



Discipling Our Children

Text: Mark 10: 13-16

Care and Bridging Pastor Dan Slagle

1. When it comes to discipleship, the single greatest gift we can give to our children is to be diligent disciples ourselves.
 - a. Describe how a “walk with God” was or wasn’t modeled for you in your own upbringing.
 - b. What would you like to see repeated from your own upbringing? What would you like to see redeemed or changed for the better?
2. Read Galatians 5:19-23. Our kids learn from how we live. Are we modeling what it means to be a disciple? Do we prioritize God’s Word, prayer, worship, serving others?
 - a. What are you struggling with or what have you struggled with that you hope your kids don’t see modeled in you?
 - b. What areas of discipleship and fruit of the Spirit would you like to see developed in your kids that you want to work on modeling?
3. Discipleship moments are capturing and leveraging opportunities in the course of everyday life for the purpose of gospel-centered conversations. Can you think of a time you had an unplanned conversation about spiritual matters with your family? How did it go?
4. Jesus captured and leveraged discipleship moments often. Read through some scriptural examples and consider how Jesus used these moments to disciple His followers.
 - a. Mark 10:35-45
 - b. Luke 11:37-12:3
5. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Looking more closely at verse 7, where do you see those times in your family’s rhythm? Where are you intentionally and regularly talking about the things of God with your family? If you are currently childless, where might God be calling you to invest in the lives of families or children around you?

Challenge: How can you take the things that your child experiences this week to teach the gospel? How can you use social media, or their favorite television show to teach the gospel? Do some pre-work today and think through one way you can use something from their everyday life to teach the gospel.

Prayer: Loving Father, Your Son Jesus was so obedient that He humbled Himself to death on the cross (Philippians 2:8). His prayer was, "Yet not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39). Jesus was so passionate about obedience that He said, "My food . . . is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work" (John 4:34). His time on earth provides a real-life example for us to follow.

I desire to be like Jesus, but so often fall short of my goal. Some days I imagine You are up in heaven, thinking, "How many times do I have to tell him/her?" Please forgive my lack of diligence in following Your directions.

I ask that You will give me a humble, obedient spirit that desires to wholeheartedly obey Your commands. I pray with David, "Oh that my ways were steadfast in obeying Your decrees! . . . Teach me, O Lord, to follow Your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding and I will keep Your law and obey it with all my heart" (Psalm 119:5, 33-34). I pray my children will see in me a passion for doing Your will that inspires them to follow You wholeheartedly.

Your heart is filled with pain over sin, yet You are gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love (Genesis 6:5-6, Exodus 34:6, Psalm 145:8). I find it grievous and frustrating when my children do not obey me. Please fill me with Your Spirit to enable me to provide correction as You would, in a gracious and loving way. After all, it is easier for my children to obey me when I give advice gently and patiently, than when I am in "drill sergeant mode." When my children are disobedient, please give me Your wisdom so that I may "govern" them in a discerning way, distinguishing between right and wrong (1 Kings 3:9). Help me to notice and give them appropriate recognition when they do obey.

I pray for my children, _____ and _____. I don't want them to do the right thing just because they have to. Rather, I ask that You will bless them with obedient hearts that desire to obey You and others in authority. Please help my children to keep their way pure by living according to Your Word. May they be diligent in seeking You with all of their hearts so that they will not stray from Your commands.

I pray that because _____ and _____ have hidden Your Word in their hearts, they will be kept from sinning against You (Psalm 119:9-11). As they grow up, I pray they will guard Your teachings as the apple of their eye. Bind them on their fingers, Lord, and write them on the tablet of their hearts (Proverbs 7:1-3).

We read in 1 John 2:5-6, "But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did." This is my prayer for our family – that we will obey Your Word and walk as Jesus walked, in complete obedience to You. Amen.

<http://www.kidsofintegrity.com/lessons/obedience/parents-prayer>

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Recommended Resources for Parents

Websites:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/> (email luann.riley@faithbridge.org for free account access provided by Faithbridge Church)

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/>

<http://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/>

Books: <http://faithbridge.org/resource-center/>

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Trip

The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Give Them Grace by Elyse Fitzpartick and Jessica Thompson

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

Power of a Praying Parent by Stormie Ormartian

Additional Resources:

http://thevillagechurch.net/mediafiles/uploaded/f/0e5004152_1461252385_family-discipleship-guide-2016.pdf

<http://www.radical.net/resources/family-worship-guides/>