

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP:**

How does my family become a gospel-centered, disciple-making family?

A gospel-centered life is a Jesus-centered life. When we speak of a person who lives a gospel-centered life, we mean that person has believed the good news of Jesus and they understand and apply the gospel to their lives. They have made following Jesus a lifestyle, not an activity.

Family Discipleship is part of living a gospel-centered life. It is more than devotions and Bible study, it is weaving God's truth in your speech and your actions to your family and around your family: finding those times to weave in conversations about God, being intentional and creating opportunities to share and teach your faith, having focused discussions and times in God's Word, and repeat, repeat, repeat.

We want parents to be encouraged and better equipped to build family discipleship time into their own family life. Learning how to do family discipleship time and keeping it a regular part of your family's rhythm can be challenging, so one way to begin is with intentional family Bible time.

## **BEFORE YOU GET STARTED:**

You are going to gather your family together, read the passage of Scripture, ask the questions, let family members discuss. This will be a fun time of generating discussions and sharing thoughts. You may be hesitant because you have never done this before. Trust God to help you. You can do it, and your family will draw closer to one another and to God.

Here are some simple guidelines:

- Smile and have a good time. Your family will follow your lead.
- Follow the guide. Remember, these questions are designed to include everyone, and everyone will have different answers. Thank and affirm family members when they share.
- The first one or two may be a little awkward if you have never done something like this, but it will become easier and easier.

Be prepared for push-back, attitude, and/or unwillingness. When you ask questions, you are going to get the answer "I don't know;" and you might not just get it once, you may get it repeatedly, or variations of that phrase. You might get body language that says, "I don't want to be here," and at least one family member may even verbalize that!


On the other hand, children are sponges, soaking up what you say and do in your discipleship time. They may have questions you are not able to answer right away. That's ok! Research the answer together! Modeling that you are a "learner" yourself when it comes to God's word, is a great example for your kids to see.

Remember why you are doing this and stay with it! You might be feeling overwhelmed and inadequate. You are not alone in feeling this way. And, that's exactly where God wants us—dependent on Him! Pray about it during the week, it will bring your family closer together and closer to God.

God is eager for you and your family to have regular encounters with Him. He wants to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways to you.






## Advent – Week 1 Family Discipleship Guide



Advent means “coming.” During Advent, we prepare for Jesus’ coming. It is important that while we celebrate Christmas, we do not lose sight of God’s plan to save us. Jesus’ birth is important because of why God sent Him to earth as a human baby.

Read Matthew 1:1:


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- It is the genealogy (or family history) of who?
  - Jesus came from the family of David, who was from the family of Abraham. God made a covenant, or promise, with Abraham. What was it? (*Hint: Genesis 17:4*) (*Genesis 5:6, Genesis 12:2-3*)




Read Matthew 1:1-17:

That is a lot of “begats” or “was the father of...”! One could ask, “Why does Matthew spend so much time listing families?” Or, one could say, “This is boring!” However, God’s people were waiting for the Messiah, the one who would rescue them.

- There were many prophecies in the Old Testament about this Messiah. Many said He would come from David’s family and Abraham’s family. By writing this list of names, Matthew was proving the Jesus did indeed come from both.




Read Matthew 1:12-16:

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- Joseph is the husband of Mary.
  - Jesus is the Son of who?
    - This is also important because it fulfills another prophecy, Isaiah’s prophecy about a supernatural birth (Isaiah 7:14).
    - By being God’s Son and Mary’s son, Jesus is fully man and fully God.




Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4:

The word “gospel” simply means “good news.”





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- There are three important parts in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4: 1. Jesus died for our sins. 2. He was buried. 3. He rose from the dead on the third day. Why is this important?



The importance of Jesus:

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- Sin separates us from God. We cannot do anything to fix that. God is the only one who can fix it. He could have left us as sinners, apart from Him, but He didn’t. God loves us no matter what. He loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus. He died on the cross for our sins, and on the third day, He rose again. This allows us to come close to God, if we believe.

Respond:

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- Make a list of people in your family. Pray for anyone on that list that doesn’t believe and follow Jesus—that they would be saved.
  - Search the internet for “Jesse Tree” crafts/coloring.