



Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

March 27, 2022

Family Discipleship (part 1)

Article by Tim Tripp

I have a cousin who works for the AWANA organization. He is a regional director and coaches churches and ministers about how to effectively use their material. He said that since the pandemic started, his organization has really focused on family discipleship for children. They have developed curriculum that can be used in both a Bible school and activity setting with larger groups or in a home and family setting with just mom and/or dad and the kids. I love the focus. I believe it is both Biblical and crucial for Christian parents to be intentional about discipling their children and that is even more important during the pandemic when Bible classes were limited or eliminated altogether.

For those of you who may want to check out AWANA online, be aware that their curriculum reflects their roots in Baptist theology. You should be able to see places where their theology differs from ours (Restoration Movement/Churches of Christ theology) and teach around those things. If you have questions, give me a call.

For parents and grandparents out there, I would like to use this space to discuss information from a flyer published by the AWANA organization entitled "8 Ways to Incorporate Discipleship into Your Family Routine." In each of the next four articles, I will discuss two of the 'ways' listed in the article. Here are the first two.

1. Make Bible Time Special. Find a way to make Bible time special. Use comfy bean bag chairs, read around the firepit, ask a different child to lead each night, or include special friends or family members (even if it's online!). Doing these things make Bible time memorable family time.

2. Keep a Family Prayer Journal. Telling someone you're going to pray for them is easy; remembering to pray for them can be more difficult. Create a family prayer journal and write down specific prayer requests and praises, and record answers to your prayer. Commit to praying for your friends, family and church by using old Christmas cards or a church directory or writing names on popsicle sticks. Keep your prayer journal close to your table or in your car so you can pray through the requests and praises when you gather as a family.

Bible study and prayer are foundational for any discipleship effort. Reading the Bible, praying and worshipping together as a family can be high quality family time and will be time that children remember for the rest of their lives. If you don't have a family devotional at a regular times either daily or several times a week, you may be missing out on one of the most amazing times for discipleship that is available. Your kids will benefit greatly from the family time together and those seeds of faith will be planted and begin to grow through each experience.

Bible study and prayer are not the only things you can do for family discipleship but they are an important part of a family routine in a family that is determined to be intentional about discipleship.

I would love to hear your stories about family devotionals in your families. If you do them, please let me know what you do and how it goes. If you do not, let me encourage you to begin doing them right away. You will be amazed at the impact of that family time together. God will use it to grow a strong faith in each of your children.

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 - \$9601

Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 65

Prayer Requests

Carol Harrison will be having neck and carpal tunnel surgery this week. Please pray for successful surgeries and rapid recovery.

Linda Oliver is doing well following a brief hospitalization for dehydration and low potassium. Thank you for the prayers on her behalf.

Dick French is currently awaiting surgery in April. Please continue to keep him in your prayers for restored health.

Tami Robinson is currently in Houston for some scans, bloodwork and appointments to hopefully make a long term plan on keeping the cancer in control. Please continue to keep her in your prayers for her health to be completely restored.

Jonah Vanderheiden is hospitalized at UAMS recovering from a biopsy of the tissue around his eye, and receiving antibiotic treatment. Please keep Jonah in your prayers with his ongoing health complications.

Miriam Hernandez is currently in a knee brace following an injury and is awaiting an appointment for diagnosis. Please keep her in your prayers as she has limited mobility.

Pie Auction Fundraiser

Camp Caudle Chili Lunch & Pie Auction Fundraiser TODAY following morning worship, in the Family Center!!

Lunch is provided, but there will be a place to donate if you'd like to. This Pie Auction is a huge blessing to kids who might not otherwise get to go to camp and your generosity provides 90% of the scholarships provided to kids across our state. So please stay after morning worship and support Camp Caudle. Everyone is welcome even if you don't buy pie! You don't want to miss the fun!

CR STEP STUDY

There will be an Informational meeting for a Men's Celebrate Recovery Step Study on Monday, March 28th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Family Center dining area.

We will discuss the following:

What is a step study?

What are the materials needed and the cost involved?

What type of commitment is required?

What are the desired results from completion?

Where and what time will we be meeting Monday evenings?

Contact James Clements for more information

Women's Step Study will be meeting in Room 2 of the Main building on Mondays at 5:30 and is currently open for all.