
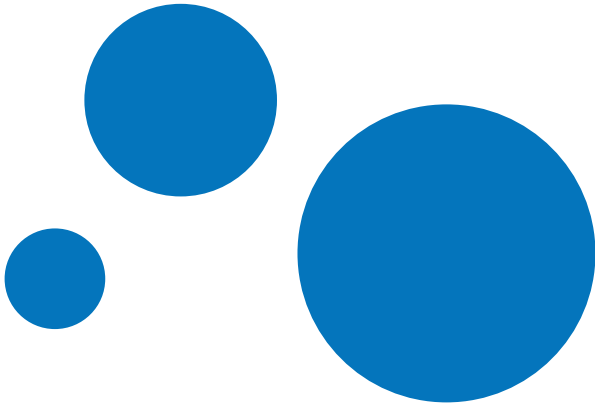


# Ten Tips

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 Developing A Generous Heart In Kids

1. Allow Scripture to shape your child's attitude about their possessions from an early age. Everything we have is his. He made it. He owns it. It's all his. (James 1:17) From an early age, encourage your child to be generous with what God has given them. Encourage them to share their toys and possessions. Some children naturally share, whereas others find this difficult. No matter the disposition of your child, expect your child to share with others.
2. As Christians we are unbelievably rich! God has given us Jesus and all the blessings that come from being in him. Read one verse per week from Ephesians 1:3-14. Choose one of these good things (blessings) and write it as a headline (Chosen By God Before The Word Began!). Each week discuss the blessing as a family, pray about it and put it up on the fridge.
3. We can trust God in everything (Matthew 5:25-33). God's generosity and provision is observed in his generosity and provision in nature. He clothes and cares for the insignificant sparrow and the fleeting flower. Spend time with your child observing creation, highlighting God's care/provision.
4. Help your child learn to reflect on how unsatisfying money and material possessions really are. Exercise: sit down with your child and write a list of the things they have bought in the last 6 months. Share a list of things you've bought with them as well. Together, cross off things that are no longer around (eaten, broken, lost, old...). Underline with a wiggly line those things that are still around but are not liked or played with/used anymore. Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-11. Finally, circle the things that are still used and liked. How long will these things last?
5. Teach your child about long term investment - money that lasts for eternity. Regularly thank God as a family for the people who have said 'Yes' to Jesus because of the work of your local church, mission work you support, the work of Compassion... anywhere where you as a family have given money for gospel work.

6. Children need to see how much to give. Giving is to be done in secret, only our heavenly Father needs to know. But as parents, our children need to see how much to give. Show or visually represent how much money you as a family have decided to set aside to give to God.
7. Every now and again ask your child to hand in the family tithe on Sunday.
8. Warn your child of the dangers of the love of money (Matthew 5:24).  
Need: two firm balls about the size of a softball or bigger. Ask your child to put one hand behind their back and pick up both balls at the same time with the other hand. They will only ever be able to hold one ball at a time, never both at the same time. One will always be dropped. Point: you can't love money and God. One will always win your heart over the other.
9. When giving money to your child (pocket money, payment for jobs...) give it to them in coins. This makes it easier for them to divide it up as soon as they get it.
10. Use the Kidswise 'Money For God' tool (free parent resource) with your child. Encourage them every time they receive money to divide it up: money for God, money for savings, money to spend.

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### **Recommended Resources**

Kidswise 'Money For God'

Kidswise Stories

Kidswise Lessons (Ecclesiastes, Philippians, James)

Compassion

Training Your Children To Manage Money, by Justin Taylor

(Gospel Coalition (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org>))

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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