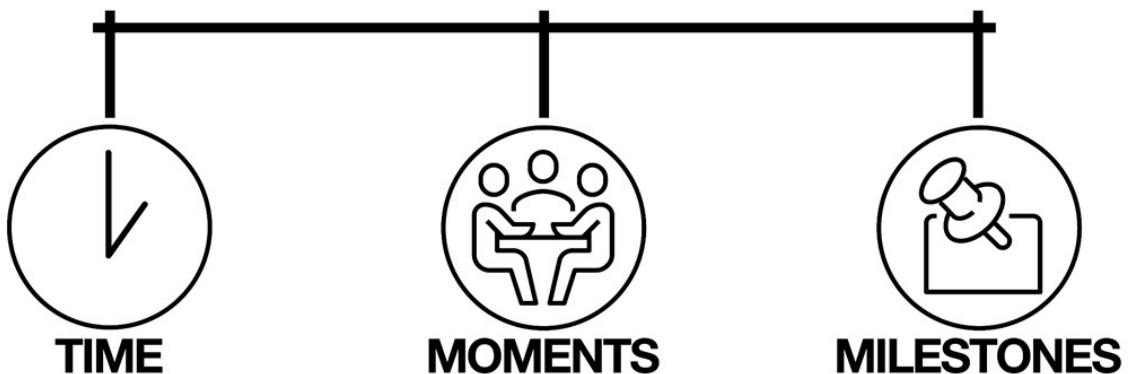
Family discipleship has many facets that come together to help God work in the hearts of our children to make them disciples of Jesus. (The following categories are from the excellent book Family Discipleship by Matt Chandler & Adam Griffin – check it out!)

MODELLING

Serving as a godly example for your family, living out your genuine walk with God, and demonstrating true repentance when you fall short.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

MODELLING



Creating intentional time built into the rhythm of the family's life for the purpose of thinking about, talking about, and living out the gospel.

Capturing and leveraging opportunities in the course of everyday life for the purpose of gospel centred conversations.

Marking and making occasions to celebrate and commemorate significant spiritual milestones of God's work in the life of the family and child.

This Family Discipleship Guide is designed to be a tool for parents to use in creating intentional TIME with the family rhythms to dig into God's word and live out our response to what Jesus has done for us.

We've broken the guide in into 5 parts each with its own specific way of engaging the bible passage our church is looking at this week:

READ - read the Bible passage and reflect on what it means for your family.

KNOW - know deeper by engaging in creative family activities.

DO - work out what all the family should do in response to God.

FOLLOW - examine the lives of others who have followed Jesus in the past.

SING - listen to and even sing songs that respond with our hearts to Jesus.

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 time.

QUICK VIEW

Date of Sermon

08/08

Bible Reading

Matt 6:1-18

Big idea

Jesus uses the three acts of piety - giving to the needy, prayer and fasting - to show that being and remaining salt of the earth means living with God as your loving Father and not living to impress either Him or people.

Application

Enjoy the freedom of knowing and delighting in God as Father, and so practice freely giving to the needy, prayer, and fasting as an act of love for God and others, rather than a performance.

Kids Big idea

Jesus tells his disciples to live in relationship with God as Father, not to live to impress other people.

Kids Application

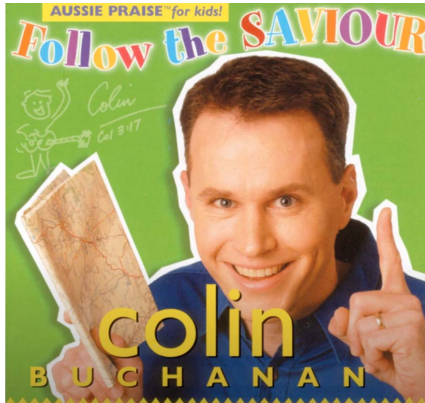
Practice freely giving to the needy, prayer, and fasting as an act of love for God and others.

Key Verse

Matthew 6:1 - Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Kids Song

You Can Tell the Lord that you Love Him
by Colin Buchanan



Youth Song

The Lord's Prayer
by Hillsong



Moments

Talk as a family about the importance of dedicating time to God and facilitate that within your schedule for this week. When is a good time as a family to fast? How can you spend that time together glorifying God when you might otherwise be eating or watching TV (whatever you choose to fast from). When is a time as a family you might pray? Set the example of intentionally dedicating time to God. Discuss ways you can be generous as a family, without seeking recognition. What are nice things you can do for someone/each other that maybe they don't even know about?

Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
Amen

READ

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

Read the passage, especially the Lord's Prayer. This video can be helpful in paraphrasing the prayer in simple language:
The Jesus Storybook Bible - The Lord's Prayer paraphrased by Sally Lloyd-Jones



KIDS

Read the passage together. When you are reading it, begin in a communal room then run to a bedroom (or quiet space) when it speaks of doing things in private.

1. What three things is Jesus talking about in this passage? (Prompts: verses 2, 5, 16)
2. What kind of things do you do in your room other than sleep? (e.g. play quietly, read books, have important talks with your parents)
3. Why do you do them in your room instead of in the family room? (e.g. concentration, privacy, time alone)
4. Re-read verses 4, 6 and 18 - why does Jesus tell us we should be giving, praying, and fasting in private too?
5. Find all the times in this passage that Jesus calls God 'Father' (Verses 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18). How do you feel when you picture God as your Father?
6. How might living like God is your Father change the way you behave? (Consider how you might behave differently if you were doing something for your own parent compared to another adult.)

YOUTH

Read the passage together.

1. Re-read verses 4, 6, and 18 - what is the consistent theme you notice in this passage? And what is common about God's response?
2. In our language, reward is something earned or merited - is that what Jesus means? What is this reward Jesus speaks about?
3. Jesus contrasts two rewards - what makes the reward from the Father a greater prize than any earthly treasure?
4. Do you resonate with the temptation to be noticed, approved, accepted, or to appear holy? Where do you see this temptation in your own life?
5. In this passage, Jesus refers to God as 'Father' ten times (6:1, 4, 6x2, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18x2). Consider the crowd Jesus is speaking to. How have they been engaging with God so far? How would Jesus calling God 'Father' be groundbreaking?
There is no other faith system where followers can approach their god in such a familiar way as to call him 'Father'. Even the Jews, who acknowledged Him as their Father, did not dare to speak to Him in such a familiar way - they considered it blasphemy. However, we can call God 'Father' because of Jesus' sonship.
6. How do you feel when picturing God as your father? How might this loving relationship with our Heavenly Father change the way we give, pray, and fast?

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
Amen

PRAY

KNOW

As parents, encourage your family to know with their head and their hearts what God is teaching you this week.

EARLY YEARS

1. What's the best part about doing something nice for someone?
2. Jesus tells us we should be kind to people all the time, even when other people aren't watching. What are some kind things you can do for people in secret?

KIDS

1. What things do you do to impress your friends at school?
2. How can you do it, but not just to show off?
3. Jesus talks about giving to the needy. Who are the needy people in the world around you? What do they need?
4. Jesus talks about prayer. What does prayer mean to you?
5. Jesus talks about fasting. What does fasting mean? Why would you do it?

YOUTH

1. What things do you do to impress your friends at school?
 2. How can you do it, but not just to impress people?
- Discuss mixed motives*
3. Fasting is maybe not something we speak about very often. Why would Jesus tell us to fast?
 4. Dig into each request Jesus is making in His prayer. What do they mean? Why are they significant?

1. Hallowed be Your Name

- In the CSB version, this verse is translated as 'Your name be honoured as holy.'

- We may approach God as Father, but we must always acknowledge that He is set apart and above anything else - we should come with reverence and awe.

2. Your kingdom come

Asking for the return of Jesus - we have a different knowledge of what this means on this side of the cross to what the people listening would have had.

3. Your will be done

When we ask this, it is also a commitment to following God in this statement - a pledge to doing His will.

4. Give us our daily bread

For these people, bread was not just the boring sandwich lunch that it is for us now. Many people (then and now) are often paid just enough for that day's food. If they do not work, they go hungry and they are in trouble. Jesus is telling us to go to the Father for the very source of life itself.

5. Forgive us as we forgive others

- Reveals God's love for us, that when He sees what we have done He reaches down and does not condemn us, but forgives us.

- We can only forgive others because of this power.

6. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

- When we are well acquainted with the realities of what Jesus did on the cross, we want to be as far away from sin as possible.

- This request also reveals our reliance on Him - we need Him to take away the punishment for our sin and keep us away from further temptation.

Dear Father,

You gave us the skills and the blessings to be able to be generous to people. You gave us your Spirit so we can pray to you. You sent your Son to die for us so we could call you 'Father'. Thank you for all of those things. Please forgive us for using those skills and blessings for ourselves. Please forgive us for the times when we pray because we want other people to think we are good. Please forgive us when we forget how amazing it is that Jesus died for us.

Thank you for the give of your mercy and grace.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAY

DO

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.

ALL AGES

Follow up last week's challenge.

This week get practical on each area of giving, prayer & fasting.

When do you DO these things to impress others?

How can you do these things but do it humbly?

Pick an area to work on this week. For example, you might want to practice fasting from food or technology one day this week as a family.

YOUTH

1. Jesus says to give in secret, to pray in secret and fast in secret. But in Matthew 5 we are called to let our light shine and to be salty: "...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:16) How do these two truths fit together? What is the importance of those moments in private?

Talk about how the purpose of giving, praying and fasting is to glorify God, but we hijack it with the purpose of satisfying ourselves. Jesus wants the heart condition that solitude provides, and the intentional time that it grants us to dwell on what God has done.

2. The Sermon on the Mount is teaching to believers, but when Jesus spoke these words people who were not believers were listening in. How would you explain this passage of the Bible to someone who is not yet a believer?

Dear Father,
Thank you for the family you have given us. Thank you for challenging us in this way to be sincere in our actions.
Please be with the plans that we make for the week ahead as we work on this. Please help us to turn away from the temptation of seeking praise and glory for ourselves.
Please help us to give all the glory to you.
Please help us to encourage each other this week.
By the power of Your Spirit at work in us,
Amen.

PRAY

FOLLOW

As parents, encourage your family by looking at the lives of people who have followed Jesus throughout history.

EY & KIDS

Charles Thomas Studd

In England, 150 years ago, cricket was the favourite sport. If you were good at cricket, you were a hero - and C.T. Studd was the best cricketer in the whole country! C.T. was Jesus' friend, but he was so busy playing cricket and being rich and famous that he sometimes forgot he was Jesus' friend at all.

Then, one day, C.T.'s brother nearly died. C.T. realised that his brother would not last forever; cricket would not last forever; fame and fortune would not last forever; only his friend Jesus would last forever. So C.T. decided to live his life telling people about Jesus. He gave up cricket; he gave up fame; he even gave away all his money - and went to China to tell people about Jesus.

He was very ill and came home to England. His friends thought he would stay and rest and be safe and comfortable - but C.T. wanted to keep telling people about Jesus. He went to India to tell people about Jesus there. He was very ill again and came home - maybe this time he would stay. But C.T. went to the very middle of Africa to tell people there about his friend Jesus. He knew that being Jesus' friend was better than fame, fortune and even cricket!

YOUTH

Hear in more detail about exactly what C.T. Studd gave away, and his complete reliance on God.

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

<https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1801-1900/c-t-studd-gave-huge-inheritance-away-11630616.html>

Dear Father,
Thank you for the work you did in C.T. Studd's heart and that he was able to bring glory to your name with the work he did.
Please help us to also hold onto the stuff you give us so loosely that we can readily give it away to anyone who has need of it.
Please forgive us for the times when we have held on too tightly to what you have given us - looking for the money or the things we have to give us comfort and security instead of you.
In Jesus name,
Amen.

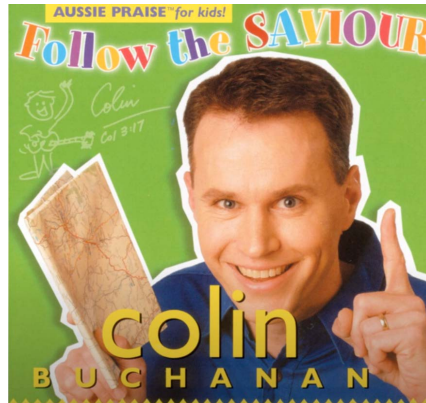
PRAY

SING

As parents, encourage listen and even sing along together to songs that are a great way of responding with our hearts to what we are growing in together.

EY & KDIS

You Can Tell the Lord that you Love Him - Colin Buchanan



YOUTH

The Lord's Prayer - Hillsong



Dear Father,
Thank you for the work the Spirit has done in our hearts through this passage this week.
Thank you for the chance to glorify You in song now, and please help us to glorify You better going forward.
Please help us to glorify You in the little moments and give us the discipline to carve out time to be with you alone to fast and pray and sing and spend time with you.
In Jesus' name,
Amen

PRAY

