



HOW TO DISCIPLE YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME

By Pastor Becky Lim

The task of parenting is both a privilege and a responsibility. God has entrusted and called you to be parents, and it is your primary ministry to teach your children God's ways according to the Scripture. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 teaches you how to disciple your children, as it says,

"Hear, O Israel! 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 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 away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again. Tie them to your hands as a reminder, and wear them on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

God has placed your children under your authority so that you will teach your children to bear God's image well. It is often not easy to know how to disciple children, so here are a few tools you can use to make disciples of Jesus in your own homes.

1. Feed Your Own Growth

Before you begin to disciple your children, the best place to start is yourself. To make disciples, you first have to be a disciple yourself. The word disciple means "a personal follower of Jesus". I would encourage you as parents to **feed your own growth**. Spend time growing and understanding the gospel.

Find quiet time to deepen your knowledge of the Lord and to enrich your personal relationship with Him. Do not neglect this quiet time with God, it is important to feed your own growth and experience Christ in your personal relationship with Him. If Christ is not real to you, you cannot make Him real to your children. You will not teach them to love Him, if you do not. As you spend time with God through your own personal growth, you will get to know the author and maker of the universe. And as you grow, you will have experiences to share with your own children.

2. Direct Your Children's Heart Towards God

As parents, it is your responsibility to **direct your children's heart towards God**, by honouring Him in their daily lives. When you point your children to God's Word, it allows them to know how they should live. Talk to them about God wherever you are. Make it an integral part of life; make God a part of your everyday experiences so that your children will love God. Teach them how to pray so they are not afraid or ashamed, show God's love to others so they know how to treat others rightly, share the gospel with them often so when they are ready they will accept Jesus as their personal Saviour, help them to know how to repent of their sins and who to turn to, and have intentional conversations with them about our Almighty God. For it says in Proverbs 22:6, *"train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."*

3. Have Family Worship Together

Develop rhythms and habits that work. Make it purposeful and authentic to **have family worship together**. As you come together, make it a priority to learn God's Word, pray and sing as a family. Family worship does not have to look like the worship that happens every week at church. Your family worship can be unique to your own. For example, you can have a 15 minutes Bible story twice a week during dessert night. Allow your children to ask questions during family time together, as this will help them learn and grow by thinking

for themselves instead of being spoon fed. When the disciples were with Jesus, they often asked questions. It may terrify you as a parent when your child asks questions that you cannot answer. It's okay if you do not know the answer. The best part about not knowing the answer is that you can explore the Word of God as a family and learn together.

Here are step by step guidelines to help you start family devotions:

[Family Devotion Guide](#)

[A Simple Way to Start Family Devotions](#)

4. Teach by Example

Teach by example. We all know that children are good at copying others, especially their parents because they spend so much time watching your actions and listening to what you say. Children bear your image, but who do you (as parents) reflect? Have you asked yourself, "Does my child see Jesus Christ in me?". God has created you in His image, so that you can reflect Him. How do you teach by example? By pursuing holiness and modeling Christ in character and submission to God. As well, model Christ in prayer and in dependence on Him. When you do these, you teach by example and your children will follow after your example.

5. Correct Your Children in the Lord

Discipline and disciple share the same root word, therefore they come hand in hand. It is vital to **correct your children in the Lord**, so it leads them towards righteousness instead of destruction. God often corrects us when we do wrong. He corrects us out of love in order that we may reflect His holiness. As parents, you must do the same for your children and provide correction when they need it. When you discipline and correct your children, remember that the gospel should be central in your correction. Correct in love and not out of anger, for discipline in love leads to righteousness.

It is a high calling to be a parent so don't take it lightly. Lean heavily on God for wisdom by having a regular diet of prayer, studying and memorizing God's Words. As you live each day by the guidelines in the Word of God, may He bless your personal time and family time together, and may you grow and experience more of Him than ever before! You are not alone. God is with you and He has given you Fraser Lands Church, the church community to walk alongside and support you. Let us grow and do life together!