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>3-6Y



TAKING
FAITH

home

DISCIPLESHIP
FOR
PRE-SCHOOLERS



**AS PARENTS WHO BELIEVE GOD LOVES OUR CHILDREN,
WE WANT TO DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP OUR CHILDREN
RECEIVE THAT LOVE, THROUGH A RELATIONSHIP WITH
GOD THAT LEADS TO A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE.**

We are often unsure how to go about this task. Research shows that we cannot delegate the important task of mentoring our children towards discipleship. Parental influence is by far the most important factor in our children's faith development. In other words, we need to take faith home.

This pamphlet is designed to inspire you to share your faith with your 3 to 6-years-old pre-schooler. These ideas can be stepping-stones for you and your family as you are intentional about developing your faith journey together at home.



FIVE AIMS

FOR PARENTS OF 3 TO 6-YEAR-OLDS
ALONG WITH SOME PRACTICAL TIPS:

ESTABLISH FAMILY FAITH TRADITIONS

- Sabbath is given to us by God for the development of our family's relationship with him. It should, therefore, be a positive time filled with do's rather than don'ts. Be intentional about making Sabbath a special family time. Create a cosy atmosphere on Friday evening, with worship and family sharing / prayer time. Take trips on Sabbath afternoon. Eat favourite foods.
- Establish a family worship time, and pray with your child at bedtime.
- Make use of special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, birthdays etc. to foster family faith. Don't let the secular take over these times of Christian celebration.



ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO SPEND TIME ALONE WITH GOD (TAG)

- This important concept can be introduced early in childhood. Why not agree, as a family, on a time each day where everyone will have 5 minutes of TAG time. It may help you as well as your child!
- Find other ways that your pre-schooler can spend time with God, maybe through music, play, stories, and other activities.

HELP YOUR CHILD TO KNOW BIBLE STORIES

- There are many great story books for children, but perhaps the greatest is the Bible. A great place to start is the children's Sabbath School lessons, Gracelink for kindergarten. Start reading bible story books and spiritual bedtime stories as soon as possible. By doing so, you will create some great times together and at the same time lay the foundation for later faith development.

HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN BIBLE TEXTS

- Children are amazing at learning by heart. A great way to give children a foundation for later spiritual development is through learning Bible verses. You can make your own plan, or, Gracelink has a memory verse each week that you can use. It is easy to skip, but knowing Bible verses is like investing a little each week in your child's spiritual inheritance.

BEGIN DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER THROUGH SERVICE

- Teach your pre-schooler about community and service by letting them help with small chores and contribute to the family. It might take a little extra time at first, but it is worth it.
- Look for ways in which the family can do small things for neighbours and relatives.
- Use sibling conflict and your child's frustrations as an opportunity to talk with them about values such as forgiveness, patience, care, and honesty.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU ON YOUR WAY:

Gracelink:

Kindergarten Sabbath school lesson – basic Bible stories for 3 to 6-year-olds. At Sabbath School the child will recognise the story from home (www.gracelink.net/kindergarten). The homepage also provides short video clips illustrating the Bible story. You can also get the podcast on your telephone if you download the Sabbath School app.

Great bible story books for pre-schoolers:

My Little Bible

Forever Stories, by Caroly Byers

Family Bible Story, by Ruth Redding Brand

Devotionals:

My Best Friend Jesus, by Cheryl Lynn Woolsley

Heroes in Training, by Vicki Redden

God's Ten Promises, by Kimberley Tagert-Paul

Fruits of the Spirit, by Kimberley Tagert-Paul

Books about Jack, by Janice Mathews

Family Worship:

100 Quick Worship Ideas for Kids, by Karen Holford

100 Creative Ways 2 Learn Memory Verses, by Karen Holford

100 Creative Prayer Ideas for Kids, by Karen Holford

100 Creative Activities for Sabbath, by Karen Holford

Interactive Family Worships, by Bill Kirstein

Christian Parenting:

52 Ways to Parent Happy Children, by Karen Holford

Help! I,m a Parent, by Claudio and Pamela Consuegra and Karen Pearson

10 Christian Values Every Kid Should Know, by Donna J. Habenicht

DVD:

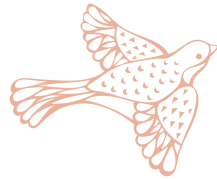
The Creation Case, by Rick Aguilera

Music:

Playful Worship - Loving Experiences Through Music, by Kylie Stacey (www.playfulmusic.org)

Kids Time Praise

Songs to sing along with: www.hymnalaccompanist.com/kidsmidi/kidsongs1.html



A BLESSING

TO SAY OVER YOUR PRE-SCHOOLER:

May the Lord bless you,
(name of child), and protect you.

May the Lord smile on you
and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you his favour
and give you his peace.

NUMBERS 6,24-26 (NLT)