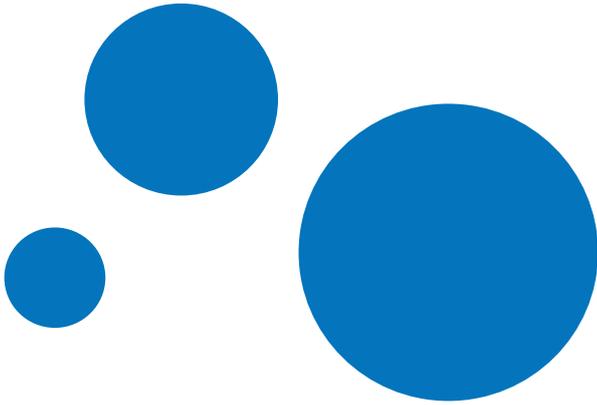


Ten Tips

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.

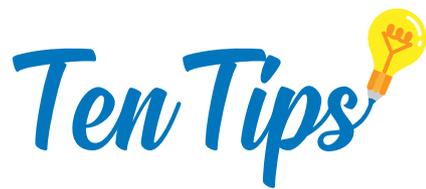
God, in his wisdom, has designed the family unit as the best environment for a child to be born into. To be nurtured and to grow. And it's within this relationship, between parent and child, that God speaks these words in Deuteronomy.

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 Helping Kids Meditate And Memorise Scripture

1. Purchase a family devotions book that focuses on one verse and helpfully unpacks it for children (e.g. *Thoughts To Make Your Heart Sing*, by Sally Lloyd-Jones, *Short Steps For Long Gains Family Edition*, by Simon Manchester).
2. Purchase an International Children's Bible (ICB) to read for family devotions. Read a section of scripture and look for one verse that stands on its own (i.e. is able to be understood when separated from the surrounding verses). Encourage each family member to try and put that verse into his or her own words.
3. Try to arrange a verse as a family so that it's memorable. Add hand actions, a beat, stamps, claps, melody, or sing the verse to a familiar nursery rhyme or tune. Revise the verse together regularly.
4. Ask each member of the family to cartoon or draw a series of pictures illustrating a verse. Encourage each family member to share their cartoons/illustrations and what the verse means.
5. Take out a Kidswise Audio Membership and download memory verses to learn as a family. Learn verses as you travel in the car (e.g. to and from school).
6. Purchase the app 'Fighter Verses'. Select verses listed on this app to discuss and learn as a family. Each verse on Fighter Verses is categorised under a topic and has both an audio track and a musical arrangement. The app has Quiz Games and enables you to keep a record as a family of which verses you've learnt.
7. Think of people you could share your family memory verse with (e.g. missionary family, friends, church family member...). Either post, text, skype/zoom or email the verse to encourage them.

8. Play a circle game where a memory verse is said, one word at a time, by each member of the family. See how fast you can say the verse as a family.
9. Display your memory verse on your fridge or in a visible place where everyone in the family is reminded of it daily.
10. Find out what memory verses your child is learning at Kids Church, Kids Club, Scripture... (whatever group your child attends). Ask your child to teach the memory verse they've been learning to the whole family.

by Sandy Galea

Recommended Resources

Kidswise Audio Membership

Thoughts To Make Your Heart Sing, by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Short Steps For Long Gains Family Edition, by S Manchester

Colin Buchanan <http://colinbuchanan.com.au/>

The Rizers <http://www.therizers.com/>

Fighter Verses App

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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