
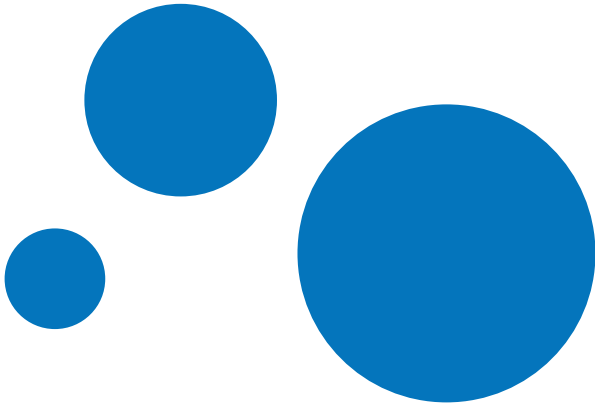


Ten Tips

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

Ten Tips

On Teaching Your Child To Pray

1. It's never too early to begin to teach your child to pray. As you wrap them, cuddle them and put them down to sleep - pray. 'Mummy loves you, Daddy loves, but most of all God loves you. Let's thank him for today.'
2. Children are greatly helped by parents who regularly pray out loud with them. From a very young age, establish a daily routine where you read the Bible and pray with your child.
Bath | Bible | Bed
3. Bring prayer into your regular family routines.
Breakfast | Dinner | Bedtime
Driving to school | Walking home from school
On the way to holidays | On the way back from holidays
- 4 Pray as a family as you celebrate family traditions.
Celebrating Christmas | Celebrating Easter
Every birthday in the family
5. Never ask your child, 'Do you want to pray?' Instead ask, 'What can we pray about?' or 'Who's going to go first?' or 'Let's talk to our awesome God.'
6. Download the Kidswise Family Prayer Cube (see Parent Resources). Copy and cut the pictures then attach each picture to a cube. Either roll the cube or turn the cube. Read the words on the picture rolled or chosen by your child. Encourage them to use these words to begin their prayer.
7. If your child is very young or unsure, pray a simple 'copy prayer' for your child to repeat (note: pray in short phrases so it's easy for them to copy). One day they'll say they don't need to 'copy prayer' because they're big enough to do it on their own.

8. Create a family prayer photo album, filled with family and friends to pray for. Use the family calendar to pray about upcoming events, and especially to pray for opportunities to share Jesus as a family.
9. Fill a container with paddle pop sticks. On the end of each paddle pop stick write a suggested prayer topic: school teacher, Kids Church leader, missionary family, church family, church leaders, coach, friends, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins... After children have prayed about their world, encourage them to choose a paddle pop stick and pray for others.
10. Read through a prayer in the Bible. Each member of the family takes a few verses of the prayer and puts them into their own words. Psalm 8, Psalm 105, Matthew 6:9-13, Ephesians 1:15-23, Philippians 1:3-11, Colossians 1:3-14

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Recommended Resources

Kidswise Family Prayer Cube

Kidswise International Prayer Cube

Kidswise Kids Prayer Journal

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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