

## **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 3 Family Discipleship Guide

Advent means “coming.” During Advent, we prepare for Jesus’ coming. God had this planned from the very beginning. We saw God’s plan unfold when the birth of John the Baptist was foretold. John was sent to prepare the way for Jesus the Rescuer. Jesus’ birth is important because of why God sent Him to earth as a human baby. Jesus was coming into the world to save people from their sins.



### Read Luke 1:26-33:

- This passage begins with a visitor we have already met. Who was it? In what story did we see him before?
- What did the angel tell Mary? Look up Isaiah 7:14.
  - Isaiah prophesied this event 800 years before.
- Just like with Zechariah and Elizabeth, the angel told Mary that they are to name the baby “Jesus.” Jesus means “the Lord is salvation.” Salvation is being rescued from sin. What was Jesus going to do for us?
- The angel described this baby, Jesus, in verses 32 & 33. What are some of those descriptions?



### Read Psalm 89:29:

We know that God made a promise to Abraham—do you remember what it was? Through Abraham’s descendants (children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc.) came David. God also made David a promise. What was it?

- Look at Luke 1:32-33—do you see any similarities?
  - God is fulfilling His promise He made to David through Jesus.

### Read Luke 1:34-38:

- Jesus is the Son of the Most High—who is this?
- The angel confirmed this. How did he describe Jesus at the end of verse 35?
- There is a difference in heart attitude in the story of Zechariah & Elizabeth and in the story of Mary. Zechariah was disbelieving of the angel’s news. In this story, Mary is not disbelieving, but she was confused. The angel told her she was going to have a baby when she was not even married.
  - The angel informed Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, who was too old to have a baby, was in her sixth month of pregnancy.
  - The angel encouraged Mary. What did he say in verse 37?
- How did Mary respond in verse 38?
  - Mary expressed complete obedience.
  - Mary recognized the will of God and accepted it.

### Respond:

- Plan with your family to celebrate Jesus’ birthday. You can make Him a birthday card. You can make a cake and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. Whatever you like! You can post pictures of your birthday party for Jesus and tag us: @SVKidsVancouver

