

# *Jesus-Centered Family on Mission*

*Creating a family culture where God is known and enjoyed through spiritual disciplines.*

## **Bible/formative teaching**

- Toddler Take Homes/Homelinks- Learning the scripture together.
- Study the Bible with them: See family Bible study suggested resources below.
- Let them see you reading the Bible and getting alone with God.
- Show them how to have a quiet time.

## **Prayer**

- Plan a time to pray for your children regularly, and pray for them as you go along.
- Pray with them concerning their needs and the needs of others. Help them see how Jesus cares about neighbors, classmates, political and social leaders, Lifegroup, world events, family decisions, etc..
- A family prayer journal is a way to remember how God has answered prayers.
- Use scripture, like the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13 to help guide how you pray or the ACTS model : Adoration (speak about how great God is), Confession (tell him your need for him), Thanksgiving(telling Him how thankful you are), and Supplication (asking Him to help you and to help others).

## **Confession and Repentance**

- Do your kids see you confessing to your spouse and repenting in front of them?
- Do you confess and repent when you have sinned against your children?
- Do you create a home environment where grace and forgiveness are regularly practiced? Are you quick to ask forgiveness or forgive in your home, pointing to Jesus and your need for Him daily?

**One Anothers-** Require your kids to practice one anothers whether they have or have not made a profession of faith. This will point them toward their need for Jesus. We cannot love others well or overcome selfishness without Jesus' help. Show them that their Heavenly Father wants to help them. Show them they can't do it on their own and point them to their need for a savior.

- Love one another
- Forgive one another
- Confess to one another
- Show hospitality toward one another
- Be generous toward one another
- Encourage one another
- Serve one another
- Honor one another as a family, in community

## **Generosity**

- Create a way that they can earn a tithe and have them give each week.
- Let them participate in your giving. Examples: Giv campaign at Midtown.

## **Serving**

- Let them serve with you at home and in the community.
- When they are upper elementary age they can serve with you at church. Examples may include Kidtown, Parking Team, Host Team, and maybe even Production.

**Mission** with Midtown, LifeGroup, and as a family.

- Kids can participate in *Serve the City* child-friendly events.
- Serve with LifeGroup.
- Open your home for mission to classmates, teammates, neighborhood kids.

#### Deuteronomy 6:4-9 English Standard Version (ESV)

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[a] 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

*Gospel Disclaimer:* Faithful involvement in family Bible study and prayer is not the gospel. The gospel is the only thing that makes us right with God. The good news is that as believers, we've been freed up to love, value, and enjoy God. We get to be a part of His grassroots strategy to redeem the world and that starts right inside of our homes. As parents, we're ambassadors of Christ to our children. We get to show them what it looks like to have a relationship with God by reading His word, talking to Him, obeying His commands, and enjoying His presence. Essentially, we get to teach them how to abide in Christ by practicing spiritual disciplines. Here are some of the compelling reasons to start or continue family Bible study and prayer:

#### WHY?

- What better way to speak the gospel into your children's everyday lives?
- What better way to provide a regular time for your children to learn the things of God from you?
- What better way to provide your children with an ongoing opportunity to ask about the things of God (Christian worldview) in a comfortable context?
- What better way for you to verbally communicate your core beliefs to your children?
- What better way to provide workable, reproducible examples to your children of how to have a distinctively Christian home when they start a home of their own?
- What better way to get your family together on a regular basis?

#### WHEN?

- PLAN IT, PROTECT IT. It's important to plan a regular family worship rhythm and try to protect it. Just about everything you can think of will compete with this time.
- Make it REGULAR AND REALISTIC When is a practical time that your family is together? Breakfast, dinner, right before bedtime? What days? Is this possible for you to practice daily or are there certain days of the week that work best?

- Short and sweet is usually best, especially if you have younger children.
- Expect resistance. Show enthusiasm.

## **HOW?**

- Have a plan. It can be an elaborate plan or a simple plan. Just have it ready.
- If you want to be creative, go for it. If you want to just read it or let the family take turns reading it, go for it.
- Have the plan ready. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you activate the plan even when you don't feel like it. He is with you and is pleased to help you!

## **Parenting Resources**

\*Give them Grace by Elyse Fitzpatrick

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp

\*Instructing a Child's Heart by Tedd and Margy Tripp

\*Parenting: Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family by Paul David Tripp

The Age of Opportunity by Paul David Tripp

Family Worship by Don Whitney

Give Them Truth by Starr Meade

Missional Motherhood by Gloria Furman

Raising a Modern-Day Knight by Robert Lewis

## **Family Devotions Toddler- Elementary**

\*Read Aloud-Bible Stories by Ella Lindvall Volumes 1-5

Lift the Flap Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones

Mighty Acts of God by Starr Meade

The Biggest Story by Kevin DeYoung

The Garden the Curtain and the Cross by Carl Laferton

## **Family Devotions Younger Elementary - Middle School**

One Year of Dinner Table Devotions by Nancy Guthrie

Exploring Grace Together: 40 Devotionals for the Family by Jessica Thompson

Big Truths for Young Hearts by Bruce Ware

\*Making Him Known Series by Sally Michaels

The Gospel Story by Marty Machowski

Old Story New by Marty Machowski

Long Story Short by Marty Machowski

Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones

Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing by Sally Lloyd Jones

### **Devotions for Younger Elementary**

\*My Adventure Journal with Archer and Friends by Karen Stott

Jesus Calling Bible Storybook by Sarah Young

Jesus Calling for Little Ones by Sarah Young

### **Devotions for Older Elementary:**

66 Stories One Book by Paul Reynolds

A Girl's Guide to Discovering Her Bible by Elizabeth George

A Boy After God's Own Heart by Jim George

\*Favorites

## ***Monthly Prayers for Your Children***

- 1. Salvation**—"Lord, let salvation spring up within my children, that they may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory." (Isa. 45:8; 2 Tim. 2:10)
- 2. Growth in Grace**—"I pray that my children may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 3:18)
- 3. Love**—"Grant, Lord, that my children may learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who dwells in them. (Gal. 5:25; Eph. 5:2)
- 4. Honesty and Integrity**—"May integrity and honesty be their virtue and their protection." (Ps. 25:21)
- 5. Self-Control**—"Father, help my children not to be like many others around them, but let them be alert and self-controlled in all they do."  
(1 Thess. 5:6)>
- 6. Love for God's Word**—"May my children grow to find Your Word more precious than much pure gold and sweeter than honey from the comb." (Ps. 19:10)
- 7. Justice**—"God, help my children to love justice as You do and act justly in all they do." (Ps. 11:7; Mic. 6:8)
- 8. Mercy**—"May my children always be merciful, just as their Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)
- 9. Respect** (for self, others, and authority)—"Father, grant that my children may show proper respect to everyone, as Your Word commands.(1 Pet. 2:17)
- 10. Biblical Self-Esteem**—"Help my children develop a strong self-esteem that is rooted in the realization that they are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus." (Eph. 2:10)
- 11. Faithfulness**—"Let love and faithfulness never leave my children, but bind these twin virtues around their necks and write them on the tablet of their hearts." (Prov. 3:3)
- 12. Courage**—"May my children always be strong and courageous in their character. (Deut. 31:6)
- 13. Purity**—"Create in them a pure heart, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in their actions." (Ps. 51:10)
- 14. Kindness**—"Lord, may my children always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else." (1 Thess. 5:15)
- 15. Generosity**—"Grant that my children may be generous and willing to share, and so lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age." (1 Tim. 6:18-19)
- 16. Peace-Loving**—"Father, let my children make every effort to do what leads to peace." (Rom. 14:19)

- 17. Joy**—"May my children be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit." (1 Thes. 1:6)
- 18. Perseverance**—"Lord, teach my children perseverance in all they do, and help them especially to run with perseverance the race marked out for them." (Heb. 12:1)
- 19. Humility**—"God, please cultivate in my children the ability to show true humility toward all." (Titus 3:2)
- 20. Compassion**—"Lord, please clothe my children with the virtue of compassion." (Col. 3:12)
- 21. Responsibility**—"Grant that my children may learn responsibility, for each one should carry his own load." (Gal. 6:5)
- 22. Contentment**—"Father, teach my children the secret of being content in any and every situation, through Him who gives them strength." (Phil. 4:12-13)
- 23. Faith**—"I pray that faith will find root and grow in my children's hearts, that by faith they may gain what has been promised to them." (Luke 17:5-6; Heb. 11:1-40)
- 24. A Servant's Heart**—"God, please help my children develop servant's hearts, that they may serve wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, not men." (Eph. 6:7)
- 25. Hope**—"May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 15:13)
- 26. Willingness and Ability to Work**—"Teach my children, Lord, to value work and to work at it with all their heart, as working for the Lord and not for men." (Col. 3:23)
- 27. Passion for God**—"Lord, please instill in my children a soul that 'followeth hard after thee,' one that clings passionately to You." (Ps. 63:8)
- 28. Self-Discipline**—"Father, I pray that my children may acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair." (Prov. 1:3)
- 29. Prayerfulness**—"Grant, Lord, that my children's lives may be marked by prayerfulness, that they may learn to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers." (1 Thess. 5:17)
- 30. Gratitude**—"Help my children to live lives that are always overflowing with thankfulness and always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph. 5:20; Col. 2:7)

