



Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

April 3, 2022

Family Discipleship (part 2)

Article by Tim Tripp

In my last article, I discussed a four-part series of articles dealing with the topic of family discipleship. The idea came from reading an article on the AWANA website called "8 Ways to Incorporate Discipleship into your Family Routine." The author's name is not given. It is a very practical guide with great suggestions on easy ways to be intentional in making discipleship a key focus in the home.

In the last article, we looked at the first two items. They were 1. Make Bible Time Special and 2. Keep a Family Prayer Journal. Both of those suggestions are not difficult but bring Bible reading and prayer into focus daily.

The next two items will be the focus of this article. They are as follows.

3. **Memorize the same verse as a family.** Commit to memorizing a passage of Scripture as a family. Give your younger children just a few words and encourage your older children to learn larger chunks. Recite your verses to each other. Kids are excellent at keeping parents accountable and will gladly correct any mistakes!

4. **Read quality Christian books together.** Spend time reading about faithful Christ-followers. Your children will learn more about history, courage, perseverance and the precious gift of God's Word as they follow stories of missionaries, pastors and others who have used their time to advance the Gospel.

Memorizing scripture is an effective way to help kids to always keep God's word with them. In Old Testament times the Israelite people were not as literate as they had become by New Testament times. Memorizing scripture was foundational to keeping the faith going through generations of the servants of YAWEH. In Deuteronomy chapter six, Moses recorded God's instructions to the Hebrew people that they should talk about the commands of God as they go about daily life. They were to tie them to their hands and bind them to their foreheads and write them on their doorframes. Every Hebrew old enough to speak knew Deuteronomy 6:4-5, "*Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*" They repeated this phrase daily. Even in our time when a quick "Google search" can turn up any passage you want, it is still a good practice to commit verses to memory as a family and review them often.

My family used Christian books that set up scenarios where the kids had to decide the right thing to do. One such book was called "Sticky Situations" by Betsy Schmitt. (Her books are still available on Amazon.com) The scenarios always draw children to the faith choice and suggest scripture to back up why the best choice is God's way. There are many other books that could be read together. Reading through just a chapter at dinner time would be a much better back drop than TV or being on individual smart phones. These times will create memories that the kids will talk about and laugh about for the rest of their lives.

What I love about these suggestions are that they are intentional. They are centered on building faith and knowing God. I hope anyone reading this can put them to use and make discipleship a focus in your home.

ONLINE CONNECT CARD

We would love to connect with you! Please fill out our Online Connect Card at...

westsidear.org/connect



Last Week:

Sunday Class & Conversation - 118

Worship - 244

Giving - \$10,882

Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 109

Prayer Requests

Carol Harrison is recovering from neck and carpal tunnel surgery this week. Please pray for lessened pain and rapid recovery.

Carol White recovering at home from outpatient surgery March 31st. Please pray that she will recover quickly and be able to join us again soon.

Chris Johnson, nephew of Carol White, continues to battle colon cancer. Please keep him in your prayers for effective treatment and healing.

Tami Robinson received good news that her treatment has been very effective and no new spots of cancer were found at her recent trip to MD Anderson. Please continue to keep her in your prayers for complete healing.

RENEW Campus Minister

We are excited to announce that Grayson Taylor will be the new Campus Minister for RENEW. Grayson, Amanda and Shepherd Taylor will be moving back to Russellville in May after completing the school year at Crowley's Ridge College where they currently serve.

We look forward to working with them and seeing what God has in store for RENEW in the coming months.

Welcome Home Taylors!

Easter Egg Hunt

West Side Youth will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt following morning worship on Sunday April 17th. Donations of plastic eggs and candy (no chocolate or nuts please) are appreciated. For more information see Mark Hixson.

For information like this and more visit www.westsidear.org & subscribe