



Faith Pathway



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“

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

”

“

Most parents can't give their children a lavish inheritance, but every parent will leave a personal legacy.

(Reggie Joiner, Think Orange)

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Why?

Family is important! The home and the family are the most important context for children's discipleship and parents have the God-given privilege of nurturing faith in their children. Being a parent is absolutely amazing, but it isn't easy. We want to encourage and resource parents as they disciple their children and guide them towards becoming life-long followers of Jesus.

What?

This resource is a simple booklet with ideas to help you as you guide your child in their journey towards a life of faith in Jesus. We would love to see your child and your family establish patterns of behaviour that will help their faith grow strong and be able to withstand the challenges that will come their way.

When?

You can start on this Faith Pathway at any time, regardless of your child's age. This is a general guide to help resource you as parents, because you know your children and their needs better than us! Your children may skip a stage, benefit from combining two stages, or start further down the pathway if they are older. At different times you may want to go back and relook at an earlier stage or repeat a stage to help develop a deeper understanding.



Resources

There are a host of great resources that you can access to help you as you guide your children on their faith pathway. There is no "one size fits all" in this area, but here are a few that might be helpful:

The 5 Love Languages of Children
by Gary Chapman & Ross Campbell

Spiritual Parenting
by Michelle Anthony

Shepherding a Child's Heart
by Ted Tripp

Parenting Beyond Your Capacity
by Reggie Joiner & Carrie Nieuwhof

Sacred Parenting
by Gary Thomas

We also offer courses or host speakers on specific aspects of parenting here at church which you are more than welcome to attend. If you have specific questions or parenting issues you would like to discuss, our pastoral and families team are here to support you, so please let us know!

My Faith Box

A faith box is a place where children can keep items related to their faith journey.

You may like to put things like their dedication certificate, a blessing or prayer you (and/or others) have written for your child and special Bible verses in their faith box when they are younger.

As they progress along their faith journey, they may like to put a copy of their testimony, baptism certificate, prayers or verses that mark significant times in their life or faith in the box.

Looking at the box as they grow will help the child remember some of the amazing things that God has done in their life and may ease the doubts that can come later in life.

“

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

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0-2 YEARS

As a church, we are so excited to be able to partner with you as you begin laying the foundation of faith with your child, it is never too early to start working towards something of such life-changing importance!

Two of the important steps in this stage are those of dedication and blessing (in no particular order).



Ideas

Pray for your child everyday. One beautiful way is the Head to Toes prayer (see page further on) which you can pray during feedings, while your child is asleep, or even during playtime. You can touch (or tickle) each part of them as you pray and commit their whole body to God.

As well as reading bible verses and stories to your child (which is amazing developmentally as well as spiritually), infants love music, and songs about God and spiritual truth will quickly take root in their hearts and minds. Colin Buchanan, Steve Green and Dan Warlow have done an amazing job in turning Bible verses into songs.



Resources

The Blessing: Giving the Gift of Unconditional Love and Acceptance
by John Trent & Gary Smalley

The Children's Rhyming Bible
by Courteney & Janice Emmerson-Hicks

Five Little Ladybugs (Music Album)
by Karyn Henley

Dedication

Psalm 139:14-15 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

A baby dedication is a celebration in which parents give thanks to God for the gift of their child and make a promise to the Lord to do everything within their power to raise their child in a godly and prayerful way until he or she can make a decision on his or her own to follow God through placing their faith or trust in Jesus. It is also a time when the church commits to walking alongside you as you point your child to Jesus.

It is important to understand that a baby dedication is your commitment to model, teach and strengthen the Christian faith in your home. It should not be confused with your child's personal decision to follow Christ. Romans 10:9-10 tells us that each person must decide for themselves to trust in Jesus. The age that they are ready to make this decision can vary from child to child.

Ideas to celebrate dedicating your child

1. Write your family's faith story as a record and a heritage for your child
2. Invite family and friends along to church to share and celebrate the dedication (they may even like to write a blessing for your child that can go into their Faith Box)
3. Organise a lunch or meal with family after the service

Blessing

"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him"
Psalm 127:3

We believe that children are a blessing from God, and that God wants what's best for their lives. Infants are rapidly growing, developing and learning about the world around them and we want them to understand from an early age how God, and you as their parents, see them, love them, and want to bless them.

The concept of blessing is used heavily throughout the scriptures (700 times!) and is a beautiful gift that we give to our children. A blessing places value on the child and cheers your child on towards the potential to be all that God has created them to be.

"The tongue has the power of life and death" Proverbs 18:21

Words of affirmation are so important to our children, and play a major part in their development. A blessing should be age-appropriate and can be changed as the child grows. As a family you can decide how often you will bless your children, you might pray it over their lives daily, weekly, once a term or every year on their birthday.

Things to reflect on, pray about and discuss when writing a blessing for your child:

- Describe the blessing that your baby is to you and your family.
- What Christian character traits would you like to see in your child as they grow up?
- How do you see that God could use your child for His Kingdom as an adult?

“

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

”

Head to Toes Prayer

Head: Pray for wisdom, discernment, and understanding of God's Word (James 1:5)

Eyes: Pray that they will see the truth and guard their eyes (Psalm 119:18)

Ears: Pray that they will listen to the Lord and to those in authority (Isaiah 20:21)

Mouth: Pray that they will speak with truth and use their words to praise and honour God (Ephesians 4:29)

Shoulders: Pray that they will cast their burdens on the Lord and give them friends who will help them to stand strong (1 Peter 5:7. 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Heart: Pray that they will have a heart that loves Jesus and show concern for those around them (Ezekiel 36:26)

Hands: Pray that they will work for the Lord (Isaiah 41:13)

Feet: Pray that they will follow Jesus all their days (Isaiah 52:7)

2-3 YEARS

The toddler years can be challenging at times, but are incredibly formative years for your child's emotional development. Children in this stage often struggle with how to put into words the 'big' emotions that they are feeling, and are keen to be independent, but don't always have the skills that they need to do things by themselves.

They are able to understand a number of key concepts about God such as His love, goodness and that He desires to hear from them and help them.

Play is vital at this stage as a key way that they learn. This makes this stage a great time to establish fun, family times that encourage faith, laughter and good communication in your home. As your child gets older, this quality time that you have established as a family, will provide opportunities to deepen relationships and have important faith discussions.



Ideas

- Play simple games with your child (or children). Games are full of teaching moments including taking turns, winning and losing with good grace and many others.
- Enjoy days out as a family. You might go to the park, beach or another favourite place that you can have fun together.
- A great way to encourage your child to pray, and make it fun, is through colouring prayer. Decide as a family what each colour will represent (eg purple while praying aloud for family members, green for creation, yellow for friends etc) and colour while praying aloud.

- Your child will love having you read to them. Reading a Bible story every night will help them understand more about who God is and what He is like.
- As you walk around outside (either on your way to other places or as quality time together), draw attention to all of the amazing things that God has made.



Resources

The Jesus Storybook Bible
by Sally Lloyd-Jones

10, 9, 8 God is Great (Music Album)
by Colin Buchanan

You Are: Speaking God's Word Over
Your Children
by Emily Assell

3-5 YEARS

The later preschool years are a time of rapid development for children. It can be a very active stage and your child might never seem to sit still, but that doesn't mean that their faith and understanding of God can't be growing as they are on the move! Children in this stage are often full of questions as they endeavour to understand the world around them and their developing memories make this a great time to start hiding away scripture in their hearts.

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11

Their understanding of language is expanding, and their ability to understand faith concepts is growing rapidly too, with their eager minds able to understand that Jesus grew from a baby to a child and went through a lot of the same things that they go through, and that those who love Jesus want to obey Him. They can understand that God always keeps his promises and is the only true God.



Resources

Getting to Know Jesus for Little Ones
by Bill, Brad & Kathy Bright

God and Me: 365 Daily Devotions
by Penny Boshoff

The Lord's Prayer
by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Grow (Music Album)
by Dan Warlow



Ideas

- Choose a Bible verse to memorise as a family. You can play games to learn the verse, make up actions, write a song or even a rap to help you remember it.
- Cook a meal together. It might get a little messy, but can be a great time of sharing and talking.
- Enjoy a walk with your child, either one-on-one or as a family. You might spend this time marvelling at the amazing things that God has made, praying for each other, praying for your friends and neighbours or maybe just allowing space for answering some of those seemingly endless questions your child has!
- Capture family prayer requests by drawing or writing them on cards and putting them in a jar or container or adding them to your fridge or whiteboard.
- After reading a Bible story, ask your preschooler to explain the story in their own words. This is a great way to check their understanding and engage their brains, and can be a lot of fun! You might even want to record them occasionally to watch when they are older.

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"Following Jesus can be fun, engaging, exciting - a full on adventure! As such, our manner of conveying the story of Scripture needs to capture this. To do this, kids need to see that their own story is part of the much larger story in which Jesus is the main character - the full revelation of who God is. Jesus is the best picture of God that we have in all of Scripture. The rest of the Bible presents glimpses, but only Jesus shows us what God really looks like. Jesus, then, needs to be a central character in each kid's own stories."

(The Greatest in the Kingdom by Greg Boyd)

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5-7 YEARS

Children in early primary school are rapidly growing in their understanding of how the world works and their capability for reasoning. This makes it a pivotal stage for faith formation. Children at this stage are able to understand that God is the all-powerful creator, that He knows everything, love us and is worthy to be praised. They can understand that God send Jesus to earth to save us and that Jesus died on the cross, and God raised Him from the dead.

Some children are able to make a decision to follow Jesus at this age (see page 27 for some tips if you think your child is ready for this). Young children may make many decisions to follow Jesus as their understanding and faith grows, and each of these are worth celebrating!

Play is still of vital importance in how children in this stage learn, so hands-on and active faith experiences are very valuable. They also usually love to talk at this stage (sometimes even when no-one else is even there), which makes it a great time to dive into faith discussions both about the world around them and about the Bible stories and passages that you read.

While your young primary schooler may love to be independent and do things on their own, their family is still the most important influence in their life, so try to include as many family faith experiences as you can!



Resources

Big Thoughts for Little Thinkers
by Joey Allen

Devotions Off the Map:
A 52 Week Devotional Journey

Bible App for Kids



Ideas

- Choose an age-appropriate movie to watch as a family, complete with snacks! Afterwards, use faith as a lens to discuss the choices that the characters in the movie made.
- Construction Prayers are a hands-on way to pray. You might like to write prayer points, or the fruits of the spirit on building blocks and get your kids to make a tower as they pray for what is on each block. You can do a similar thing with strips of paper to make a prayer chain.
- Set your children up for their day by claiming the travel time to school for prayer. You can take turns sharing concerns about the day or praying aloud, or you might just pray a blessing over your children as you drive.
- Encourage your kids (or the whole family) to act out a Bible story or passage. You might like to have a narrator and improvise costumes and props from things around the house to make it even more fun (stuffed toys and dolls make great extra characters!). Afterwards, discuss what we learn about God or Jesus from the story or Bible passage.
- If you're looking for fun, active family devotion ideas, you might want to consider Splink at d6family.com. They release one free devotion a week that provide great opportunities to engage and discuss biblical truths across a range of ages.

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But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.”

Matthew 19:14

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As we model family faith... it's good to remember that in Jesus' upside-down Kingdom, not everything goes to plan. But there are always incredible joys and surprises along the way, and we will always need Jesus' example, the Holy Spirit's power, and the Father's forgiveness as we stumble through this wonderful task of growing our children into the richness of life with God.

”

Worship Focus

Worship is more than just singing songs; it is our response to the greatness of God! Worship is about more than attending a church service, it is an action and an attitude.

But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.

John 4:23

Worship involves taking the focus off of ourselves and directing our attention toward God, who He is and what He has done.

Our kids already know how to worship (we see it when they idolise sporting or music heroes and can tell you every detail about them), but we need to teach them whom to worship and help them see the wonder of our awesome God.

The best way to teach them is by doing it yourself, modelling a life of worship with your words and actions, and point out the amazing things that God has done and that we can see him doing.



Ideas

- Spend a few minutes as a family (maybe around the dinner table or in the car), taking turns to say something about who God is and what He has done. The challenge is to not mention yourself, and completely focus on Him!
- Make a specific day like "Worship Wednesday" when you have a fun family worship time together. You might like to play instruments and sing or let each family member chose a song and sing along to an mp3 or lyric video on YouTube
- Ask your child questions about who God is, His character or what they see in creation
- Commit to attending a service at church where we worship God with other people and learn more about Him. Model and encourage engagement!

7-9 YEARS

While family relationships are still central, these years often see friendships grow in significance. Children in this stage often compare themselves to others, which can make finding their identity in God and not in their abilities or the opinions of their friends, all the more important. They can understand that God is holy and perfect, and loves people all around the world. They often feel lots of empathy at this age, which can help them understand the Bible in deeply personal ways.

At this stage, they develop more of an understanding of cause and effect in life in general, which can translate into an understanding that God planned for Jesus to save us from the beginning of time. They can understand that Jesus performed amazing miracles through the power of God, and the plethora of questions they have can make for stimulating (and very important) discussions about faith.

Children at this age can start to understand the Trinity; God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit is a helper to us in our faith. It is a time of tremendous exploration and learning and a great opportunity to use this desire for knowledge and understanding for significant faith growth.



Ideas

- As their memory improves, set a family challenge to memorise a passage from the Bible (one verse at a time), you might even be able to memorise a whole psalm or chapter!
- Encourage your child to pray in different ways throughout their day. The C.H.A.T Prayer (see next page) is one model that teaches children about some of the different parts of prayer, but mealtimes, bedtimes, driving time and walks also provide valuable opportunities to pray.
- If your child loves to read, try reading a Bible passage with them by alternating the verses with them. This can help them unlock some of the

amazing wisdom and comfort of the gospels and the psalms and children can love taking turns with Mum or Dad

- Encourage your child to create actions for their favourite worship song and sing and dance with all their heart
- Your child might be ready for a Kids Discipleship Course. Email kids@wybc.org.au to see when the next one is scheduled for.



Resources

The Ology
by Marty Machowski

The Ology (Music Album)
by Sovereign Grace

Indescribable: 100 Devotions about God & Science
by Louie Giglio

The Superbook App

C.H.A.T. Prayer

The C.H.A.T model teaches kids to pray by breaking down the different parts of prayer, and helps them slow down to consider who they are talking to and why it is important to pray. The acronym also reminds them that prayer isn't a scary thing, it is a chat with God!

Confession is when we tell God how we have sinned-the ways we have turned away from following Him. By confessing to God, we show Him that we trust Him with everything. Knowing that He will still love us no matter what we confess, will in turn bring us closer to Him. By confessing first in our prayers, we experience a closer relationship with God, and we know we can trust Him with our requests.

Honour is when we worship God and declare what we know to be true about Him! Honour statements generally start with "God, you are -----." And we tell Him truths we know about Him from the Bible!

Ask is when we lay our requests before our God. This is often the first thing that comes to mind when we think of prayer, God tells us that we can ask anything of him. Asking after confessing and honouring Him helps us to be reverent in our requests.

Thank God for answers to prayer, things you see in nature, your family, anything! Saying thank you to God comes quite naturally to kids. Encouraging them to end their prayers with statements of thanks should be an easy way to encourage them as they pray!

Encouraging Questions

While asking children questions to check their understanding of a story is beneficial for checking recall, as children grow, we need to encourage and provide opportunity for children to ask questions about things that they don't understand. We want our children to see the word of God as truth, rather than a work of fiction, so we need to help children wrestle with their doubts and questions as they arise, while helping them see how all the threads are woven together into the tapestry of God's Big Story.

This kind of critical reading may seem counter-intuitive, but is an important part of developing a faith that can withstand the inevitable doubt as children become adolescents and young adults.

“It's okay to not know the answer to a question your child might have. Use the opportunity to show your child how to search in God's Word for wisdom. Be authentic by admitting that none of us understand everything. Only God is God, we must learn to trust what He says in the Bible. You can also tell your child you will get back to them within a certain time period so that you can investigate and/ or ask for guidance from someone you trust.”

(Bible: Open God's Word to Your Child)



Ideas

- Give space after reading a passage from the Bible and ask your child if they have any questions, if anything didn't make sense or there is anything they would like to dig deeper into.
- Have a book or piece of paper handy while you are reading a passage together. Invite and encourage children to write down questions or things that stand out to them as they go.
- Make studying the Bible a way of life, by constantly digging deeper into scriptural truths yourself.

9-12 YEARS

The pre-teen years are an important time to set the stage for the changes they will experience in the next few years- physically, emotionally, cognitively and socially. They can be emotionally charged times, and pre-teens can often be impulsive, acting without thinking in their pursuit of new experiences. They understand that people can take deliberate action to grow in Christlikeness and there can be great opportunities to see your child passionate about the Kingdom of God and to introduce them to new experiences that will grow their faith.

Pre-teens can sometimes be self-conscious and struggle with their self-image. These times provide wonderful opportunities to gently remind your child that their identity is found in God and that He loves them, just the way they are.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:14

Regarding the physical changes that they will soon be going through, parents are often concerned about overwhelming their preteen or encouraging premature curiosity by preparing them for adolescence too early, but this needs to be balanced against the reality that someone else might beat them to it! Of course, all children are different and you will be best positioned to know where your child is developmentally. Always ask God for wisdom about the timing of these important conversations.

Friendships become increasingly important to preteens, which makes encouraging positive friendships important. It is also critical to continually work on strengthening their family connections by enjoying meaningful and fun quality time together. The pre-teen years may be a good time to think (or talk to your child) about how your relationship will change over the next decade as you coach and guide them towards independence. It is also a great time to intentionally foster relationships with other Godly adults who can influence your child's life and encourage them in their faith.

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11



Ideas

- Set aside a special time or take your pre-teen on a short trip for some quality one-on-one time with lots of space for open communication and meaningful discussion. Make sure you make time for fun too!
- The Discovery Bible Map (see page next page) is one tool for encouraging children to engage deeply with scripture and apply it to their lives in meaningful, practical ways. It can be done individually, as a pair or as a family.
- Encourage your child to start a prayer journal. They can include special Bible verses, prayer requests, prayers of lament or prayer webs (see below) and even song lyrics and drawings or paintings that reflect their prayers to God. They may want to use special pens, stationary or the journal they received in their faith box, but any notebook will be fine. This can then become a powerful book to look back on as they grow up.
- Create a prayer web. Start in the centre with "God is..." and encourage your child to quietly pray and write (or draw) about who God is and the requests that are on their hearts, including people they can pray for or things they can thank God for. They can connect each new request to their "God is" statement in the centre using colours and different line shapes, as it turns into a prayer web to remind them who God is.
- When your child complains about the unfairness and injustice in the world, turn it into an opportunity to teach them how to pray prayers of lament. Brainstorm some things that feel unfair to them—either personal experiences or issues they know about in the world. Invite kids to pour out their "it's not fair prayers" to God in a letter, asking Him to fix it. Prayers of lament show that we understand things aren't the way God intended them to be. As a result of your explanation, kids are reminded that it's OK when we tell God that we trust Him to love us even when we don't understand what He is doing.



Resources

The Case for Christ: Investigating the Toughest Questions about Jesus (Young Readers Edition)
by Lee Strobel

Exploring the Bible: A Bible Reading Plan for Kids
by David Murray

The Bible Project (online):
Videos summarising the themes of different books of the Bible.

Discovery Bible Study Map

Ask

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What has been difficult?
- Have you followed what God showed you last week?
- Have you shared? How did it go?

Bible

Choose a Bible passage (see Scripture Lists at the end for ideas):

- Read the passage out loud.
- Read the passage again.

Close your Bible and retell the story.

Ask these questions:

- What does this tell us about God?
- What does this tell us about people?

Commit

- What will you do in response to what we've read?
- Who will you share this with?

Giving & Serving Focus

God has blessed every one of us with gifts, talents, and resources, including our children! And all of us can be looking for opportunities to use these blessings in a way that honours and glorifies God!

You might like to teach your children about giving a portion of their money to the church or specific missionaries as an offering to help others learn about Jesus. This helps remind our children (and ourselves) that we are dependent on God and stewards of what he has given us (rather than owners). Giving is one way that we show our love for God and that we want to obey him in every part of our lives. It is also a wonderful opportunity to participate in something bigger than ourselves with eternal value!

Along with our physical resources, God has given us gifts, talents and time. As those who believe in Jesus, we can glorify God through how we serve Him and others.



Ideas

- Spend some time talking with your child about the things that interest and concern them. If they are passionate about an area of service that will make it even more meaningful for them.
- Help your child find something that is a good fit for them.
- It could be as simple as writing an encouraging card or baking cookies for a neighbour or someone at church who is unwell, or something more regular.
- Notice what your child does well while they are serving and encourage them!
- After they serve, take some time to pray with your child, asking God to bless those they have served.

TEENAGERS

Let's face it, teenagers are a mystery. In Romans 11:34 the Apostle Paul says 'Who has known the mind of the Lord?', but sometimes it feels like we could ask 'who knows the mind of a teenager?'. They can be pretty confusing sometimes. Hormones are up and down and everything is just crazy!

What makes this more interesting is that they have no memory of the era of the floppy disk and cassette tape (maybe even CD's?) Whether they use social media or not, they don't have a memory of a world without it. Same with the smart phone, facetime & the beloved memes.

They live in an extremely diverse and often confusing world of ideas and beliefs. Many of the moral norms once held not all that long ago are not so normal anymore. Christianity isn't as accepted as it used to be. Knowledge of the faith is very minimal by most people outside the church.

The pace that the world is changing as they grow up means they are often teaching older generations about things like technology, rather than the other way around. They are one of the most distracted generations (Gen Z & Alpha) at an average of 4 hours spent on the phone each day (not even including the mega time stealer Netflix).

Why this is important to know and consider is because we need to be thinking through how to love and equip our teens to not only know about Jesus, but also know Him personally. It should be our first priority to do everything we can to help them know Him and also equip them to interact and reach the world around them.

But like what was said before, who knows the mind of a teenager? Let's explore some simple characteristic of middle and high schoolers and some things to help us in this journey.

Characteristics of Middle Schoolers (Grade 7-9)

- Starting to deal with issues around identity and self-image.
- Beginning to think critically about their worldview and the worldviews of others.
- Significant time of developing core beliefs and values.
- Often big questions and pressures surrounding relationships & sexual matters.
- Starting to think through what God's will for their life is.
- Prime time for spiritual disciplines to be regularly implemented.

Characteristics of High Schoolers (Grade 10-12)

- Conscientiously aware and socially active regarding the cultural issues surrounding them.
- Asking how their faith is consistent or contradictory with other beliefs.
- Continuing to develop ideas pertaining to personal identity and self-image.
- Learning to navigate social and cultural norms in relationships.
- Learning fiscal responsibility through work and stewardship.
- Exercising more independence and looking forward to life after high school.
- Capable of exercising more leadership responsibilities.



Ideas

- **Discovery:** create room for your teens to ask questions. Help them wrestle with life's questions rather than suppress them. You don't always have to know the answers, but you can always find out together. Maybe create a moment after dinner or devotions for questions? Or a question jar? Work toward being the primary people they get their answers from.
- **Quick to listen, slow to speak:** when doing devotions or discussing topics be quick to listen and slow to respond. People like to feel heard. Try asking questions to help them work things out for themselves. People seldom change without taking ownership of knowledge and wisdom for themselves.
- **Spiritual disciplines:** Building value into things like bible reading & prayer is important. Start by a setting a daily time for prayer and Bible reading both as a family and for them individually. There is plenty of good resources out there to help you.
- **Ownership:** another way to help them take ownership of their faith is to serve others at church. Serving with like-minded friends in this environment and the skills learned are priceless.
- **Quality time:** If possible have regular time one on one with your teen/s. Take them out on a date and do something fun. These are some of the most fondest memories and create room for great conversation and trust to be built.



Resources

YouVersion Bible App
(heaps of daily devotions, and you can even do them with other people online!)

The Bible Project (online):
Videos summarising the themes of different books of the Bible.

First 15 app or website
(devotional)

Gotquestions.org

Leading your child to Christ

A child's decision to follow Jesus is rarely one step-process, but rather can be comprised of a number of little steps as they grow in their understanding and experience of God and life.

Do your best to discern when your child is intellectually, spiritually and socially mature enough to make a commitment.

Here at WBC, we often use the following model to explain our need of a Saviour.



Once your child understands God plan, they may want to respond.

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. Romans 10:9-10

You can use the ABCs of Salvation to guide your child to pray (in their own words), telling God that they are sorry for their sins and asking for His forgiveness, believing that only Jesus can save them, and asking Him to be the Lord over every part of their lives.

It is an amazing privilege to help your child come to faith in Jesus Christ. If there is any way we can support you in this process, please don't hesitate to let one of our team know!

ABC's of Salvation

ADMIT to God that you are a sinner. The first people God created chose to sin and disobey God. Ever since then, all people have chosen to sin and disobey (Romans 3:23). Tell God you messed up and you are sorry for doing your own thing and turning away from Him through your thoughts, words, and actions. Repent, turn away from your sin. (Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9) Repent doesn't just mean turning from doing bad things to doing good things. It means turning from sin and even from your own good works and turning to Jesus, trusting only in Him to save you.

BELIEVE that Jesus is God's son and accept God's gift of forgiveness from sin. You must believe that only Jesus can save you and you cannot save yourself from your sin problem - not even by praying to God, going to church, or reading your Bible. Your faith or your trust is only in Jesus and what He did for you through His life, death, and resurrection. (Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)

CONFESS your faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Tell God and tell others what you believe. If Jesus is your Saviour, you are trusting only in Him to save you. Jesus is also Lord, which means He is in charge and calling the shots in your life. You can start following Him and doing what He says in the Bible. You are born again into a new life and look forward to being with God forever. (Romans 10:9-10, 13)

Connecting with God

Just focus on one passage to explore using the Discovery Bible Study Map to guide you.

Scripture list:

How Do I Pray to God? - Matthew 6: 5-15

Who Does God Listen to & Welcome? - Luke 18: 9-17

Ancient Examples of Prayer (by a man after God's own heart) - Psalm 27: 7-14, Psalm 51: 1-7, Psalm 139

God is Not Far From You - Acts 17: 24-31

Jesus' Invite to You - John 14: 1-6, Matthew 11: 28-30

Together as a family

Just focus on one passage to explore using the Discovery Bible Study Map to guide you.

Scripture list:

Do not worry - Matt 6:25-34

The Good Samaritan - Luke 10: 25-37

How to pray - Matt 6: 5-21

Thinking about good things - Philippians 2: 12-18

Friends lowering man through roof - Luke 5:17-39

Jesus heals with mud - John 9:1-12

Build your house upon the rock - Matt 7:24-27

Lost sheep or Lost Coin - Luke 15: 1-7 OR 8-10

WBC Ministries

WBC Kids Church

Little Fishies Playtime

Kids Night Out

Holiday Kids Club

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WBC Kids Church (Sun 9:15-10:30am)

At Kids Church we are passionate about kids following Jesus! We love to have fun and get creative as we learn about God's plan for our lives through stories, sharing time, worship, prayer, games and craft.

Little Fishies Playtime (Mon & Fri 9:30-11:30am)

Little Fishies Playtime provides opportunities for play with a purpose in a friendly, supportive and caring environment. The focus is on ingredients for play such as social interaction, enthusiasm, variety and a balance of structured and unstructured activities.

Boys' Brigade (Tue 6:30-8:30pm)

The Boys' Brigade is a non-denominational and international Christian uniformed organisation. Boys' Brigade is a four-sided programme which aims at the all-round development of each boy - educational, physical, spiritual and social (based on Luke 2:52).

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Boys' Brigade

Girls' Brigade

Discovery Youth

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Girls' Brigade (Tue 6:30-8pm)

The Girls' Brigade is part of an international Christian youth organisation which supports the family, serves in the community and meets the needs of girls today, operating through the local church. The well-planned programme covers a wide range of activities which help the physical, mental and spiritual growth of the girls.

Discovery Youth (Fri 6-9pm)

Discovery Youth get together every Friday night during school term and run fun activities, go on outings and talk about the bigger things in life.

Kids Night Out (Fri 6-8:30pm once a term)

A fun-filled themed night out for the kids and a night off for the parents.

Holiday Kids Club (3 days from 8:30am-3pm once a year)

3 amazing days of stories, games, craft, food and fun during the July school holidays.



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The joy of parenting can be spent on cultivating environments for our children's faith to grow, teaching them how to cultivate a love relationship with Jesus as we cultivate our own, living lives authentically in front of them so that they become eyewitnesses to our own transformation.

(Michelle Anthony, "Spiritual Parenting" 2010)

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