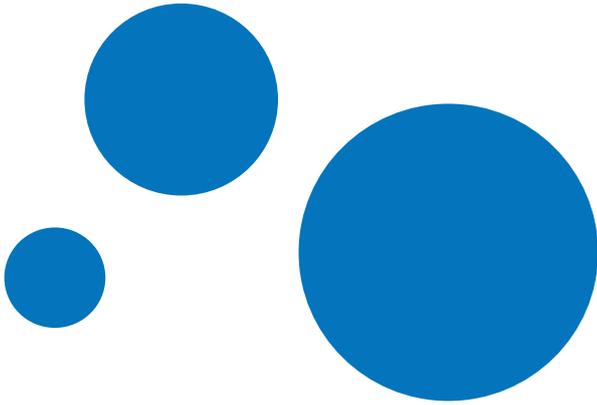


Ten Tips

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.

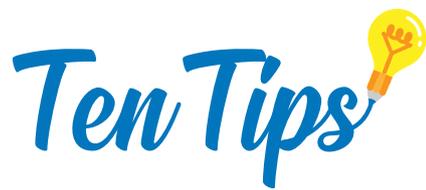
God, in his wisdom, has designed the family unit as the best environment for a child to be born into. To be nurtured and to grow. And it's within this relationship, between parent and child, that God speaks these words in Deuteronomy.

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 Shaping Your Child's Attitude To Church

1. Make church a priority in your weekly family calendar. Children know how important school is because they have to go unless they're sick. Communicate how important it is to meet with God's people by only missing church for either sickness or family holidays.
2. Plan your family calendar around the church's calendar. Put church events (esp. the family events) into your family calendar and plan around these special church family gatherings.
3. On the way to church (as you walk or drive) pray as a family - that God will use each of you to serve other people at church and help them to grow. Pray also that God's Word would be taught faithfully to the kids, teenagers and adults at church.
4. On the way home from church give each family member an opportunity to share what they've learnt or what they've been reminded of at church.
5. Talk about how God has made us all different - we are all good at different things. Talents (things we are good at) become gifts when we use them to serve others at church. Discuss what each person in the family is good at and think about ways each person can use their gifts to help others at church grow to be more like Jesus.
6. Praise God for the gifts he has given each of you and celebrate when God gives you opportunities to serve the church family.
7. Think about a ministry you could get involved in as a family. It could be a monthly ministry (setting up or packing up) or a one off ministry (handing Christmas parcels out to needy families).
8. Sometimes children don't want to go to church. If they don't have a friend at church remind them that it takes about 6 months of regularly going before most children feel at home.

9. Talk as a family about how to encourage someone at church who has helped them grow. Encourage your child to thank people who have helped them love Jesus more and live for him by making a card, writing a letter, thanking them in person...
10. Be careful how you speak about church and people from church in front of your children.

by Sandy Galea

Recommended Resources

Kidswise Stories (1 Corinthians, Acts)

Kidswise Lessons (1 Corinthians, Acts)

Kidswise Article: 'Consumers To Contributors'

<http://www.families.org.au>

<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org>

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org>

<https://growingfaith.com.au>

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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