

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 2 Family Discipleship Guide

Advent means “coming.” During Advent, we prepare for Jesus’ coming. In the Bible, we are able to see the unfolding of God’s plan to bring a Rescuer. In this passage, the birth of John the Baptist was foretold. He was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, the Rescuer.

Read Luke 1:1-4:

It would be understandable to read these first four verses quickly to get to the story, but there are a several things of which to take note:

- Luke uses the word eyewitness. What is an eyewitness?
 - Luke is writing this so we can see what he found. He wants us “to see for ourselves.”
- In Week 1, Matthew wanted to prove that Jesus did indeed fulfill the prophecies. And now, we find that Luke wrote his account to give us assurance and confidence about Jesus; that He is the Rescuer.

Read Luke 1:5-15:

Our story focuses on the small family of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Zechariah’s name means “God remembers” and Elizabeth means “His oath (or promise).”

- Together, what do their names mean? What promise of God’s does this refer to? (*Hint: Read Isaiah 9:6-7*)
- How do these verses in Luke 1:5-15 describe Zechariah and Elizabeth? What does verse 7 tell us about them? What do you think they were praying for?
- Zechariah was a priest and was performing his duties in the temple when he was surprised by a “guest.” Who was it? Why was he there?

Read Luke 1:16-17:

The angel, Gabriel, tells Zechariah that he and Elizabeth will have a son. They were to name him, John, which means “The Lord is gracious.”

- What was John going to do? (*Hint: verse 16-17*) What does that mean?

Read Luke 1:18-25:

- What does the angel tell Zechariah will happen as a consequence for his unbelief?

Read Luke 1:57-66:

- Zechariah has not been able to speak since his encounter with the angel. When does he began to speak again? Retell this part of the story.

Respond:

- Have your child draw a picture of their favorite part of this story. Hang it up, so when they look at it, they will be reminded to prepare their heart for Jesus.
- Make charade cards from scenes or keywords from this story. Play charades as a family.

