



# A DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM For Families with Young Children

Created in partnership with West London Alliance Church, London, Canada. Adapted from *Family Connect*, a large-group family ministry curriculum © 2018 West London Alliance Church. All Rights Reserved. [www.wlchurch.org](http://www.wlchurch.org)

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The "NIV" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

All other content is © 2020 Trans World Radio Canada, and may be used in any way you like as long as you use it with the purpose of reaching the world for Christ and do not charge for the use of the material. See more license details at [www.twr.ca/licensing](http://www.twr.ca/licensing).

## SHARING FAITH WITH OUR KIDS

### **When was the last time you had a really great spiritual discussion as a family?**

If you're like many Christian families, you'd like to be more intentional about really leading your kids in faith, but you're not sure where to start. Maybe no one ever showed you what it looks like, or you have tried and it didn't go all that well. This might be a source of guilt or frustration for you. When you read passages like this one are you inspired or intimidated?

*"...he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments..." Psalm 78:5-7 (ESV)*

## SHARING FAITH DURING UNUSUAL TIMES

Some have observed that these days in social isolation as a family give us the potential for more time with our kids – but because few routines are normal and stress is high, starting yet another new thing might seem too big. But because our routines are new, it can also be the perfect time to do something you've always wanted to do!

When we ask parents about their desires to create a family who follows Jesus together, the most common response is that they would like to be more intentional but they just don't know how to start! What we are offering here is that starting place – a way to get young families into the Bible together, learning and praying and worshipping Jesus. A place for children to hear from their parents about faith, a place for children to explore and ask questions and a place where families can see how learning to follow Jesus can change their family for the better.

God designed the family to help us grow in our faith. We hope these easy to use lessons will be a blessing to your family or Church.

**JOIN US AS WE LEARN TO BE FAMILIES WHO FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER!**

## WHAT IS *FAMILIES FOLLOWING JESUS?*

We have provided you with all you need to have a weekly lesson with your family, and daily dinner table Bible times. Each week will explore a single simple topic and take families into the Bible to look at the life of Jesus.

Each week includes:

1. A short article for parents (or other adult) encouraging them with this week's topic
2. A family discipleship lesson – it will take about an hour with just a little preparation
3. Five days of Bible-time – short daily readings and questions to start a conversation
4. A few other activities are listed for you to choose from that brings learning to life

## WHO IS IT FOR?

This material was designed for an adult, or adults, and the children in their care, such as parents and their kids. It was written for young children in mind – ages 4-11. Older and younger children may still benefit, and parents can adapt material to the needs and attention span of their family. Side bars give tips for adapting content for children who are older or with different needs. Lessons are designed to be interactive and fun.

- Families could use the lesson as home-based Sunday School or evening Church
- Grandparents could do these lessons with grandchildren over the internet
- Children's Ministry staff or volunteers could use this with families midweek through video call software or livestreams over social media
- Several families could get together through video calls to do the lesson together
- Please adapt this material to your needs and situation!

## HOW IT WORKS

Choose a time to gather as a family so parents can lead the discipleship lesson. It can happen any day of the week or any time that works for your family!

Then, take a few moments every day to continue the conversation using our daily Bible-time guide. This could be done at breakfast or dinner, before bed or any other time! Go at a pace that works well for your family and do what you are able to!

## HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD TO FOLLOW JESUS?

Leading your child to Christ is the greatest privilege and responsibility of every Christian parent. It is our job, but we often get help from our church community and other ministries to help our children understand and receive salvation. But our child's first and best teacher is their parents.

1. Pray that your children would be saved.
2. Model following Jesus faithfully, let them see you choosing him!
3. Share the gospel in many conversations, in regular moments of your life, over and over.
4. Model grace and forgiveness in your family. Remind them it is because of the gospel.
5. Be aware that a single prayer asking Jesus to forgive their sins is the start of many steps towards Jesus, but a child's life may have many steps both toward and away.
6. Be careful not to give your children Christianity in form but without power – requiring obedience of them in their own strength, requiring that they act like a Christian without being transformed by God's love and his Word.
7. Let them see how following Jesus makes a difference for their family and for the world.
8. It is God's responsibility to save them, and their individual responsibility to respond in faith to him. You are responsible for teaching them the truth, and to obey it, and are not soured on following Jesus to the best of your ability. Not every one of our children will be saved, this is the difficult reality.

### THE GOSPEL PRESENTATION USED IN THIS MATERIAL:

1. All of us have sin in us and make sinful choices – we are sinners.
2. Sin causes all the bad things in the world, including feeling angry, hurt, sad, scared and far away from the God who made us and loves us.
3. God wants to take away our sin – to take our guilt and shame and fear. He sent Jesus to take the punishment our sins deserved, so God could forgive us.
4. God will give us a new heart that is able to choose not to sin, a place in His forever family, new work to do, and the Holy Spirit when we trust Him to take our sins away.
5. This is what God wants to do for us – to make us new inside (that's called 'regeneration'), make us not guilty of our sin anymore (that's called 'justification') and to make us more like Jesus (that's called 'sanctification').