
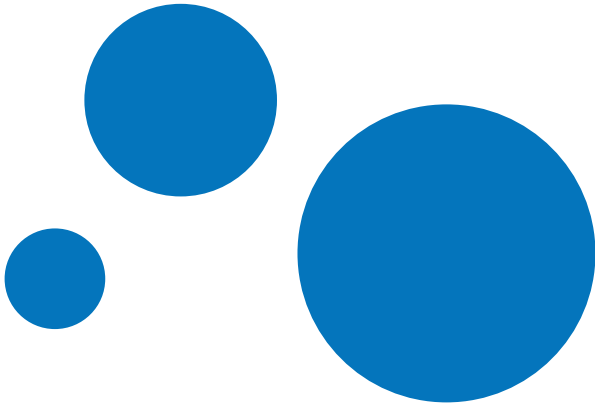


# Ten Tips

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 Talking To Your Children About Sex

1. The conversation between parent and child about sex/sexuality should begin when children are young and continue through to adulthood. The first messages your child hears about sex can powerfully shape your child's view. So aim to be the first to talk with them about it. Remember, repetition is crucial.
2. Discuss the joy of God's good creation, and how he's made us male and female - the same but different. And how sex is one of God's good gifts for us to enjoy when we're grown up and married.
3. As you read, tell or watch stories together. Use them as a springboard to discussing sex and sexuality with your child. There are so many unhelpful stories on TV that give children a distorted view of sex and their bodies. Address the stories your children are being exposed to (e.g. the stories in advertising).
4. Teach your children delayed gratification - to wait for their turn, to save for the toy, to wait until it's dinner time. Children who learn to wait for something good, will be better prepared when faced with sexual temptations later on.
5. Let your children feel the impact of their choices. Don't step in and soften the negative consequences of their choices. Children who feel the full impact of their choice, develop the skills and resources to make wiser choices in the future. This is particularly important in the area of sexuality.
6. Aim to be an askable parent. Be open and responsive to questions rather than defensive and negative. If your child feels that you welcome, and honestly seek to answer their questions, they will be more likely to come to you with their more difficult questions.

7. Be accurate, simple and clear when explaining sexual intercourse, rather than vague and cryptic. Use the correct anatomical words, vagina and penis, rather than slang alternatives.
8. Talk with your children about their right to say 'no' to another person. This can be taught by role playing a family game together and asking your child to firmly say 'no' when they don't want to play anymore.
9. Teach your child about privacy and modesty from a young age. There are parts of their body that are private. No one is to touch or see those parts except the child (family members when the child is young and medical practitioners).
10. Teach your child that there's nothing God can't forgive. Forgiveness is at the heart of the Christian message. Children need to know that no matter what they do or say or see, because of Jesus, forgiveness is available to all who ask.

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