

Sustainable Discipleship: Teaching Your Children the Love of Jesus through the Seasons

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THE FOUNDATION OF DISCIPLESHIP

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. – John 15:5

- All discipleship is an _____ of your personal walk with Jesus.
- A disciple of Jesus must:
 - Worship
 - Connect
 - Grow
 - Serve
 - Share
- Where are you growing? What are you ignoring? Where do you need to grow?

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. – 2 Peter 1:8

LIFESTYLE PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

⁴ *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.* – Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Worship God by falling more in love with Him every day (vv. 4-5)

- Our children tend to _____ what we love (...especially when they are younger).
- How would your kids answer the question, “What do your parents love most?”
- Pray liberally (1 Th. 5:17; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Pt. 5:7)

Bring God’s Word into your heart (v. 6)

- What is in your heart will come out of your _____.
- Read, study, memorize, meditate, wrestle to obey, etc.
 - o See Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1; 19; 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Bring God's Word into your home (vv. 7-8)

- Teach the Word formally and informally

FORMAL OPPORTUNITIES	INFORMAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Helpful Tip: When your children are young, teach frequently with a low depth. As they age, teach less frequently but with a greater depth.

Bring God's Word into your community (v. 9)

- Effective discipleship is a _____ project.
- Find ways to get your kids not just plugged in to church, but serving in church.

Connect it all to God's story of redemption (vv. 20-23)

²⁰ "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?' ²¹ then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²² And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. ²³ And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. – Deuteronomy 6:20-23

The Parents' Job Description as Disciple-Makers of Their Children

1. We are to faithfully hold God's high standard before our children.
2. We are to lovingly confront their wrong choices/actions and help them see their hearts.
3. We are to be humbly honest about our own heart struggles.
4. We talk to them again and again about the grace to be found in Christ Jesus as we model His patience and forgiveness.

Borrowed from *Parenting: Gospel Principles that Can Radically Change Your Family*, Paul Tripp, pg. 161.

FINAL THOUGHTS ON DISCIPLESHIP

- Set _____ expectations.
- Remember that discipleship is a _____, not an event.
- The goal of discipleship is that our children grow up to be _____ of God. (Deut. 6:4-5)