
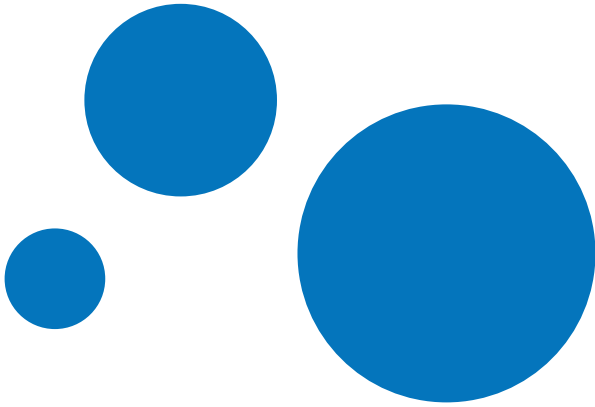


Ten Tips

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 Heart For The Lost In Kids

1. Your family is your first mission field. Share Jesus with your kids. As you read the Bible and pray with your children, balance between talking to your kids about turning to Jesus and living for Jesus. As children grow it'll become clearer whether they've understood God's good news - it's not what we've done, but what Jesus has done for us.
2. As a family pray for opportunities to share Jesus with friends and family. Pray as you go to parties, go to extended family gatherings, go to the park...
3. Share with your children every opportunity God has given you to talk about Jesus. Encourage your children to do the same. Share your joys when things go well. And share your failures - when you've failed to open your mouth, when you've not known what to say, when you regret what you've said. Be real and honest.
4. Adopt a missionary as a family. Write letters to, draw pictures for, send gifts to, skype/zoom, pray for, read newsletters from, place their picture on your fridge, learn about the country they live in and what they do there...
5. Do mission together as a family. Look for a mission-focused program you can become active members of as a family: Playtime, Music & Movement, Kids Club, Holiday Club...
6. As a family sponsor kids (not your own) to go on Christian camps and holiday clubs so that they'll get to hear about Jesus. Set aside time and petrol money in the family budget to be the family that transports kids to and from the holiday club. Ask open ended questions in the car so that the kids (yours and those who you've offered to transport) talk about what they've been learning.

7. Learn simple gospel outlines as a family. An easy outline can be a simple drawing (e.g. Bridge to Life), a series of colours (e.g. The Wordless Book) or an action chant:
 - God made it (one thumb up)
 - He owns it (both thumbs up)
 - We broke it (both thumbs down)
 - He fixed it (both thumbs up again)
8. Talk about how to answer difficult questions that may be asked when sharing Jesus. Open the Bible and role-play possible answers.
9. Memorise verses of scripture that summarise the gospel as a family. Purchase Kidswise memory verses or take out a Kidswise Audio Membership.
10. Remind your children that no one can make another person a Christian - God does that. Nor is anyone the reason why someone does not turn to Jesus. But we can make Jesus look attractive if we live our lives loving and obeying Jesus.

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Recommended Resources

Kidswise Kids Clubs

Kidswise Holiday Clubs

Kidswise Playtimes

Kidswise Audio Membership

This Is The The Gospel, Kids Read Truth

Who Will Be King? (gospel track, ages 8-10, www.matthiasmedia.com.au)

The Amazing Rescue, by Quizwox (comic, ages 7-9, www.quizworx.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