
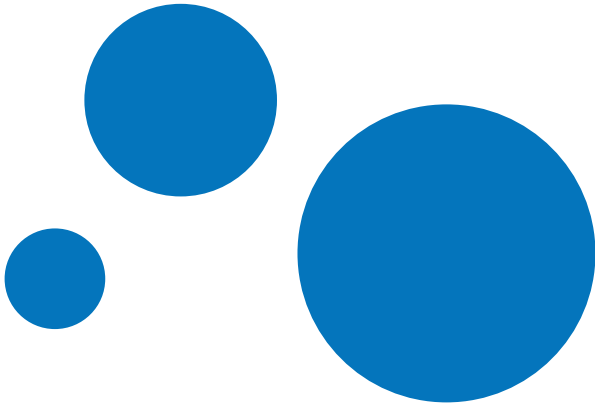


# Ten Tips

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 Keeping Kids Safe In A Cyber World

1. Think as a family about how you can use the internet to reflect Biblical principles and values. Look back at these again and again so your children understand why we do what we do. Do you "like" sites with wholesome material? With wholesome names?
2. Enjoy the cyber world together. Spend time with your child looking at clips, playing games together and searching the web. Show a genuine interest in what interests your child.
3. Spend time offline together. Have set times (dinner, movie nights, game nights) where all family members put away their phones (put them in a "cyber basket", on silent, vibrations off, so notifications can't be heard). As well as having fun as a family, this models discipline and self control.
4. When you read the Bible on your device (smart phone, tablet...) does your child know you're reading God's Word? Bible apps are great and convenient. However, children benefit from seeing their parents read the Bible in paper form. This removes any confusion as to what you are doing. If regularly reading the Bible or praying using a prayer diary on a device, occasionally communicate to your child what you're doing.
5. Place computers in dining or family rooms (not bedrooms). Have filtering software fitted (e.g. Covenant Eyes) and develop the habit of handing in devices before going to bed.
6. Encourage and model honesty. Allowing your child to join social networking sites before the minimum age (by giving a false date of birth) tells them that it's fine to break rules if they don't agree with them. Minimum age for all is 13 years.

7. When they are old enough to use social media, know your child's password. Let them know you'll randomly check their emails, the sites they visited and their online communication. Not because you don't trust them, but because you want to be involved in all aspects of their life. To guide and protect them as they explore the online world.
8. Be your child's "friend" on social networking sites. Have your child "friend" other relatives whom you trust, who can model appropriate language, discussions and shared sites. Make it a requirement that your child knows all their social networking friends in person.
9. Talk about how people can be someone they're not on the internet and how your child's profile should reflect who they are at all times.
10. Talk with your child about potential issues – cyber bullying, stalking – before they arise. Discuss different possible scenarios and how they could be dealt with. Never blame your child for an issue but rather work through it with them. Open communication is vital.

by Kathryn Kettlewell

### Recommended Resources

Cyber Parenting, by J & S Boswell

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

<https://safeministry.org.au/safe-ministry-training/>

(although Safe Ministry Training Courses have been developed by Sydney Anglicans to train leaders in kids and youth ministry, it's an excellent course for parents in understanding how best to keep children safe)

<http://www.covenanteyes.com>

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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