

A photograph of a snow-capped mountain peak, likely Mount Everest, against a clear blue sky. The mountain is covered in patches of snow and dark rock. Large, bold, pink text is overlaid on the image, reading "SALT OF THE EARTH".

SALT OF THE EARTH

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

WEEK 7

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.

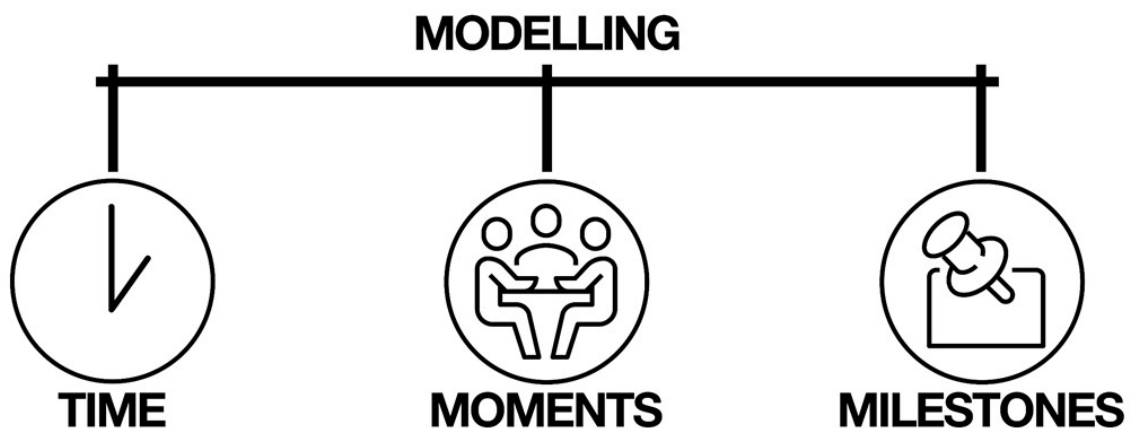
Family Discipleship is the vitally important, yet mostly ordinary spiritual leadership of your family.

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



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

29/08

Bible Reading

Matt 7:1-12

Big idea

Since we all have a plank of sin in our own eye, it's impossible to discern other people's relationship with God without first discerning our own. Being salt of the earth first requires us to receive God's grace to grow the self-awareness to change in our relationships.

Application

Through God's grace, seek to grow in your self-awareness of your own sin and how it impacts others. Remember his grace as you deal with it.

Kids Big idea

Jesus tells his disciples that our sin is like a plank of wood in our eye that stops us from really seeing how we relate to God and others.

Kids Application

Remember God's grace to you and share it as you deal with your sin and others.

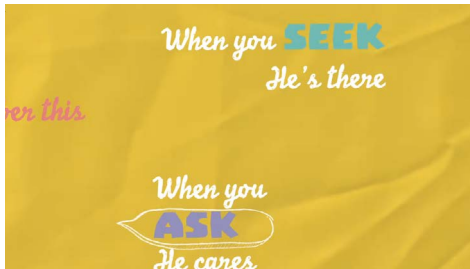
Key Verse

Matthew 7:7-7

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Key Songs

Ask Seek Knock - Hillsong



Light of Your Grace - Citizens



Moments

Talk as a family about how we can realise the sin in our own lives before we automatically judge someone else. We must realise that through God's grace we are forgiven, and so must take the plank of wood out of our own eye before taking the speck out of another's eye.

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.

EY & KIDS

Read Matthew 7:1-12

1. Look at verses 1-5. What does Jesus say about judging one another?
2. Would it be harder to see with a speck of dust in your eye, or an entire wooden plank?
3. What first must we do to help others with the speck in their eye?
4. Look at verses 7-12. If we ask, seek, and knock, what can we expect God to do?
5. How does Jesus want us to treat others? (verse 12)

YOUTH

Read Matthew 7:1-12

1. Look at verses 3-5 where Jesus speaks about planks. What four things does he want us to do?
2. Have you ever been in a situation where you had a 'blind spot' (your eyes were blocked by a plank)? How did you finally come to see?
3. In verse 6 – Jesus speaks of 'dogs' and 'pigs'. Why might that be? What might he want us to understand? For us today, how do we discern those who may be 'dogs' or 'pigs' in our own societies?
4. In verses 7-12, Jesus calls us to ask, seek, and knock to God. What are some ways we might seek God? How does God want us to treat others?

Let us pray the Lord's prayer together to begin this devotion time.

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.

EY & KIDS

1. Is it easy to follow God's way?
2. When we don't follow God's way, sin is like a plank in our eyes. Would that make it easy to see and talk to God?
3. Would it change the way we treat our friends?
4. Draw a picture of a family talking to each other. Then draw a family with planks in their eyes. Can they communicate with each other well?

YOUTH

1. Is it easy to judge people at school? Why do we judge them?
2. How harshly do you think we deserve to be judged?
3. Is it hard to relate to God and others when we sin?
4. Sin ruins our relationships with God and with others. Do you think there are ways we can remove the planks in our eyes, to help us love one another better?
5. Being salt of the earth means being aware of our sin. How can we receive God's grace to grow and change in our relationships?

Dear Father,

Although we sin against you, we thank you for your amazing grace. Your son Jesus died on the cross, so we can live in relationship with you and with others. Without you, we judge others with planks in our eyes, and we fail to see our own sin. But Lord, through your grace, you continue to love and shape us to remove that plank in our eye, which helps us to love you more, and to love each other more.

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.

EY & KIDS

Make a table with everyone's name with the day of the week. When we feel judgement towards someone, add a tally mark. At the end of each day, pray to God to help us remember that we are all sinners, and even though we want to judge one another, we can always pray to God who always listens and helps us, and forgives us through his amazing grace.

YOUTH

1. What are 3 ways we can see God's grace working in us to relate to one another, despite the judgement and sin in our relationships?
2. In verses 7-12, Jesus calls us to prayerfully seek our Father in heaven who gives "good gifts" to those who ask. What does this have to do with being people of discernment, and planks in our eye? How can we prayerfully seek our Father in Heaven?

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 towards one another.
Please be with us as we continue our week at school/work/all the events we go to. Help us to live in your glorious grace to know that we are loved by you.
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

St. Patrick

Have you ever felt frightened and all alone? Perhaps you got lost and felt worried and afraid. Patrick knew just what that felt like. Patrick lived in England 1500 years ago when it was a very dangerous place. One day, pirates took Patrick away from his family and home. They took him across the sea to Ireland, and they sold him to a rich, fierce, and powerful man. Although Patrick was frightened and all alone, he knew that Jesus was always with him. After many years, Jesus helped Patrick go home to his family – but not for long! Patrick knew that Jesus wanted the people in Ireland to find out they could be Jesus' friends too!

So, Patrick went back to Ireland. This time he wasn't scared. This time he was brave. Patrick knew that he had a job to do for Jesus. Patrick went to the richest, fiercest, and most powerful people in all of Ireland. He went to kings and chiefs to tell them about Jesus – the king of kings and chief of chiefs. The powerful people told the people of Ireland that they should listen to Patrick too. Soon thousands and thousands of people had become Jesus' friends because Patrick was brave enough to tell them how.

Patrick knew he could be brave because Jesus was always with him. Even though Patrick was really scared of the powerful people in Ireland, he knew that what they did wrong against him didn't matter, because Jesus forgives all of us. He remembered God's amazing grace to him by letting him go home, that he wanted everyone to know his friend Jesus. Do you know that you can be brave and tell people about Jesus?

YOUTH

Look more into the life of St. Patrick. Even though he was sinned against, St. Patrick sought to grow in his self-awareness about his relationship with God, so he could accurately share God's love with others around him.

"The Lord opened the understanding of my unbelieving heart, so that I should recall my sins."

Dear Father,
Thank you for showing us an example of a faithful servant in St. Patrick. We thank you that he was able to remove the plank from his own eye, to share your love with people. We thank you for your son Jesus, the ultimate faithful servant, who never unfairly judged others. We pray that you help us to be more like Jesus as we remember God's grace to us. 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.

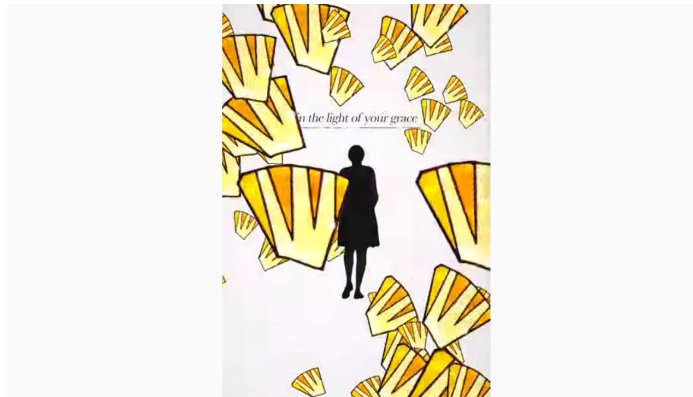
EY & KDIS

Ask Seek Knock - Hillsong Kids



YOUTH

Light of your Grace - Citizens



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. We thank you for your amazing grace for us, even when we sin against you and others. We ask that you work in our hearts as we learn to not judge others without first looking towards ourselves. We thank you Lord that you listen to us in prayer, and that we can always ask you for help, seek you and knock on your door at any time.
Amen

PRAY

