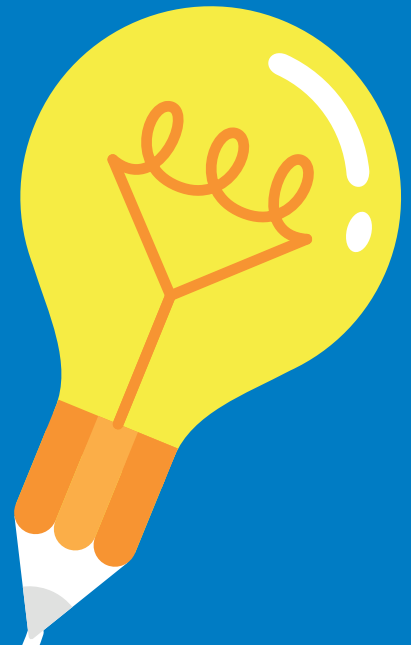
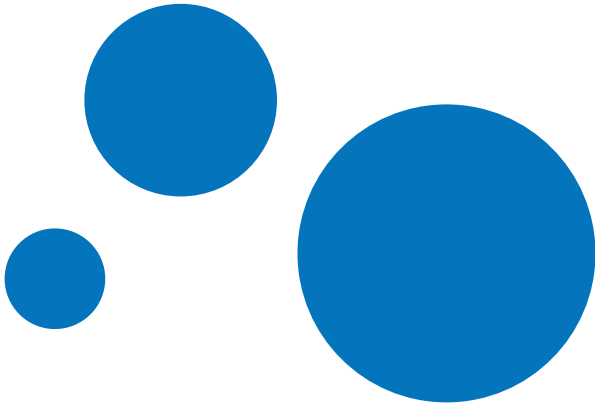


Ten Tips

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

Ten Tips

On Helping Kids Welcome Kids

1. Teach your child (from scripture) that they have two families - the one they were born into and God's big family (our church family). Every member of our church family is important and special. And in God's family the colour of our skin or the family we grew up in is not important. What's important is our love for Jesus.
2. Talk about what it might be like to come into a new church and not know anyone.
 - How might a new child feel?
 - Who won't they know?
 - What won't they know?
3. Role play with your child about how to welcome a new child.
 - Step 1: Look them in the eye.
 - Step 2: Smile.
 - Step 3: Say, "Hi my name is... What's your name?
Would you like to come and play?"
4. Regularly ask your child, 'Was there anyone new at Kids Church today?' If they can't identify new children, continue to point #5.
5. Think of ways to help your child identify children who may not feel like they belong. Stop and look around and ask:
 - Who is sitting by themselves?
 - Who looks sad?
 - Who looks lonely?
6. Invite a new family to join your family on a picnic, for an ice-cream, to come and play in a local park.

7. Praise your child when you see them making an effort with a new child, or making an effort with a child sitting by themselves during morning tea.
8. Your child may not be new, but he/she may still feel like they don't belong. Talk to your child's leaders about children in your child's group whom he/she may connect with. Get to know the parents of those children. Go back to #6 and think of ways you can connect with these families outside of Kids Church. Sometimes one picnic is all it takes for your child to feel connected to other children at church.
9. Every time your child sees you welcome someone, you teach them to have God's heart for those new to our church.
10. Be real about your fears and struggles in this area.

by Sandy Galea

Recommended Resources

Kidswise Stories

Kidswise Lessons (1 Corinthians)

Kidswise Article: 'Consumers To Contributors'

God's Very Good Idea, by Trilla Newbell

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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