

A LITTLE GUIDE FOR

Family Discipleship



GATHER

FAMILY WORSHIP

Family Worship should equip kids to worship Jesus, and it should prepare them to be a part of the worshipping body of Christ. In order to do that, we focus on worship, word, and prayer.

WORSHIP

Here are some resources and ideas to help you lead out in worshipping Jesus through music with your family:



ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Use a computer, your phone, Apple TV, Roku, etc. to play videos or songs that will allow you to worship through music as a family.



YOUTUBE PLAYLIST

Create a Youtube playlist with worship songs that you can stream to your TV or play through your media device.



DIGITAL HYMNAL ON SPOTIFY

Use the Mercy's Door Digital Hymnal on Spotify to help get your kids familiar with the songs we're singing in worship on Sundays.

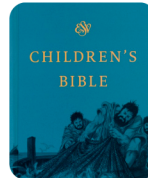


MAKING MUSIC

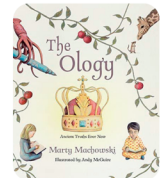
Lead your family to worship through music. Even if there are no musicians in your family, singing together can be a powerful expression of worship for both kids and parents.

WORD

Here are some resources and ideas to help you lead out in worshipping Jesus through engaging with God's Word with your family:



The New City Catechism for Kids



- 1 Consider using the ESV Children's Bible, which includes over 200 illustrations to go alongside the text of the Scriptures.
- 2 The New City Catechism for Kids is a brief, 52-question & answer-style approach to teaching theological truths to your children.
- 3 The Ology by best-selling children's author Marty Machowski is a stunningly illustrated beginner's theology book to help kids of all ages understand who God is and how we, as his children, relate to him.

PRAYER

Here are ideas to help you lead out in worshipping Jesus by praying together as a family:

- Pray for each person in the room. Create a culture of praying with and for each other as a family.
- Have each person pray. This is a great way for your kids to "practice" praying aloud in an environment where they are comfortable and known.
- Keep a family prayer journal. This allows you to keep track of what you're praying about as a family, and also allows you to rejoice as a family when God answers those prayers!

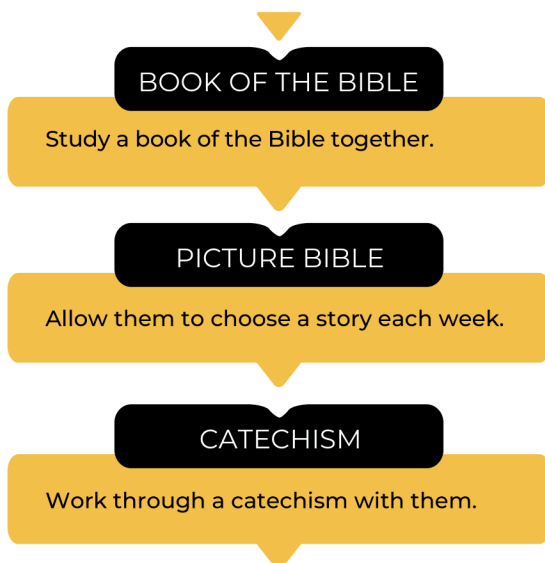
GROW

DISCIPLESHIP DATES

Discipleship Dates are designed to give you the opportunity to both help your kids study the Bible and disciple them in a one-on-one environment.

CONTENT

Choose a study, book, or curriculum to engage in with your kids.



For very young children, we recommend:

- ▶ The Biggest Story Bible by Kevin DeYoung
- ▶ Bible Infographics for Kids by Harvest House
- ▶ The Big Picture Story Bible by David Helm
- ▶ Big Thoughts for Little Thinkers by Joey Allen

Always engage them with questions and encourage them to ask their own questions.



Have them write down questions in a journal as they read.

Allow them to ask questions as they have them.

Questions to ask them:

- ▶ What does this story/text teach us about God?
- ▶ What does this story/text teach us about ourselves?
- ▶ How does this tell us to live or not live?
- ▶ What does this tell us to believe or not believe?

PLACE

Together, choose a special place where you'll meet together weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly.



Examples:

St. Louis Coffee World
Scheve Park
Mascoutah Library

CARE

Minister to their hearts.

- ♥ How are you doing? ♥ How can I pray for you?

Invest time in being prepared to answer their questions and care for them through their struggles.

Be transparent and humble with your kids when you don't know the answer to a question, assuring them you're willing to seek out answers with them.

GO

WITH GOSPEL PURPOSE

It's vital to remember that when we disciple our kids, we're raising them to not just know the Gospel, but to go with the Gospel. Our hope is that they will not only "observe all that Jesus has commanded," but will also teach others to do the same as they live out the Gospel.

Here are some ideas to help you disciple your kids toward mission in the normal rhythms of life:

PRAY ON MISSION



As you pray with your kids, pray specifically for those in your life who don't know Jesus to come to know him.



Pray with your kids that God will give you opportunities to share the Gospel with neighbors, friends, and people in your social circles.



Encourage your kids to pray for their friends to know Jesus, explaining to them that God can use them in the lives of others even at a young age.

PLAY ON MISSION



Get your kids involved in extracurricular activities with mission in mind. Help them to see sports, music lessons, scouting, and community activities as an opportunity to make relationships and share the Gospel.



Consider joining the city sports league or joining a community program instead of choosing a "Christian" version of these things. If you and your kids both see these things as missional opportunities, it will become about more than the activity itself.

LIVE ON MISSION



Encourage your kids to invite other kids from sports teams and other extracurricular activities into real life. Have their families over for dinner, schedule play dates, or go out for ice cream after the game.



Help your kids to see that God has placed you in your neighborhood as missionaries. Serve your neighbors with Gospel purpose in ways that include your kids. Have them help make cookies and deliver them to neighbors or offer as a family to help a neighbor with yard work.