



## 7 Ways Parents Can Disciple Their Kids

### 1. You Were Not Meant to Disciple Your Kids Alone.

- A. Deut. 6 – Moses is speaking to parents AND the larger community (i.e., the Church)
- B. Practical Steps
  - 1. Attend church regularly.
  - 2. Be at everything the church offers (as is reasonable).
  - 3. Know your child's small group leader and build a connection.
  - 4. Include your kids in what your adult life group is doing.
  - 5. Attend a family-based mission trip (D.C., New Orleans, Vermont, local partners, etc.).
  - 6. Take your child to worship with you once in a while.
  - 7. Introduce them to other adults in your circle – kids need to feel known.

### 2. Not All Children Learn & Grow the Same Way.

- A. Prov. 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go ...,"
- B. "What" we teach is always the same – to love God based on the Bible's description of Him!
- C. But each child learns differently, and kids are different stages developmentally. our kids are also unlikely to be on the same emotional or spiritual level.
- D. Practical Steps
  - 1. Present God as awesome and interesting. Find ways to keep it fun!
  - 2. Relate God in ways your kids enjoy: stories, videos, activities, reading, activities, science experiments, songs, etc.
  - 3. Tell what you love about God – let them see your love for Him in word & action.
  - 4. Share your stories of your interaction with God – what you're learning, answered prayers, new understanding, etc.

3. **Move Kids from Knowing the Truth to Living the Truth.**
  - A. James 1:22 – says be “doers” not just “hearers” of God’s Word.
  - B. Goal is not to teach the Bible just for information or knowledge, but to show them how to apply Biblical truths in their lives.
  - C. Practical Steps
    1. Whenever you talk about what God’s Word says, connect it to their daily lives – home, school, activities, etc.
    2. Talk about ways you put that truth into practice at work, home, activities.
    3. Acknowledge your own struggles in putting these things into practice.
    4. Encourage the memorization of Scripture as a mechanism to remind ourselves of God’s Word in the moment.
    5. Discuss differences they see in other families not living according to the Bible.
    6. Point out good examples in the lives of others; as well as bad examples without being judgmental.
  
4. **Make Discipline About Discipleship.**
  - A. Eph. 6:4 says, “Bring up your kids in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” In other words, train them by bringing God’s Word to bear on their lives.
  - B. Allow God’s Word to have a voice in your child’s correction.
  - C. When your kids misbehave, use biblical values as anchor points to train them.
  - D. Caution: When bringing God into it, make sure it’s as positive as possible. Don’t make God the “bad cop”.
  - E. Practical Steps
    1. When your children disobey, link their behavior to a Scripture passage that speaks to a value your family esteems.
    2. See the “Family Values” sheet for ideas.
    3. Encourage kids to memorize passages of Scripture that deal with areas of growth.
    4. Have kids copy Scripture passages and/or place it in a conspicuous spot.
  
5. **Are You the Adult You Want Your Kids to Grow Up to Be?**
  - A. Our kids can see through us, and will only rise to the level they see in us.
  - B. The greatest predictor of who our kids become is not what we do or know about parenting, but who we are as adults.
  - C. Practical Steps
    1. Allow your kids to see you reading, praying, and learning.
    2. Help your children see how a decision you recently made was based on a particular truth from the Bible.
    3. When our children make the connection between our actions and the truth of the Bible, they begin to see the Bible lived out before them in the hearts of others.
      - a. Maybe you chose not to gossip about someone (Eph. 4:29)

- b. Maybe you took an extra shift because your family needed the \$ (Prov. 6:6)
- c. Maybe you complimented your spouse (Prov. 16:24)
- d. Maybe you took dinner to a family in need (Gal. 5:13)

**6. You Don't Need to Add Anything to Your Day.**

- A. Moses, in Deut. 6 told us to use the built-in times of the day God already gave us.
- B. Try to hold these 4 times as sacred as you can.
- C. Practical Steps
  - 1. See the resource entitled, "D-6 Chart".

**7. Be Yourself; Be Realistic.**

- A. God has placed you in the home as the parent. That means you are equipped for this! And way more equipped than anyone else – including the pastor!
- B. It is suggested to set up a weekly Family Bible Time for the entire family—a time meant for uniting you together as a family where you can talk about what you're learning and pray together. But apart from that time, your children are likely to be on different spiritual, intellectual, and emotional levels, especially if you have children with a wide age range.
- C. Discipling our kids is as much about the time we spend with them as it is about the actual reading of the Word or going through a Bible study. It's about them seeing what you're "talking" about "lived out" in you!
- D. Don't force more than your kids can consume each week.
- E. Don't put unnecessary guilt on yourself for not covering a specific number of chapters or verses or completing a devotional. Your time together will quickly fizzle out this way.
- F. Hone in on building your relationship with your child. Talk to your child about your own relationship with God. And most of all, keep it fun.
- G. There is no better way to instill the love and commands of God on the hearts of our kids than in an environment of positive memories your kids shared with you.