
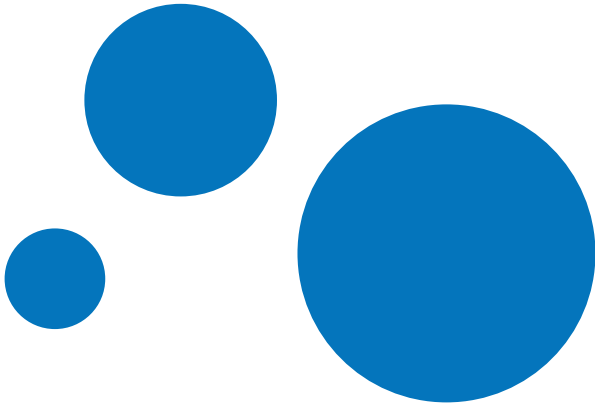


Ten Tips

For Parents





Welcome

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

-Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Discipling a child is a ministry of the heart. It addresses the heart of a child and directs their affections to God. But every parent knows - they cannot change the heart of their child.

God, in his wisdom, has designed the family unit as the best environment for a child to be born into. To be nurtured and to grow. And it's within this relationship, between parent and child, that God speaks these words in Deuteronomy.

This a call to action. Parents to be proactive. They are to impress, talk, tie, bind, write - to be intentional about the daily discipling of their child.

Every parent is to make God visible within the family home. 'Tie them as symbols... write them on the doorframes...' God's presence is not to be a once-a-week Sunday experience but a 24/7 experience in the life of a child. God-talk is to be part of the 'waking up, lying down, sitting, walking' aspect of daily family life.

But what does this look like? Ten Tips aims to equip parents in their God-given, privileged role of speaking the truth of the gospel into the life of their child. Ten Tips is not meant to be prescriptive, rather descriptive. It allows parents to choose what's helpful for them and their family as they seek to bring their children up in the fear and love of the Lord, entrusting the changing of their child's heart into the sovereign control of their gracious God.

by Sandy Galea



On Reading The Bible With Your Child

1. It's never too early to begin reading the Bible with your child. From a very young age establish the routine.
Bath | Bible | Bed
2. Establish a regular time when you read the Bible with your child.
Breakfast | Dinner | Bedtime
3. Regular and short is better than irregular and drawn-out.
4. Use age-appropriate Bibles. See the list of recommended Bibles for each age group on the inside cover of each Kidswise Bible Reading Plan or on each Kidswise Bible Reading Bookmark (free Kidswise Parent Resources).
5. Follow the instructions on the Kidswise Bible Reading Plans. Read a Bible passage (use the ICB version, International Children's Bible) or read a Bible story from a recommended Bible suitable for the age of your child. Then as a family reflect on what has been read using the questions suggested in the plans/on the bookmarks. Note: children who hear their parents reflect are more likely to open up and reflect. Finally pray together.
6. Repetition is fine. Children often want to hear the same story again and again.
7. As children grow older, read a Bible passage (ICB version, International Children's Bible) and encourage everyone in the family (adults as well as children) to ask one question about what's being read then pray together about what you've learnt.
8. If you're regularly away from your children, establishing the pattern of reading the Bible with your children over skype/zoom.

9. Be creative - draw, dramatise or retell the Bible story. Use dress-ups, lego, toys... collage, paint, playdough... to retell the Bible story as a family.
10. Be sure to read books like The Big Picture Bible Story that teach the Bible's big story to help children see that the Bible is not just a collection of little stories but one big story. And that Jesus isn't in just parts of the Bible, the whole Bible is about Jesus!

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Recommended Resources

Kidswise Bible Reading Plans (incl. list of recommended Bibles)

Kidswise Bible Reading Bookmarks

The Wonder Of Easter, by Ed Drew

Talk Talk series, Good Book Company

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Recommended Resources

Ages 1-2

The Beginners Bible
God Knows All About Me, Claire Page
God Made Me This Way, Hayley Down, Claire Fennell
A Time For Everything, Susie Poole
Always Near Me, Susie Poole
Whatever Is Lovely, Susie Poole
Near: Psalm 139, Sally Lloyd-Jones

Ages 3-6

The Beginners Bible
The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible, Jared Kennedy
The Christmas Promise, Alison Mitchell
The Storm That Stopped, Alison Mitchell
The One O'Clock Miracle, Alison Mitchell
Jesus And The Lions' Den, Alison Mitchell
The Garden, The Curtain And The Cross, Carl Laferton
Noah's Ark, Bethan Lycett
The Lost Sheep, Bethan Lycett
The Pearl Of Great Price, Bethan Lycett
God's Very Good Idea, Trilla Newbell
God Made All Of Me, Justin & Lindsey Holcomb
My First Story Of Jesus, Tim Dowely
Everyone A Child Should Know, C Heath-Whyte
Everything A Child Should Know, C Heath-Whyte

Ages 7-11

Thoughts To Make Your Heart Sing, Sally Lloyd-Jones
The Jesus Story Book Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones
The Action Bible, Sergio Cariello
International Children's Bible
The Big Picture Story Bible, David Helm
Birds And The Bees By The Book, Patricia Weerakoon
The Ology, M Machowski
The Gospel Story Bible, M Machowski
This Is The Gospel, Raechel Myers, Amanda Bible Williams
Everyone A Child Should Know, C Heath-Whyte
Everything A Child Should Know, C Heath-Whyte