



4/14
Family Challenge

90-Day **ADVENTURE**

An Experience

All About Passing

on the Faith



**Dr. Scott Turansky
and Ed Miller**



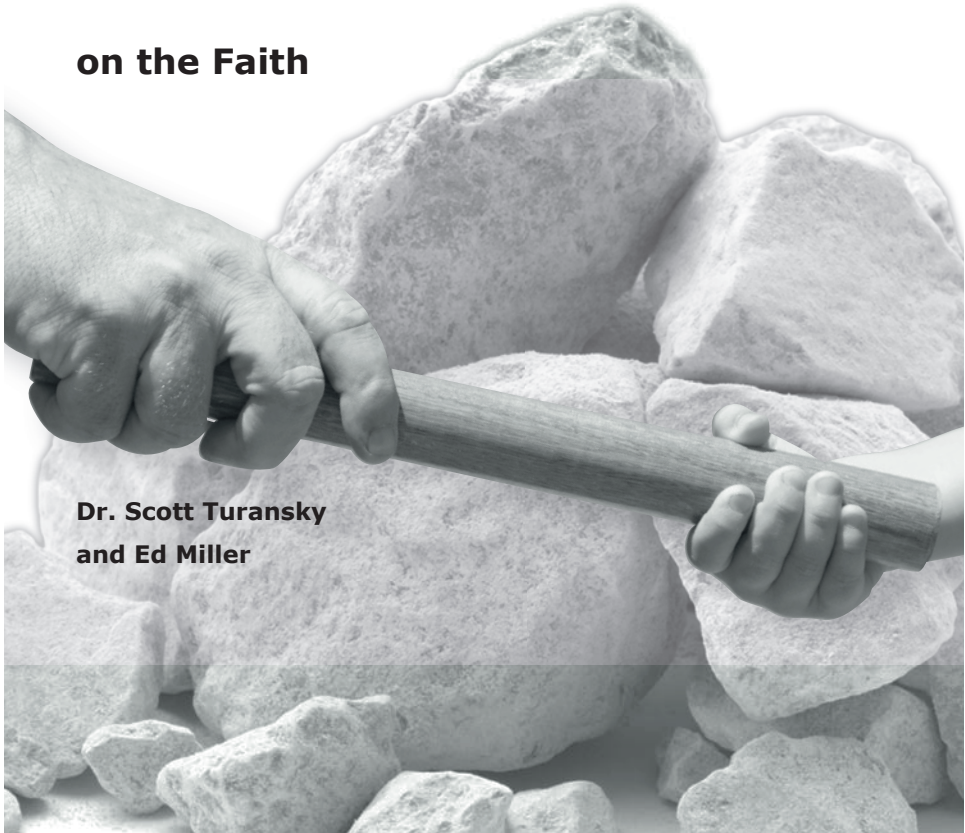
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National Center for Biblical Parenting, 76 Hopatcong Drive, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-4136

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4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure
Dr. Scott Turansky and Ed Miller

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The names of people who have come to the National Center for Biblical Parenting for counseling have been changed. Some illustrations combine individual stories in order to protect confidentiality. Stories of the authors' children have been used by permission.

The National Center for Biblical Parenting is a nonprofit corporation committed to the communication of sound, biblical parenting principles through teaching, counseling, and publishing written, audio, and video materials.

To obtain a complete resource list or have Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller present their material live, you may contact the National Center for Biblical Parenting, 76 Hopatcong Drive, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-4136, (609) 771-8002 or visit the website at: biblicalparenting.info

You may also want to take online parenting courses at Biblical Parenting University. Learn more at biblicalparentinguniversity.com

You may email us at parent@biblicalparenting.org

Praise for the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure

Here is what people are saying who have taken the 90-Day Adventure:

I like the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure program. You're focusing on the core of the 4/14 challenge as you work with the parents. I really like the approach of the 90-Days in which parents commit to doing spiritual training with their kids once a week and how you get the kids on board. What you're doing is foundational to the 4/14 Window challenge.

**—Dr. Luis Bush, 4/14 Movement Servant Catalyst and
Transform World 2020 Servant**

What could happen if families all over the world would accept the family challenge and participate in the 90 day adventure? I look forward to seeing God move as this program equips parents to pass their faith to the next generation. I endorse this program and encourage families to seriously consider participating in this important and historical call to action.

—Rick Martin M.Ed., Principal Cornerstone Christian School

If families in your church have the desire to pass faith to their children, but don't know where to start, the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure is THE PLACE to begin! Lead your families in a weekly adventure and you will find you are equipping parents to share their faith journey, while building relationship with their children. Parents will also be encouraging their children to have faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and teaching them how pass their faith on as well. The children will love the 90-Day Adventure and encourage their parents to continue a family time in their home each week!

**—Julie Kurz, Family/Children's Ministries Consultant,
Reconnect Ministries**

The 90-Day Adventure has been an invaluable resource. As a minister to families, it has given me great ideas and tools to equip and encourage parents to pass on their faith to their children. As a busy parents to four children, my husband and I have appreciated the renewed vision to disciple our children and the clear , simple weekly lessons to follow through.

**—Angela Weisz, Children's, Faith at Home Director,
Table Mountain Church, Colorado City, CO**

My deepest thanks go out to Scott Turansky and Ed Miller for the insight and creativity that went into these materials. As a father, they have helped me to celebrate some deep, meaningful family Bible times with my kids, with very little preparation time on my part. Hearing my six-year-old daughter describe her memories of praying to ask Jesus into her heart sent chills down my spine. And as a pastor I delight in putting these materials into the hands of anxious parents who want to be positive spiritual influencers of their children, but don't feel equipped to do so. I know that as they invest these 30 minutes a week into their family's spiritual life, they will see great results. Thanks, Scott and Ed!

—Denes House, Pastor, Trinity Alliance Church, Rochester, NY

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The Adventure of Passing on the Faith

If you ask parents today, “Who is responsible for the spiritual development of children, they often reply, “We are.” But if you ask them how they do that, then many say, “That’s why I take them to church, to Awana, or to a Christian School.” More and more parents however are recognizing the importance of being spiritual leaders in their own homes. They want help, support, encouragement, and ideas. The 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure does just that. Currently being used in churches, ministries, and Schools, the faith is taking on more meaning and passing it on is becoming more common.

This book started with an idea in our office. Within in just two short weeks the Adventure began as a pilot in our own church, Calvary Chapel Living Hope. Others heard about it quickly and more and more churches have joined in. It became clear early on that writing down the things we were learning both in our church and in others would facilitate the Adventure for others. Yes, you could take the idea and create it all yourself and use your own curriculum. Some are doing just that. We continue to learn from others, develop the website associated with this adventure and hone it down in strategic ways.

In the first three chapters you’ll learn what the 4/14 Movement is, where the Family Challenge fits in globally as well as in the United States, and how your Adventure is part of something big that’s happening globally. Every church is unique. There isn’t just one solution for Family Ministry that’s good for all churches. But all churches committed to Family Ministry involve parents in one way or another.

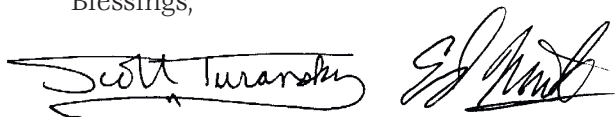
4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure

We, at the National Center for Biblical Parenting, spend our time developing parents. We know their challenges, their needs, and their desires. That's why this Adventure empowers the kids, not just the parents, makes spiritual training fun, and helps parents do what they want to do, draw their families closer together.

We thank you for your interest in the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure. We hope you'll share what you do with us. We'll use your ideas to make the Adventure better. More and more churches, schools, and ministries will empower spiritual training because of the work we are all doing. After all, we all are striving toward the same goal: to pass the faith on to the next generation.

May God richly bless you and those you work with as you move forward.

Blessings,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Scott Turansky' and the second is 'Ed Miller'.

Dr. Scott Turansky and Ed Miller

CHAPTER 1

How to Use This Book

The 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure is designed to provide a practical yet flexible tool for churches, ministries, Christian schools and individual families who want to take serious steps forward with discipleship at home. We hope that these are only beginning steps for most and that the adventure grows and spreads well beyond the 90 days of the adventure. It's our desire that this is a springboard for churches to enhance family ministry, Christian schools to get parents more involved in spiritual training at home, and for families to grow spiritually together.

Excitement is growing today among churches, ministries, schools, and parents to band together to reach and empower the next generation for Christ. This is happening all around the world and the 4/14 Window Movement is taking a leading role in this mission. We can all work to reach the next generation on our own, but we gain valuable encouragement and discover new ideas to spur us on when we work together. Let us explain a bit more of the history by asking a few questions.

What is 4/14?

The numbers 4 and 14 come from the research that suggests that 85% of people who come to Christ in the United States do so between the ages of 4 and 14. Those numbers then become symbolic of children and youth of all ages. The 4/14 Window Movement is a global emphasis on helping kids come to Christ, valuing their spiritual growth, and helping them grow spiritually. The 4/14 Movement has several tracks, all targeted to reach the next generation for Jesus Christ. There's a Media Track, Missions Track,

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Education Track, Children's Ministry in the Local Church Track. The work in this book emphasizes the goals and direction of the Family Track, which places an emphasis on parents as the primary trainers of their children supported by the church and Christian school.

Why Family Challenge?

The family is the primary place of spiritual nurture for children. God designed the home to be a discipleship center and has given a mandate to parents to pass the faith on to their kids. Intentional spiritual training in the home is the single strongest encouragement for kids to catch the faith and know how to implement it in their own lives.

The 4/14 Family Challenge is a world-wide emphasis to strengthen the family spiritually and to empower parents to pass the faith on to their children. Outreach is important for any Christian. It's part of our calling before Christ. There's no more important place than the home to extend the gospel.

Why 90 Days?

90 days seems to be a manageable time frame for launching a new enterprise in the home, school, or church. It's our goal to provide multiple models that will help families get started or fan the flames of discipleship at home. This book is a versatile tool, providing you with many choices for your particular situation. Whatever direction you choose, the 90-Day Adventure can be a great tool to make an impact on spiritual growth in families today.

Why use this curriculum? Well, to be honest, you can use any curriculum for this adventure. You might want to take the idea and create your own. If you're looking for a good spiritual growth curriculum that embraces the whole church or school, then you might find the ideas in this book strategic for your goals. One thing in particular that makes this curriculum work is that it involves the initiative of young people in their families. It also provides the option for including all adults in your church in this adventure with a focus on passing on the faith. You'll want to take a careful look at that part of this book.

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Some Things to Remember

We want you to be successful with your 90-Day Adventure. This book is designed to give you everything you'll need to plan and organize it. You may also want to use the Family Challenge book. Read it first for yourself and then make it available for everyone involved in your 90-Day Adventure. More information about how to obtain the book is provided in Chapter 3, Launching Your Adventure.

Several churches and schools have already completed the adventure. We've included their suggestions and ideas to enhance this program in www.biblicalparenting.org/90days.asp. These ideas will provide a variety of models for you to consider as you plan, as well as tools and testimonies.

There are a few other things that we'll provide for you. These are provided by the National Center for Biblical Parenting. We are committed to taking strong leadership to move the 4/14 Family Challenge forward. It's people like you that we want to invest in because you're doing a significant work. Here are some more tools to help you as you move forward.

We have created a closed Facebook Group that you can join. This group is called the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Pilot Adventure. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/312828465494861/>)

Leaders, parents, and youth are sharing ideas, posing questions, and asking for help. This is a community where we support and encourage one another.

One of our staff at the National Center for Biblical Parenting is available for personal consultations with those who are involved in a 90-Day Adventure.

In order to be part of this adventure, we ask that you use the 4/14 branding to officially affiliate with the 4/14 Family Challenge. We have created a number of Web Badges that you can use for this purpose. We encourage you to use these liberally on your website and any other communication you use. You can find all the resources you need and more at www.biblicalparenting.org/90days.asp.

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The 90-Day Adventure in Your Church

God called the church to be a discipleship center where believers learn not only to grow as individuals, but also to develop godly patterns in their roles and relationships in life. In particular, God called parents to be the primary spiritual leaders of their children.

This adventure doesn't just tell parents to teach their children spiritually, but it shows them how. The interaction between parents and children generated through the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure builds spiritual dynamics in family life that can have a lasting impact.

Start by deciding whom you're going to include in this adventure. You may decide to target this adventure just for parents or you may want to include the entire church body in the adventure. This is a great way to get everyone thinking about sharing their faith in their daily lives.

Next you'll want to plan an exciting launch that emphasizes passing the faith on to others. Your pastor might preach a sermon using ideas from sermons already preached on this subject found at www.biblicalparenting.org/90days.asp.

Have people sign up to be part of the adventure and have a prayer and commitment time to dedicate the next three months to the Lord.

The 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure is designed to facilitate three things in family life: building relationship, sharing scripture, and practicing faith. You're asking parents to set aside 20-30 minutes each week for a "Family Time" to begin to work on these goals. Providing a simple curriculum makes it easy for parents to do this.

If young people are participating, you'll want to make it clear that you're asking them to take initiative with their parents each week to talk about a specific question.

Each week you'll email or otherwise communicate the assignments to your parents, young people, and other adults. Encourage interaction with others in order to provide encouragement and accountability. Parents may become discouraged if they struggle to follow through on their commitment to participate in this adventure. You'll want to think this through carefully.

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You might want to consider a weekly small group for parents, youth, or other adults for discussion, interact, and prayer.

Some churches use this opportunity to run a parent training video series to further emphasize family growth. You can learn more about some of the options for a parent training resources at www.biblicalparenting.org/90days.asp.

You might encourage people to keep the journals. You can photocopy the pages contained in this book so that every person can keep record and even report testimonies of things they're learning.

Celebrate success and enjoy the blessings of spiritual exercise. Look for ways to talk about and encourage those who are involved in the Adventure.

The 90-Day Adventure in Your School

Parents are concerned about their children's education and want their kids to grow spiritually. This adventure is a tool to help them actively engage with their children. You may choose to emphasize only the youth and parent portions. Start by deciding whom you're going to include in this adventure. You may decide to target just the parents or you may want to include your students as well.

You'll want to decide how best to communicate with parents. You'll want them to sign up and make a commitment to be part of the adventure for the next three months. The 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure is designed to facilitate three things in family life: building relationship, sharing scripture, and practicing faith. You're asking parents to set aside 20-30 minutes each week for a "Family Time" to begin to work on these goals. Providing a simple curriculum makes it easy for parents to do this.

You'll want to consider how you'll launch this adventure. If you choose to include your students, you may want to focus on this during a student assembly. You could talk about the value of spiritual dialogue between young people and their parents and specifically the story in Joshua 4 where the children are the ones initiating the spiritual interaction with their parents.

This will be new and challenging for some. Taking this type of initiative with their parents may not be easy. Help them think about how to develop

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a plan. The assignments for the youth are best for children nine years old and up however the parent activities would apply to families with children of any age.

Each week email or otherwise communicate the assignments to your parents and youth. Offer opportunities to interact with others in order to provide encouragement and accountability. It'll be easy for folks to become discouraged if they struggle to follow through on their commitment to participate in this adventure. You're going to want to think this through carefully. You might want to consider a weekly small group for parents and students for discussion, interact, and prayer. Of course, we always want to be cautious about adding another commitment to people's schedule, but the beauty of this 90-Day Adventure is that most of the interaction happens in and around normal family activity.

Christian Schools are regularly looking for ways to engage the parents more. Turning the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure into a school project often helps toward that goal. There are examples on the website from schools that participated in pilot adventures that will give you more ideas as you plan your adventure.

The 90-Day Adventure in Your Home

A missional family is one that appreciates family relationships and then uses the family unit to reach out to others. Some engage in service projects while others use hospitality, outreach activities, or serve together at church.

You can use this adventure at any time during the year. Some choose to do it over the summer, while others try to engage their families during a time that embraces Christmas or Easter. Although there's a benefit to going on an adventure with other families, you should not let that stop you from striking out on your own and experience spiritual growth with your children.

We've added a unique component to our curriculum which involves leadership from your kids. The challenge in your home is to get the kids asking the questions. You might purchase or have your child create a special journal for this activity and put each question in an envelope with a date

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attached. Sometimes grandparents get involved and give or mail a question a week to the young person and ask for a written report. Be creative and make the adventure fun for your family.

You may want to work on the adult suggestions as a family, looking for ways that you can share Jesus with others in creative ways.

CHAPTER 2

Understanding the Adventure

Family: God's Vehicle for Faith Transmission

There's no greater mission field than your own family. Passing the faith on to the next generation is imperative. Kids need to understand how to apply the faith to their lives now, and who better to teach them than their parents. Some parents, however, believe that they have fulfilled their job of spiritual training by taking their children to church or Christian school. Although these may be helpful, children need to understand the faith in practical daily terms, and that happens at home.

Parents pass the faith on to their kids no matter what that faith is. If it's an unnoticeable faith, one that isn't demonstrated at home, then that's the faith they're teaching their children. Kids learn at home how to put faith in action. They learn how to deal with conflict, ways to experience grace, love, and forgiveness, and how to persevere in the small things of life.

Even in Christian homes today kids are choosing to leave their faith when they graduate from middle school or high school. Those who choose to carry their faith into adulthood are those who've seen faith practiced in relevant ways.

Kids, just like adults, must grow in their faith, but children experience God differently at each developmental stage. Preschoolers may learn how to pray out loud, but in the elementary years get to know God as friend and Father. In the later elementary years, kids learn more about what grace and forgiveness are and thus enter into a new dimension of their personal relationship with him. During the teen years, young people develop their

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own value systems and build convictions about life. As they understand God's plan and how he designed life with rules that govern life, they're able to appreciate God in new ways.

If however, parents overly rely on an early conversion experience of a child and that faith isn't nurtured, then kids can grow out of their faith, believing that their earlier experience was childish. Each person must experience God as life unfolds in order to fully embrace the beauty and relevance of the Christian life.

God established parents to be the primary spiritual trainers of their children. Dad and Mom act as the tour guides of life, pointing to God's character lodged in every aspect of life.

It Takes a Church

The role of the church is paramount. But a broadening of the understanding of the discipleship mandate is essential. Many churches view their job as disciplinarians of individuals. That is definitely true. Adults, youth, and children need spiritual training and the church has a commission to meet that training need. But to stop there is short sighted.

Churches must also view themselves as equippers of those individuals in their roles and relationships in life. How does one work out their faith at work, school, and at home? As churches teach parents how to work with their children and equip them to pass the faith on to their kids, they do a much better and more complete job.

Discipleship means that people take Jesus home every week learning to live life in the context of their individual lives. Children and their parents learn what it means to be godly in practical ways. Churches need to look for new and effective ways to help dads and moms fulfill their responsibilities to pass the faith on to their own children.

Today parents often spend a lot of time, energy, and money getting their kids involved in sports, music, and educational options to enhance potential. Many of those children grow up with talents and abilities that empower them to be successful. But God defines success differently than the world does. Many of those talented, well-educated, and skilled children grow up

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to be adults that lack the internal character and spiritual development to handle their fame, fortune, and popularity.

Many young people today grow up to be successful in the world's eyes but are unhappy, unfulfilled, and unsatisfied inside. Instead of drawing on the spiritual resources they could have learned growing up, they rely on substances, wealth, or power to try to meet those inner needs. Their own families then experience tremendous pressure and a negative intergenerational cycle develops.

God has a better way. When parents pass the faith on to their children, kids learn what living for God looks like in practical ways. They experience God's grace on a daily basis and understand the peace that God provides. Success has more to do with right relationship with God instead of accomplishments or the approval of others.

The 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure is a way to encourage people of any age and all life stages to be a part of the great commission. An emphasis is placed on passing the faith on to the next generation and facilitating communication between parents and children. This adventure is a tool used by churches, schools, and families to grow in the area of discipleship by encouraging the passing on of the faith.

Who starts the spiritual dialogue?

One of the unique and essential pieces of the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure is the focus on young people themselves. Kids catch a vision for actively participating in their own spiritual growth instead of relying on parents, teachers, or church leaders to take initiative.

When you look at Joshua 4:6 and 21, and Deuteronomy 6:20, it's clear that the transmission of faith stories happens when kids ask questions of their parents. Joshua 4: 5-7 says this,

“Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.

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These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

Young people today have a job to do. They must understand how life works, how God designed the world, and must get to know the creator in personal ways. That's one of their primary tasks in life. Parents don't have all the answers, but they're growing too and when kids ask their parents questions, everyone experiences the benefit. Even incomplete answers provide parents and children with thought provoking ideas to consider.

By empowering young people to take spiritual initiative in the family, they apply their youthful energy to spiritual growth in new ways. Asking thirteen questions is only the beginning, because the process creates a culture where kids are interested in the faith and how to apply it in the most personal areas of life.

How do we include adults in the 90-Day Adventure who don't have kids?

Evangelism is for everyone. Some use the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure as adult children to go back to their own parents and learn more about them. Others look for ways to pass the faith on to nieces, nephews, or grandchildren. Many young people would love to have a spiritual mentor for a season and this adventure provides opportunities for a person to spiritually adopt a young person who needs some spiritual training.

But many people are in a different life stage, and sharing Christ with younger people just isn't where they are presently in their lives. The beauty of the 90-Day Adventure is that it broadens the activities to include everyone. Each week, a suggestion is provided for adults that encourages them to share their faith with someone else, young or old.

The mandate for passing on the faith isn't only about sharing Christ with the next generation. It's about developing a lifestyle that equips you to share Jesus with others. The ideas for adults are strategic ways that you can let your light shine for Christ at work and out in public.

What does it take for you to be able to share Jesus with others? Does it require a seminary degree, an evangelism class, or a long spiritual history? No. All it takes is a personal faith. If you know Jesus, then you have a

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message. You have your story of God's grace working in your life. You don't have to have all of the answers to the theological questions of life. You just need to do what 1 Peter 3:15 says, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

Anyone can take the challenge and the more people that do so, the better because the exchange of stories and ideas provides encouragement for every person of any age or life situation to display Christ to others.

As you take the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure you'll exercise new faith muscles and strengthen your own relationship with Jesus Christ. You'll become more skilled and confident at passing on the message of God's love and grace to others. It's powerful. You never know exactly what might happen or where this next three months will take you. That's why it's called an adventure.

Overview of the Content Taught in the 90-Day Adventure Curriculum

When we began to develop this tool to help families get started with discipleship at home, we decided that it must be simple and easy to use. Since activity is the language of children, that meant including a family activity in each lesson. We then set about to choose the topics for each of the 13 weeks of the adventure. These topics are some of the most fundamental components of Christian discipleship.

We organized these topics with a particular progression in mind. The adventure starts with the exploration of important faith stories or milestones in the life of individuals in the family. Next we move on to establish the importance of Scripture as an authority for everything in our lives.

The following three weeks examine various challenges that we face as we seek to live a life of faith in Jesus Christ. This then culminates in a look at the concept of sin and how our decisions to follow our own ideas instead of the Lord's design hinder our ability to follow Jesus.

Weeks 7 and 8 cover two of the most central components of the Christian

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Life. First we look at the need to turn away from sin and trust Jesus as the Leader of our Life. Second, we deal with how this transformation leads us to reach out to others as a “missional” family. The activity for Week 8 is centered around deciding on a service or mission project that the family works on together over the remainder of the weeks of the adventure.

In the remaining weeks we learn about important components of living as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world. We look at how being a Christian makes us different from others. We spend two weeks on the importance of Christian community in the life of all believers and then another week on the importance of building each other up.

In the final week, we focus on the value of being sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Believers have the Scripture as our primary guide in matters of faith and life, but we also have the Spirit who is our counselor. The Spirit helps us know how to wisely apply the principles of Scripture in our daily lives.

We don't claim that these are the only important components of Christian discipleship. We have chosen these 13 to provide a systematic introduction to the Christian life for every member of the family. We hope that you will continue with weekly devotions and explore other dimensions of the Christian life together.

CHAPTER 3

Launching the Adventure

To maximize the adventure you'll want to obtain as much ownership by as many people as possible. That requires the sharing of vision, communicating why this is important and how it will benefit all those involved.

Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller have written a book called *The Family Challenge*. It's available to anyone participating in a 90-Day Adventure as an e-book or printed book. You can contact the National Center for Biblical Parenting to arrange to receive copies of the printed book. We will ask you to consider making a donation for the books, suggested at \$1 per book, to help us print more for those who will use it in the future. You can learn more at www.biblicalparenting.org/90days.asp

The 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure is designed to facilitate three things within a family: building relationship, sharing Scripture, and practicing faith. We are asking parents to set aside 20-30 minutes each week for a "Family Time" to begin to work on these goals. Providing a simple curriculum makes it easy for parents to do this. The hardest part will be finding the time and sticking with it.

Remember that passing on the faith is not just a duty handed down by God, but it's an opportunity provided to believers as a way of sharing the message that has changed their lives. Sometimes people forget the significance of the treasure they carry around inside. The 90-Day Adventure is a reminder using practical ideas that make it a very positive experience.

Look for ways to gain ownership of the adventure from as many people as possible. In a family, you might have kids decorate a journal to keep track

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of the things they learn. In a church, you might use a sign up flier to acquire a confirmation of participation of young people and adults. In a school, you might send home a letter stating that what the students will be doing and ask parents to respond with a commitment of their own participation.

If you're involving young people, we recommend that they take the initiative to start a discussion each week with their parents using the recommended questions. This should be separate from the weekly "Family Time."

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you have purchased this book, you have permission to distribute the material to the people in your church, school, or organization. You are also authorized to use the downloads of this material grouped by category from the 90Days website.

Here are some specific ideas you might consider depending on how you're using the adventure in your situation.

Launching the Adventure in Your Home

Plan how you announce this new adventure in family life. A good launch best takes place with all the leadership on board, so start by sharing with your mate, grandparents, or older kids who may be living in the home. In some cases getting leadership to buy in may be difficult. That doesn't mean you can't do the adventure, but it will require extra conviction and passion on your part to carry it through. Furthermore, sharing it first with the other leaders in your home is a way to honor them. We realize that the face of the family may look different in each situation, but every type of family benefits from the 90-Day Adventure.

Single parents can use the exercise to clarify their own convictions about life. Blended families can grow as each person shares from the heart. Grandparents raising children, adoptive parents, or even foster parents can use this time to help mold the thinking and beliefs of the children under their care. Even families where one parent is a believer and the other isn't, can help children understand why you've made the choices you have in life.

So, before you get too far, share the idea of the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure with those who help lead your family to maximize its acceptance in your home.

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Some members of the family may take to a new idea better than others. Usually giving a preview in a couple of stages is helpful. The first one will share the idea while the second discussion describes more about what will actually take place. Depending on your situation, you might want to share the idea individually with each member of your family separately. Other families might benefit from a joint announcement.

For example, you might say, “Next week we’re going to do something fun and interesting in our family for the next three months. I think you’ll especially like it because you enjoy asking questions.” With another child, you might start the dialogue by saying, “I like adventures. I found one for our family that’s going to be pretty interesting. We start next week.”

Be prepared for resistance. Most families have at least one person that has a negative response or presents the challenge of a bad attitude. Don’t be deterred. You might want to appeal personally with more dialogue at a later time, giving the child the opportunity to think about it for a bit. In some cases you may just have to be firm and tell a child that this is what we’re doing and require it as an assignment, praying that God will breathe life into the interaction as you move forward.

You know your family the best, so take some time and plan the introduction of the adventure in your home. Often the announcement sets the stage for a positive time so a bit of planning on this level can go a long way to ensure a positive experience.

For the “Family Time” piece, you’re going to want to make sure that you find a time that works well in everyone’s schedule. It sounds easy to find 20-30 minutes each week in the schedule, but many parents are finding that their lives are already so full so it may not be so easy. You may need to make time for this if you believe that passing the faith on to your children is a priority.

Scheduling might be a challenge. Most good things are difficult. Plan the best you can and start heading in the right direction. It may just not work some weeks. Don’t give up. Next week provides a new opportunity!

If you have young people in your family who are initiating with the 13 questions, then you’ll want to be aware that they’ll be looking for times to

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talk with you. Encourage them to take initiative, but let this be an opportunity for them to grow in leadership as well. They may need help from you in developing a plan.

Launching the Adventure in Your Church

After going through the necessary channels to get the event scheduled and on your church calendar, spend some time planning the launch. Creating posters, bulletin announcements, emails, and other invitations can encourage parents and young people to embrace the idea.

One of the most important ways to recruit people for the 90-Day Adventure is to talk about why you're doing this, not just what's planned. Passing the faith on to others is strategic and the family is a great place to practice it. The best launch would include a sermon from the pastor on the biblical importance of parents as spiritual leaders and the value of young people asking questions. Include everyone by talking about the importance of sharing the faith in general. Sample sermons in audio and transcription are available at www.biblicalparenting.org/90days.asp to provide ideas for you.

If you do decide to focus this adventure specifically for families, you may want to plan a Launch Event where all participating parents can receive an orientation. Your vision is contagious as you share with people the answer to the question, "Why?" Why is this adventure helpful? Why is spiritual training in the home so important? A sample 30 minute talk is also available at www.biblicalparenting.org/90days.asp to give you ideas. There you'll also find a fabulous 3-minute video that will help you cast the vision. You can also download the free e-book on the Family Challenge from the website as well.

In most churches people need reinforcement of the idea in their small groups, classes, and ministry teams to realize that this adventure applies to them. As the date to begin the adventure draws closer, announce the number of people participating. You might have individuals share testimonies of why they're interested in the adventure. Or, you might look for ways to individually challenge people to participate.

Again, you will want to cast vision and also be clear about exactly what

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you're asking of those who participate. You're asking parents to set aside 20-30 minutes each week for a "Family Time" to focus on building family relationships, studying Scripture together and practicing and sharing faith. Make sure everyone understands how to acquire the adventure curriculum.

If young people are participating, you're asking them to take initiative with their parents each week to talk about a specific question. You're asking them to take the leadership role with their parents.

The goal is to equip people in your church to share Jesus more effectively with others. It will take more than one announcement to gain maximum participation, so plan your launch thoroughly and look for ways to engage people in all walks of life.

Launching the Adventure in Your Christian School

The Christian School already contains the necessary ingredients from parents and young people to make the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure a success. You'll want to look for ways to present it to students and to parents in a way that makes it look like more than just another assignment.

Likely it won't be optional for the students, so including it as an assignment isn't bad. If you do this, make sure that you communicate vision so that your students understand how this will benefit them and add a new dimension to their family life.

Explaining the adventure in an assembly by talking about the spiritual initiative of young people in Joshua 4 and Deuteronomy 6 can get things moving. You could ask the question, "Who starts the spiritual dialogue in the home in Joshua 4:6 and 21 and Deuteronomy 6:20?" The fact that kids initiate questions with their parents in the Bible often energizes youth today. By then providing them with the questions, and even offering arenas to discuss or write in a journal about the answer, can be an excellent spiritual journey for families.

Make sure that your students understand that you are asking them to take initiative with their parents once during each week of the adventure.

For your parents, you may want to have an evening or weekend meeting

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to explain the adventure. You could also send home a letter of announcement or create a video explanation. You want them to understand the importance of this particular activity as well as exactly what you are asking of them. We have a 30 minute presentation designed to give you a model of how to present the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure at such a meeting. You can find it at www.biblicalparenting.org/90days.asp. There you'll also find a fabulous 3-minute video that will help you cast the vision.

The 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure is designed to facilitate building relationships, sharing Scripture, and practicing faith in a family. You're asking parents to set aside 20-30 minutes each week for a "Family Time" to begin to work on these goals. Providing a simple curriculum makes it easy for parents to do this.

Posters, fliers, and other advertising pieces can build anticipation and keep people on track. Look for ways to personally challenge as many young people and their parents as possible. Because of the nature of the Christian School you may want to emphasize the youth and parent parts of the activity and not use the adult outreach ideas for your adventure that are contained in this curriculum.

Spend some time considering ways to engage the families in your school to view the home as the primary place of spiritual training. You're likely trying to communicate that idea already so the adventure will provide a great exercise to further your mission as a school.

WEEK 1

PREPARING FOR WEEK 1

Tell Me the Story

Welcome to the Adventure

Why doesn't God just take us to heaven after we get saved? Because he wants us to grow spiritually and also because he chooses to use people to share his message with others.

God knows that the best way for someone to understand him is to hear and see the message from another person. Ultimately, that's why he sent Jesus Christ to become a man, so that we might be able to understand God's love and we could relate.

After Jesus went to Heaven, he left a commission with people. That commission was to help people grow spiritually. For some that means evangelism, getting to know Christ for the first time, and for others, it means discipleship, growing in the faith in their personal lives.

Most of us find sharing our faith a bit challenging. Actually, if you get started, then you likely have some valuable things to say about Jesus, and those words would likely help others. It's the getting started part that can be difficult at times. This adventure helps you with ideas about how to initiate conversations. Hopefully, by the time you're done, you'll have some greater confidence to continue sharing your faith.

We must always be ready to pass the faith on to someone else. You never know what's really going on in the lives of those people around you. Some

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find it easier to share their faith with people they know such as family or coworkers, while others find it easier to share their faith with people they first meet.

The Holy Spirit is working in people's hearts. It's our job to follow his lead and initiate. In Acts 8, God had Philip leave one situation and go to another. Although Philip didn't quite understand the situation, God used Philip to reach a man who was just traveling through. We don't even know that man's name, but we call him the Ethiopian Eunuch. Today, African countries credit this man for the spread of Christianity to a whole continent.

The process started when Philip was willing to be used by God to share the faith with a stranger. Everyone needs the gospel, even those people who live in your home. If you have a family, then your mate can be a discipleship partner and you can help your children understand the faith in real and practical terms.

That's what the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure is all about. Each week you'll receive encouragement. Use the ideas to spark new thoughts in you about sharing Jesus with others. Allow God to grow you in your ability to share Jesus with others on several levels.



WEEK 1

Young Person

Going Deeper in Your Own Personal Faith

Your involvement in this adventure is a good way for you to explore some issues of faith in meaningful dialogue with your parents.

Sometimes all the work that happens in a family puts a strain on relationships. Parents correct, give instructions, and say no and that often adds tension to the home. This exercise will help you do your part to build strands of relationship with your parents to keep your family healthy and help you to grow yourself.

So, thank you for taking part in this 90-Day Adventure. This will be interesting for you. Please share your thoughts and ideas, good or bad, about the experience. In fact, if you'd like to share actual things you're learning, it would be an honor to hear back from you.

Here's question #1 for this week to ask your parents: *What were the events leading up to your decision to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and to choose to live for God?*

You might want to start the dialogue by saying something like this: "I am working on my assignment for church and I wondered if you might answer this question for me?" Or, "I'm curious about your spiritual history."

You'll receive one question a week for the next thirteen weeks. The parent interviews are often helpful and encouraging. You might want to consider the timing of your question in order to get the most out of the dialogue with your parents.

You might also use the next thirteen weeks to look for practical ways that you can share your own faith with anyone you come in contact with.



**Here's
question
#1 for**

**this week to ask your
parents: What were the
events leading up to
your decision to accept
Jesus Christ as your
Savior and to choose to
live for God?**

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Be sure to keep a journal and write down meaningful conversations you had, resistance you experienced, and any answers to prayer.

Have a great week and enjoy the adventure.



WEEK 1

Parent

Welcome to the Adventure

Thank you for responding to the 90-Day Adventure. Passing the faith on to others is part of what we do as Christians, but there's no more important place than to do that in our own homes. Children need to see the power and grace of God and embrace that for themselves.

I know you want your child to embrace the faith. That means that kids become inspired to take on the faith for themselves, building a personal relationship with God. Even if your child hasn't made a profession of faith yet, you can start building the awareness that God speaks directly to your child. In fact, one of the strategic things you can do is to take an interest in your child's faith because it's of value to you.

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. The Week 1 Handout (on the website or at the end of this lesson)
2. Pen or pencil

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together in a comfortable place where you won't be distracted. You want to be present with each other during these 20-30 minutes. No electronic devices allowed!
2. **Open** with prayer. The prayer leader can change from week to week.
3. **Start** the process of sharing Scripture this week by talking about Joshua chapter 4 and the stones that they piled up. Those stones provided a monument to God's power and grace and functioned as a God-ordained discussion point for families. Read Joshua 4: 1-24. (You could also tell this story instead of reading it.)
4. **Activity:** Use the handout (at the end of this lesson or from the


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website) to write some spiritual monuments from your own life. These events were demonstrations of God's power and grace and provide encouragement and hope for your spiritual lives going forward. You might do this activity together and make it a family monument, adding significant spiritual events from several members of your family. Post the monument somewhere prominently to be a reminder during the week and also to add additional events as you remember them.

- 5. Tell** one of the stories that you put on your "family monument." Kids often enjoy hearing the stories of a parent's history. You might start by saying, "Did I ever tell you the story about..."
- 6. Take time to pray** together and thank God for his work in your lives.

Throughout the Week

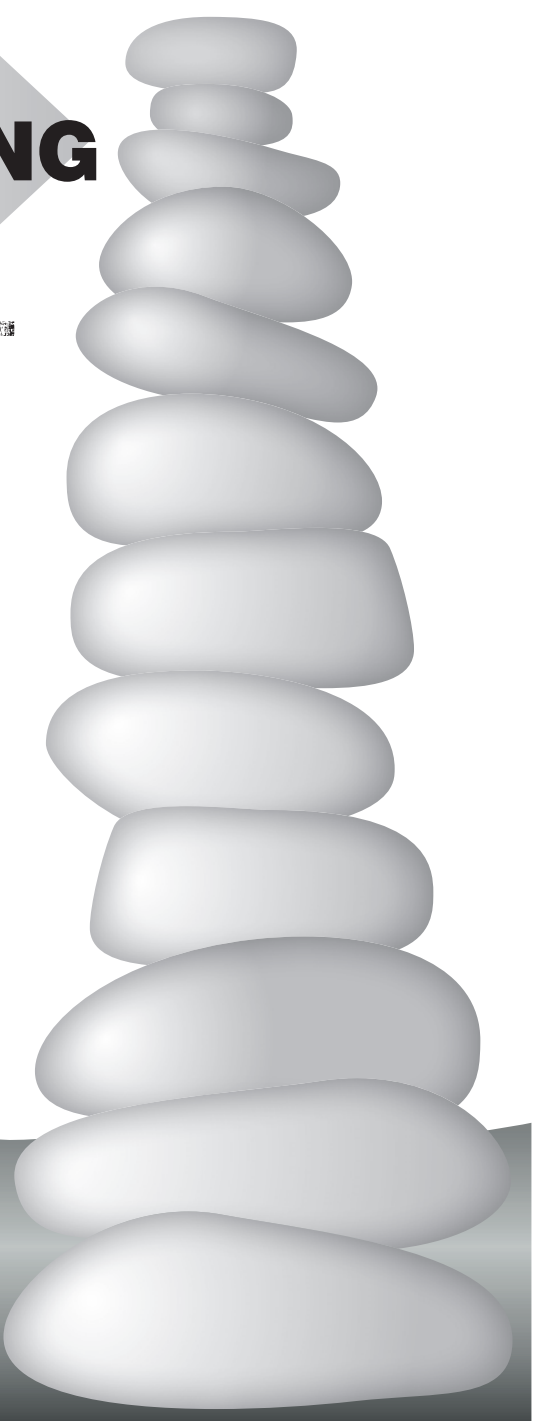
Remember to build relationships, share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. Ask each other to share more stories from the "family monument." A parent may want to ask his son what God has said to him, or what he believes that God is saying to him about a given situation. This means acknowledging the fact that God may speak to you through your son. That respect often increases a child's willingness to listen to the Lord and share spiritually with you.



IDENTIFYING SPIRITUAL MEMORIAL STONES

Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them...

—Joshua 4:5-7



On each stone write one event from your life that demonstrated the power and grace of God.

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WEEK 1

Anyone Can Share Jesus

Welcome to the Adventure

Welcome to the 90-Day Adventure. Sharing the faith can be tricky at times, trying to honestly share something about yourself while being sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of others.

Often there's this impression amongst Christians that we should be an apologetic expert or a theologian in order to share the faith with those around us. That is far from true.

In the Bible we see many wonderful examples of people who shared Jesus with others. In Acts 7, for example, we see Stephen, a disciple of Jesus, giving an impressive testimony filled with rich historical detail that no one could reason against. As effective as his communication was, we do not need to be experts in theology or the Bible to share the joy within us and impact hearts around us.

Look at 1 Peter 3:15, "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

The most powerful testimonies within the Bible are the personal accounts of what Jesus has done. No one can dispute your personal experience of God's work in your life, the hope within you.

In John 12:9-11 when Lazarus was raised from the dead, he used his personal account to bring others to Lord and saw many saved as a result. Lazarus didn't have the written gospel to study from, just the love and hope within him that Jesus had done something special in his life.

Your personal account of the Lord working in your life is just as powerful as the account that Lazarus gave. The Lord saved you from death and is actively working in your life. You have every reason and all the tools you need to "give a reason for the hope you have" in your own heart.

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But how do you start this conversation? Here's an idea. You might try this in a personal setting with people you already know. In normal conversation, ask this question:

Have I ever told you how I came to believe in God?

And there you have it; the ground is ready. Now, go and plant a seed. With that kind of question you're inviting yourself to share the most exciting story about who you are.

Don't worry about the results. The Lord will handle the rest. Your simple and heart-felt explanation of how the Lord saved you is all you need. Like a seed, it may take time to see the growth, but rest in knowing that the Lord is on it.



WEEK1

Journal

Tracking Your Spiritual Journey

Jot down something you learned, a new insight, or an observation about this week's exercise.

WEEK 2

PREPARING FOR WEEK 2

What's Important to You?

When you know someone well, it means that you are aware of their unique needs, desires, likes, and dislikes. The deeper you get into those things, the more opportunity you have to discuss faith with others. This week you'll have opportunity to explore things that are important to you, to your kids, and to others.

Sometimes people use the word "need" very freely. "I need something to eat." Or "I need something to wear." When looking at all the important things in a person's life, the Bible says in Mathew 6:33, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

What people really need to know is Jesus. When you get down to the things that mean the most to a person, you're working in the heart. That's the same place where Jesus wants to live. So, conversations about important things often lead to a conversation about faith, Jesus, and salvation.



WEEK 2

Young Person

Not Just What but Why

Faith in God produces a lot of benefits. Some of those are tools to get through challenges. Others are ways to think about life. And still other benefits have to do with good things that come as a result of personal faith.

Here's the question you can ask your parents this week: *What are some of the benefits for you about being a Christian?*

As you listen to the answer, you might consider some of the benefits you have enjoyed in your own relationship with the Lord.



Here's the question you can ask

**your parents this week:
What are some of the benefits for you about being a Christian?**



WEEK 2

Parent

Hidden Treasure

One of the goals in passing the faith on to your kids is to share who you are. But it's also helpful to understand what's most important to your child. Asking kids questions often opens new opportunities to discuss values and truths.

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. Each adult in the family should be prepared to answer any of the following questions.
 - a. What are the three most important things to you that you do regularly?
 - b. What dreams do you have for your future?
 - c. What are the most valuable things that you own?

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together as you did last week. Remember, no electronic devices allowed!
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture study by reading Matthew 13:44, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."

You might say, "I have a lot of things I want to do and things I value about life. I'm also trying to fit all of that into my understanding of what God wants me to do and how important he is to me. Each day, as I'm going about my business, I want to ask God what he wants me to do today. I do that because it helps me remember what the most

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important things are in my life.

I'm grateful to be in a family with you. I know we have challenges with each other, but I'm learning and growing and trying to understand how to practice my faith in our family.

4. **Talk** about how we all work a lot around our home to get things done. We get clothes clean, food on the table, and I take you to where you need to be each week. But because you are valuable to me, I'd like to talk about more important things, like who you are and what's important to you.
5. **Activity:** You might say something like this to your children. "Which one of these questions would you like to answer?" Each child chooses a question to answer and shares it with the family.
 - a. What are the three most important things to you that you do regularly?
 - b. What dreams do you have for your future?
 - c. What are the most valuable things that you own?

If there is time and your children are interested in listening, you might want to share an answer to one of those questions yourself.

6. **Take time to pray** together and thank God for his work in your lives.

Enjoy the adventure this week.

Throughout the Week

Remember to build relationships; share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. You might want to talk about the three questions whenever you have time together.



WEEK 2

Anyone Can Share Jesus

How's it Going?

I want to take you on a journey into your past, to a conversation that you've had just recently. Think for a moment about the last time you greeted someone.

How many times does your greeting to someone include this question? "How are you?" If you're like others, it's fairly often and you generally get two responses, "I'm good" or "I'm having a tough time." Now think about a recent time you greeted someone and included that question, and imagine for a minute if your follow up question to their response was "Really? Tell me about it?"

Imagine how many more meaningful conversations you would have. Imagine all of the opportunities you would have to share your faith. Imagine how your relationships with others would be enriched.

The Bible tells us in Philippians, ***"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus"*** — *Philippians 2:4-5*

There's a wonderful key here to relationships: humility. Focus on them, not you. "Have this mind," or in other words, think about them not yourself. Instead of a short greeting, now you have a conversation. You actively try to invest in the other person. Make a point to show an interest in the interests of others.

If you're looking to learn about others, to get to know them, then you're loving them. You're showing them you think they're valuable and you're interested in them.

But how is this showing my faith? Look here at what Jesus says in the book of John.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all men

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will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” – John 13:34-35

Jesus is telling us that a selfless investment in another person is honoring to them and it's honoring God. We are being obedient and loving and God will bless that effort.

So, the next time someone answers your question, “How's it going?” with a comment, just look them in the eyes with a sense of personal caring and say, ***“Tell me about it.”***

WEEK 3

PREPARING FOR WEEK 3

The Value of God's Word

Sometimes children get the idea that the Bible is an adult book and that it will become relevant for them someday. The reality, however, is that the Bible is practical and has application to people of all ages. God's Word is relevant to all and he speaks to children as well as adults through his Word.

In fact, that's not just a child problem. Many adults haven't yet discovered how valuable the scriptures are in their lives. Opening the Bible is always an adventure. It might be today that God reminds you of an important commitment that you've forgotten. Or maybe he'll prompt you to right a wrong in your life, or simply draw closer to him.

In this lesson, you'll help people gain a greater appreciation for the scriptures and their ability to speak to people of all ages.



WEEK 3

Young Person

The Bible, not an Ordinary Book

One of the ways God speaks to people today is through his word, the Bible. Many people develop a special relationship with their Bibles because it touches them in such personal ways.

Here's a question to ask your parents this week. They may need a bit of time to think of the answer. *What is a Bible verse that has meant a lot to you?*

The Bible is rich with truth and so as you listen to the question, try to figure out why your parent was particularly drawn to that verse. You'll find verses that are uniquely helpful to you. The Bible is alive and can have a powerful influence on how you live.



Here's a question to ask your parents this week: What is a Bible verse that has meant a lot to you?



WEEK 3

Parent

The Importance of Scripture

One important aspect of passing the faith on to children is to give them an excitement about God's Word. It's contagious. When you share with your child something you're learning from the Bible, it gives a visual illustration of the power of the scriptures.

But kids often need more. It's helpful to teach kids how the Bible is organized and how to find things in it. Memorizing special verses of scripture or putting verse cards up on the wall or bathroom mirror can also be helpful for kids to see the value of God's Word.

But the most important truth about the scriptures that you can communicate is that the Bible is a personal message to each one of us. God's word offers practical, personal applications for each person.

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. All members of the family will need their Bible. (or a Bible)
2. Adults may want to think ahead of time about a special Bible verse for each one the children in the family. You will also want to think about a verse that has been meaningful to you lately.

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together as you did last week.
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture study by reading 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
4. **Talk** about this passage using the following questions.

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- a. What is the purpose of the Scripture?
 - b. What is the goal of using and studying the Scripture?
5. **Activity:** Whoever is leading the Family Time this week should open their Bible and then carefully throw it up in the air and let it fall to the ground. You will then want to exclaim, "It's alive!" You should have now startled everyone sufficiently and gotten anyone's attention who was drifting off! Make the point nonetheless that the Bible is a living book because the Holy Spirit brings it to life in each of our lives.

Take some time now to share with each other about your favorite Bible verses. You might ask an older child this question, "Can you tell me a verse in the Bible that means a lot to you?" Or, a adult might share a verse for one of the children with an introduction that says, "Here's a verse in the Bible just for you." The goal is to identify one verse for each person in the family. The adults could share their favorite verse with the family or one that has meant a lot to them recently.

6. **Take time to pray** together and thank God for his work in your lives.

Enjoy the adventure this week.

Throughout the Week

Remember to build relationships, share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. You might want to put each person's Bible verse from the Family Time on a card and post it somewhere in the house.



WEEK 3

Anyone Can Share Jesus

Live Out Loud

It's interesting to see people respond when they see a Bible outside of church. You might consider placing a Bible on your desk at work or carry it with you to Starbucks. It makes a statement about what's important to you and others take notice.

One man shared a story of how he took his Bible with him and worked in a public place each week. As he was checking his email and working on his computer, he had his Bible with him. "I always place my Bible on the table, face up, binding out. It's like my welcome sign. It says, "I'm a Christian, come over and let's chat."

One major in the army regularly left his Bible on his desk at work. God used it as a tool to open spiritual dialogue and he eventually led his Colonel to the Lord. Christians and those who are not yet believers approach to find fellowship, to have a question answered, or to just seek comfort. It's a simple gesture and, best of all, God does all the work.

We know there's something about a Christian that shines. It's the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the overflowing love of Christ. It's truly there and folks notice it.

Matthew 4:14-16 say it this way, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

God made us beacons of hope. That hope is the love of Jesus in our hearts, the Holy Spirit living within us. We can and do shine for the Lord. It's the sign of a healthy relationship with God.

Steve Curtis Chapman wrote a song about something very similar and one of the lyrics in the song says, "If God is burning in our hearts, we're

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gonna glow." That's true and is so apparent each Sunday morning as you fellowship at church. God wants us to Live Out Loud as the song goes, not just at church, but at home, at work, and out in the community!

So bring that Bible with you. Study it in public. What an easy way to show and share your faith! Consider it. The Holy Spirit does the work. All you have to do is put out that WELCOME SIGN.



WEEK 3

Journal

Tracking Your Spiritual Journey

Jot down something you learned, a new insight, or an observation about this week's exercise.

WEEK 4

PREPARING FOR WEEK 4

Can You Handle the Pressure?

One of the tests of a person's internal strength is their ability to handle pressure. When things get heated, what happens? Anger, discouragement, anxiety, and demandingness are just a few of the negative ways people try to express their frustration or control their environment.

The reality is that God created every human heart with a need for spiritual strength. What does that look like and how can people learn how to respond better to the challenges of life? That's the focus of this week's lesson.



WEEK 4

Young Person

Faith in the Challenges

God helps people get through tough times. Sometimes we call those difficulties trials. It's interesting that God doesn't promise us that everything will go just fine when you follow him. Rather, he promises us that he will help us get through the tough times of life.

Here's a great question to ask your parents. You might not even be familiar with the difficulty they speak of, or maybe they'll share one with you that affected your life as well. Listen to the answer and see if you can identify ways that you might handle some of the challenges you face in your life at times.

Here's the question for this week: *Can you share a trial you've experienced in your life and how you saw God work in it?*

As you listen to your parents tell the story, you'll learn a bit more about your mom or your dad as well as how God works in people's lives.



Here's the question for this week:

Can you share a trial you've experienced in your life and how you saw God work in it?



WEEK 4

Parent

Handling Stress

An interesting way to learn more about anyone's heart is to ask this question, "What are the top three stressors in your life?" By asking children or other adults about their top challenges in life, you'll typically find out more about what's going on inside. The more specific of an answer, the greater transparency you'll discover.

Be careful that when you ask this question, you don't quickly problem solve when you hear the answers. Moving too quickly to problem solving without empathy often gives the impression that the person's challenges aren't real or important. The best response when someone shares personally is, "Thank you for sharing that."

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. Create and decorate a Stress/Prayer Box. See instructions below under activity.
2. Provide a piece of paper and a pencil/pen for each person in the family.

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together.
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture time by reading 1 Peter 5:7 that says, 'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.'
4. **Talk** about the things that produce stress or anxiety in your life. Ask everyone in the family to think about one or more "stressors" in their lives. Take some time and let everyone share at least one thing. Remember to resist the temptation to jump into problem-solving mode. The adults will want to make sure that your sharing

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is appropriate for children to hear. It's helpful for kids to know that you face challenges in your life as well.

5. There is another question for discussion this week. This question can help bring faith into daily life. You might say it this way. "How does your faith help you deal with the stressors in your life?" The brainstorming that happens in the next few moments can be quite formative for everyone involved in the conversation. Answers might include going back to beliefs such as the fact that God is in control, God loves me, or I need to be patient and let God work. Other solutions may involve actions such as praying, pulling back instead of reacting, or taking a deep breath.
6. **Activity:** You might decorate a box and label it on one side, "Stress Box" and on the other side "Prayer Box." Give everyone in the family a piece of paper and ask them to write down one or two things that cause them stress or anxiety. (Small children may not be able to participate in this exercise.) Each person take turns and put the paper in the box. There's something about physically putting a piece of paper in a box that can help a person turn over their anxiety to God.
7. **Take time to pray** together. Pray for each other and the things that are in the box.

Throughout the Week

Remember to build relationships, share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. You'll also want to make a special effort to pray for each this week. Look for opportunities to encourage each other when someone in the family is facing a stressful situation.



WEEK 4

Anyone Can Share Jesus

In Times of Tragedy

Tragedy strikes. And when it does, people are often willing to examine their own personal lives. You can be there to help people process the evil in a way that reveals Jesus. You don't have to have all of the answers to life's challenges. You just need to be honest and transparent. You may not have all of the answers but you know the God who does.

It may be a community disaster such as a shooting, or a natural disaster like an earthquake or destructive storm. Or, it might be the fact that a mate walks out, a child dies unexpectedly, or a car accident brings pain or even death to a family. Those are sad moments when people's hearts ache with pain. They need comfort, not a sermon.

It's during crisis times that the love of Christ can overflow from Christians. Sometimes the best approach is to sit quietly and say nothing. Other times, a hug, listening to someone pour out his heart, preparing a meal, or helping to clean up the damage. All of those activities are a silent witness to the love of God.

If you have opportunity to help a person understand the tragedy you might include a few theological concepts in ways that are relevant to the situation. For example, saying, "We live in a broken, painful world" is a statement that reveals the fact that sin has brought tremendous pain and suffering into life. That doesn't always mean personal sin, but sin in general corrupts our world resulting in suffering.

To say, "I'm praying for you" reveals that God is our source of strength, that there is power outside of self, and that you care in a very personal and tangible way. Sometimes the conversation goes much deeper than that and many times people turn their questions to faith and religion. They need the truth of Jesus Christ who loves them and provides the comfort, care, and power to go forward.

Always be ready to demonstrate that you care when people suffer. It's

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one of the greatest ways that we can be like God, revealing love in tough times. Others won't know what to do or say. You may not either, but your initiative is important because it's part of your calling as a child of God.



WEEK4

Journal

Tracking Your Spiritual Journey

Jot down something you learned, a new insight, or an observation about this week's exercise.

WEEK 5

PREPARING FOR WEEK 5

Handling Emotions

Some people confuse emotional wellbeing with spiritual health. When you ask a person, “How are you doing spiritually?” some will respond with an emotional statement such as, “I’m a bit down today,” or “I’m feeling great.” That’s an interesting response since spirituality is much more than how one feels.

However, spirituality and emotions both take place in the heart and they tend to impact one another. For that reason, discussions about emotion are a great way to interact about spiritual things and to share Jesus with others in practical ways.

In this lesson, participants will explore their own emotions and that of others as it relates to personal faith. Not only does God help people manage and resolve emotional challenges, but he uses emotions in our lives to reveal what’s really important. And that’s where discussions of faith become most productive.



WEEK 5

Young Person

Spirituality and Emotions

Faith is very practical and it addresses every area of our lives. It's also very personal, helping each person deal with inner thoughts, feelings, and ideas. Here's a good question to ask your parents about their own spiritual lives.

How does being a Christian help you deal with emotions like anger, worry, or discouragement?

As you listen to those answers you'll likely learn more about the kinds of things that bother your mom or dad. The answers will not only give you ideas for managing your own feelings, but you'll likely have some ways that you can pray for your parents.



Here's a good question to ask your parents about their own spiritual lives. How does being a Christian help you deal with emotions like anger, worry, or discouragement?



WEEK 5

Parent

Dealing with Anger

Every successful family must have a plan for addressing emotions. Although some families are more volatile than others, everyone experiences emotions on one level or another.

Because family members are emotionally connected it's easy for anger to transfer quickly from one person to another. A child may get angry, sparking anger in a parent. Or a wife's anger may trigger that same emotion in her husband. A good plan can help slow down the process.

The key to slow down anger reactions is to learn to pull back instead of push forward when the energy surges into your body from the emotion.

The key isn't to vent it, but rather to manage emotions with self-control. Each person needs a self-control strategy and each person needs a plan for handling themselves and others in emotionally tense situations.

You might develop some family rules for dealing with emotions that require a pull-back strategy. Often a discussion and a plan can turn into real life solutions with practice.

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. 2 glasses with ½ cup of water in each
2. Some bleach and a one Tbsp. measure
3. Red food coloring

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together as you did last week.
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture time by reading two passages this week. James 1:19. It says, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and

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slow to become angry.” Proverbs 29:11 says, “A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.”

- 4. Talk** about specific ways your family might handle conflict more effectively. You might try to create a list of things that need to take place when emotions start to increase in family life. You can call this list, “Rules of Engagement.” The idea is that there are practical things families can do to resolve issues without anger, but they take practice and work to implement in family life.
- 5. Activity:** Prepare this activity by putting ½ cup of water into two glasses and then add 3 tablespoons of bleach to Glass #2.

Put both glasses of water on the table and talk about emotions. You might say something like this. “Emotions take place in the heart. When our hearts get all stirred up then sometimes hurtful behavior or words come out. The solution isn’t to just put a lid on the anger pot. There are practical ways to address the anger inside before it comes out. Those solutions may be different for each person. Let’s ask an important question of each person here: What do you do or say to yourself to help you remain in control when you start to feel angry?” Allow each person to share their own ideas recognizing that each person may have some unique strategies that others might learn from.

Add three drops of red food coloring to Glass #1. Swirl it around and observe what happens.

Talk about emotions inside the heart. When a person starts to get riled up inside one of the most important things to do is to pull back and settle down. Place Glass #1 aside to settle down and pour the contents of glass #2 into Glass #1 to illustrate the importance of pulling back for a bit to allow the emotions to settle down. Sometimes just time is helpful, but other times more thoughtful work is needed through prayer or practicing to think rightly about situations.

The bleach begins to neutralize the color returning the water to be more clear. The process takes about a minute illustrating the power of reducing anger by pulling back for a bit.

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6. **Talk** about practical ways to pull back in family life.
7. **Take time to pray** together and agree to work on anger together as a family. Pray that God would help each of you deal with your own anger this week and that you'd be able to work through challenges that come up in a better way.

Throughout the Week

Remember to build relationships, share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. You might look for ways to apply the lessons learned about anger in your own life and then give testimony to your kids about how it worked. Look for ways to talk about honoring God even during times of disappointment, frustration, or annoyance.



WEEK 5

Anyone Can Share Jesus

Responding instead of Reacting

Most people try to hold in their emotions or cover up their frustrations but if you're emotionally sensitive yourself, you should be able to see through some of the coverups and recognize when someone's upset. How do you respond when others are emotionally challenged?

Some people run and hide from emotion because they don't know how to respond. Others are quick to fight or react by helping to solve the problem. But emotions are often an onramp to deeper discussions in a person's life. When a person feels passionate about something, it's because whatever happened has important meaning. All of that takes place in the heart.

You might go along in life for days or weeks at a time and not see what's going on deep inside a person. But when emotion takes place, it's a window into the heart. Sometimes it's best to be quiet at the moment or to take actions that calm the intensity so as to not increase it. However, when things settle down, it might be a good time to take some initiative. Sometimes that care can lead to a deeper conversation about your faith.

For example, Bill reacts at work to a challenge in the job. He's frustrated or annoyed at how the situation is being managed. You might say, "Bill I see that you're frustrated by the new turn of events. You are now in a difficult situation. I'll be praying for you."

Sometimes the emotions come from activities taking place outside of work, providing even more opportunities to care. A simple observation might get the dialogue started. "Karen, it seems like something's wrong that's dragging on you lately. Are you okay?" It's interesting that a simple question and observation about emotions can open the doors to significant discussion.

Whether a person wants to bare their heart with you or not, isn't as important as your caring attitude. It's a way of reaching out personally to people and you never know how God might use the thoughtfulness.

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When someone shares their problem with you, don't feel as if you have to solve it. In fact, moving into a problem-solving mode too quickly often misses the mark. It's best to care, empathize, and offer to pray for that person first and then if helping seems wise, allow God to lead you.

God uses spiritual resources to fill emotional tanks that are depleted. By sharing your faith practically by caring for a person, you're modeling one of the great benefits of the gospel. Remember that Jesus did something similar to this when he said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Jesus was interested in calming anxious hearts with his peace.

WEEK 6

PREPARING FOR WEEK 6

Being On Guard

The Bible describes our challenge with sin as a battle, fighting as a soldier, or using spiritual armor to protect against sin. Every person needs help to fight temptation or develop convictions to prevent sin from having its ugly effect on the human heart. The lesson this week challenges young people and adults to face the reality of sin in life and look for solutions that rely on God's strength to overcome temptation.

What kinds of things prompt a person to choose Jesus instead of sinful patterns? It might be the Holy Spirit inside, or the desire for a clear conscience, or simply the testimony of someone else who is trying to do what's right.

Everyone wrestles with sin in their lives. Some win. God's grace is an important factor and spiritual strength often provides the ability to overcome the daily temptations of life. People often want to be good or do better. That's probably why self-improvement books are so prevalent. All people would benefit from a greater trust in Jesus Christ who will not only change outward actions, but will provide an inward transformation.



WEEK 6

Young Person

Facing Temptation

Everyone faces temptations in their lives. Sometimes those are temptations to do something evil, but for Christians many times it's the temptation to do something that may not be wrong. It's just not the best.

Here's a question to ask your parents that may help you deal with your own heart when you experience temptations in life.

How does being a Christian help you deal with temptation?

Learning from your parents does several things. First, it helps you to understand more about the faith and your parents are great ones to teach it to you. Second, it helps you learn more about your parents and you get to see the struggles they face and the things that matter most to them.

Growing in your faith takes place in a number of ways. I hope you'll look for ways to foster your own faith in God. He is personal and wants to enjoy a personal relationship with you.



Here's a question to ask your

parents that may help you deal with your own heart when you experience temptations in life. How does being a Christian help you deal with temptation?



WEEK 6

Parent

Sin Gets in the Way

The word sin is a theological word that refers to the problem that separates God from man, ultimately resolved through salvation. But it's often helpful to talk about sin in the practical sense of disobedience to God's instructions. Sin happens in family life when people lash out in anger, demonstrate selfishness, or lie to cover up an offense.

Sin gets in the way of close relationships in a family. That's why every successful family needs humility, grace, forgiveness, and love. It starts with parents because there's no other lesson that's more easily learned by modeling than humility. Parents can model grace by saying "I'm sorry" themselves. It's not a sign of weakness. It's a demonstration of strength.

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. Brownie mix and the ingredients and pan
2. A small bag of dirt

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together as you did last week.
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture time by reading Hebrews 12:1-2.
4. **Talk** about the kinds of things that hinder us and the sin that can entangle us as we seek to follow Jesus.
5. **Activity:** Announce that we are going to have a treat... BROWNIES. We're going to work together to make them. Begin by reading the directions and putting the mix together. Have the dirt set aside on the counter. Ask one of the children to get the dirt. Pretend that you are going to add this to the mix and see the reaction of the children.

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(Obviously, you don't want to add the dirt to the mix!)

6. **Lesson:** When we make bad choices, things do not work out well. (The dirt would have hindered the creation of good brownies.) Discuss the "dirt" that gets in the way of following Jesus.
7. **Take time to pray** together and ask the Lord for strength to turn away from sin.

Throughout the Week

Remember to build relationships, share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. You may want to continue to pray for each other that you will make good choice and turn away from sin.



WEEK 6

Anyone Can Share Jesus

Public Displays of Prayer

As Christians we should be working daily to develop our “prayer lives,” in order to continuously communicate to our Father in Heaven throughout the day, lifting our daily cares to Him and rejoicing and worshipping Him in prayer.

But prayer was not intended just for us. God tells us in multiple places in the Bible to pray for others.

Paul illustrates this in 1 Timothy 2:1 by telling Timothy to pray for others, “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.”

Prayer can be a powerful tool for sharing your faith. Try this - Pray at work. You might respond, “Me? NO WAY!”

Yes you! It's simple and easy. We all have chances to eat with our co-workers, next time you do, before you start to eat, just quietly bow your head and close your eyes and silently lift up the food and those around you in a prayer. Just take 20 seconds to intercede for those around you and watch what God will do.

The first time you might not get a response, but people are watching. If you do it regularly, then often the conversations at the table quiet down. One man told the story of how he regularly prayed quietly by himself and one time when he was done, someone at the table said quietly, “amen.” God was working right there, directly in front of him.

When people know that you are a man or woman or young person who prays, it sets a new tone for the relationships. Likely people will ask you to pray for them at times. You have something they need: a link to God. You don't have to make a big deal about it. It opened all sorts of doors for deeper relationships with people at work and may provide opportunities to speak into the lives of co-workers and to intercede for them in prayer.

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Give it a shot. A small quiet witness can break the bonds of sin in others. As you sit there quietly for 20 seconds in prayer, God Himself will break new ground in the hearts around you. While your eyes are closed, God will work mightily around you the in hearts of those pretending not to notice your reverence of the Father.

You can do this at home as well. It works. Honor God and He will bless you and your efforts in His name.

WEEK 7

PREPARING FOR WEEK 7

Knowing Christ Personally

Remember that each person must make a personal commitment to Jesus. Sometimes people think that they are Christians because of someone they are close to. For example, a child may assume he's a Christian just because parents are, or a husband may think he can rely on his wife's faith. The reality is that God doesn't have any grandchildren. Each person must become a child of God through a personal commitment to him.

Romans 10:9-10 says it clearly, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Opening conversations about faith eventually leads to a discussion of what this faith is all about and what it means on a practical level. As you have opportunity to share Jesus with people, you'll want to take time and explain God's plan and how a personal decision for Christ is necessary.



WEEK 7

Young Person

Just to Be Sure

One of the benefits of faith in Jesus is that it helps you think rightly about the future. Here's a good question to help you understand your parents better and how they implement their faith into life.

How do you know that you're saved and that you're going to heaven?

As you listen to the answer, you'll discover some important things you'll want to consider from your own life. Although you won't know all the details of your future, you can know that you will spend eternity with Jesus if you have a personal relationship with him.



Here's a good question to help you understand your parents better and how they implement their faith into life. How do you know that you're saved and that you're going to heaven?



WEEK 7

Parent

Trusting Jesus

The most important decision a person will ever make is the one that says, "I want to be part of God's family. I want Jesus to live in my heart." Many children pray some type of sinner's prayer that acknowledges a need for a savior and a desire to live for Christ. But without nourishment, that early decision may drift away from a child's heart.

If a child is going to stay with the faith, then it's important to nurture that decision through the developmental stages. A teenager, for example, who made an early profession of faith in elementary school may feel that the faith is for younger kids unless that faith is brought into the adolescent development.

Learning to trust Christ as the leader (Lord) or your life is a very important concept to embrace. When we trust someone, we put our lives in their hands. It involves taking steps of faith when our understanding is incomplete. In the case of our walk with the Lord, this means obeying His commands because we believe He is trustworthy.

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. You'll need to decide who is going to do the Trust Fall

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together as you did last week. Have you been able to avoid distractions during your family times?
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture time by reading Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight."
4. **Talk** about what it means to trust the Lord. You may want to ask one

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of these questions to get the discussion going.

- a. What does it mean for a 10 year old to trust Christ and live for Him? (You can substitute the age of your child into that question.)
 - b. What are ways that kids can demonstrate their trust in the Lord at their age?
7. **Activity:** You're going to do the trust fall exercise. This is a great activity to demonstrate the real nature of trust. An adult is going to ask the children if they trust him/her. Then ask "Do you want to do the trust fall?" The instructions are important here so that no one gets hurt. (The Lord is completely trustworthy, but we can make mistakes!) Instruct the child to stand up straight and put their arms away from their body a few inches. You will tell them to fall backwards and they must keep their body straight when they fall. The adult should stand behind the child and catch them as they fall by putting your arms under their shoulders. Don't let them fall too far. When you're ready, tell the child to fall back and you will catch them. The rest of the children will also want to do this. Discuss what it feels like when you begin to fall.
8. **Tell** a story about a time you trusted the Lord. Choose a story where you were afraid, but the Lord caught you.
9. **Take time to pray** together and thank the Lord that He is trustworthy.

Throughout the Week

If any of the children in the family have never made a commitment to follow and trust Christ, you may want to talk with them about it this week. Here are some simple suggestions on how to do this.

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Leading a Child to Christ

If your child has never made a commitment to trust Christ you can lead him to Jesus by explaining some basic facts about salvation.

1. We are sinners.
2. We need a savior.
3. Jesus is that savior.
4. We must each talk to God and ask him to be the Lord or boss of our lives.

If your child is ready to make that commitment then talk about it together and then allow your child to pray directly to God and invite Jesus into his life. Then you can follow up that prayer with your own gratefulness to God for your salvation and your excitement about the commitment of your child.



WEEK 7

Anyone Can Share Jesus

When Someone Says YES!

Many of the hooks, comments, and public displays of faith interest people in God and the Christian life. But they are not the goal. The real desire is that people would make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. At some point in the dialogue the Lord might set it up for you to simply ask the question, “Would you like to accept Jesus as your personal savior?”

When God opens the door, you want to be ready to walk a person through the process of accepting Jesus Christ. There’s no magic formula here. Each person must come to a place of total surrender to Jesus. If someone needs help and you want to lead that person to God, you might say something like this.

“We call the process of coming to Christ salvation. We do that because each person who comes to Christ must recognize their own need, that they can’t get to Heaven on their own, and that their own righteousness is not the answer. The problem is that we all have sin in our lives and that sin separates us from God. We need a savior to rescue us and that savior is Jesus Christ. What you need to do is to pray and admit that you are a sinner and ask Jesus to come into your life.”

If you have opportunity, you might even pray with the person who is just learning how to talk with God. It’s a beautiful thing to be part of one’s conversion experience. God does a special thing inside of the person who choose to trust him and watching that take place is a blessing.

After a person makes a decision to follow Christ, you’ll want to help them get connected to a church and obtain a Bible. Those tools will provide encouragement for their faith to grow and develop.

Remember that you are only an instrument used by God. Many times you’ll present the message of the gospel, share God’s love with others, or just interest people in the gospel. But always be ready to watch a person

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respond. You never know where a person is in their progress toward the Lord. Listen to the Holy Spirit and be sensitive to his work in the lives of others. You might just find yourself just at the right place to walk someone into the loving arms of God.

WEEK 8

PREPARING FOR WEEK 8

Harvesters Needed

When speaking of evangelism, Jesus said in Luke 10:2, “He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” In fact, several times the Bible refers to the sharing of the gospel in terms of planting seeds in a field and then harvesting the fruit.

There are several rules of the harvest that are important to understand. First, planting and reaping often come at different times. So, don't always expect that you will reap. Much of the work you do in evangelism is planting or scattering seed. But be ready when its time for the harvest itself.

Another principle of the harvest is the important task of waiting. It takes time for seed to germinate and start to grow. The farmer patiently waters, weeds, and cares for the plants. Don't become impatient with a person's lack of response at any given time. You never know what God is doing in a person's heart so patience is paramount as God works.

Yet another important principle to remember is that the farmer can only do so much and must rely on the Lord to do the rest. The same is true in our evangelistic efforts. Sharing Jesus in a family or at work requires courage and effort, and then there comes a time when trust comes into play. Ultimately, it is the Lord who grows a seed in a person's heart.

Remember that they harvest requires workers. That's obviously the point of the passage in Luke 10. God has called you to be one of his harvesters.

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Always be ready to share the message of Jesus with others and encourage people to come to Christ.



WEEK 8

Young Person

Sharing the Faith with Others

Sharing Jesus with others is important, but sometimes it's tough, especially with close friends or family members. On the one hand, you want them to know Jesus like you do, but on the other, you have to be careful not to offend them so much that they are turned off to the message of the gospel.

As you listen to your parents answer this question you may learn some ways to share about Jesus that you hadn't thought of before.

Here's the question: *What strategy do you use for sharing your faith with unsaved family or friends?*

All people need Jesus, but some don't recognize their need for Christ yet. You might even get some ideas from your parents about ways you can share Christ with some of your own friends.



**Here's the question:
What**

**strategy do you use
for sharing your faith
with unsaved family or
friends?**



WEEK 8

Parent

Being a Missional Family

It's important to define family in terms of mission, not simply existence. Some children believe that a family is simply a group of people living under the same roof. Although it is true that the face of the family can look very different in one home than in another, the family is much more.

Sometimes grandparents are raising kids. A single mom with her two children are a family. Blended families and adoptive or foster care families all must tie into the definition somehow.

The key is to think in terms of mission. A family is a team of people, usually biologically related, who have the task of working together to grow in their faith and share the message of God's love with others. Although that may not be a complete or satisfactory definition of family, it describes the task they have together.

The term "Missional Family" may be more descriptive. You might tell your children that you are a missional family. That's a family that values its roles and relationships together and uses their family to reach out to others.

It's interesting to watch families that serve together. They often use service to strengthen their relationships together. They have a higher calling and enjoy the unity that service often provides. These families aren't perfect, but they see their role to be much bigger than simply providing food, clothing, and shelter.

Missional families have meaning in their lives that goes above and beyond the mundane. Look for ways to work together as a family to serve God and share his love.

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. You are going to want to give some advance thought to possible service projects for your family

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Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together at the time you've set aside.
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture time by reading Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus' commission to all.
4. **Talk** about what it means to be a "Missional Family." Use the content above and put it in your own words for your family.
5. **Activity:** Plan a service project together. Take the following steps.
 - a. Ask family members to talk about ways that the family may already be serving together.
 - b. Consider the interests, passions and opportunities available to the family. For instance, you may ask the children to talk about who the family may be able to serve. What are the needs in your community or in the world?
 - c. Consider some examples. You might gather food and take it to a local food pantry, visit a rest home and visit some of the patients, or write greeting cards to encourage people you know. It is important to involve the children in the idea stage as well as the implementation stage to maximize the impact.
 - d. Decide on one project to work on together as a family. Develop a plan of action. Who is going to do what and when?
6. **Take time to pray** together and ask God to guide you as you implement your plan for ministry. Pray for those to whom you will be ministering.

Throughout the Week

You're going to need to do some additional work this week and in the weeks to come to accomplish your ministry plan. You may need to have another meeting to do more planning or to implement the plan. This may be one of the most important things you can do in terms of discipleship at home. Sharing a vision for being "missional" is crucial for committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

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WEEK 8

Anyone Can Share Jesus

Displaying Your Faith

Look at this story from one businessman. “A few years ago I was out west on a business trip, I was to be away from home for a week or so and I didn’t know many people at this location. The workday had started and I was making coffee in the company’s break area and I heard from off to my right, ‘I like that hat.’ I was wearing a baseball cap with an emblem of what is typically called the “Jesus Fish.” I like that hat, not only because it’s comfortable, but because of the opportunities it continually gives me.

“So, I turned and asked, “Yeah? Do you know what that represents?” As it turns out, he did and he told me he was a Christian. He then offered to walk me around the office and took me to desks of all the other Christians in the area. He was faithful and God was making connections for me. My new friend and brother walked up to others to introduce me and said, “This is Erik, He’s good brother from New Jersey!” and in a day I went from knowing no one to knowing 10-15 brothers and sisters, all by the grace of God and my brothers willing heart.”

You don’t have to wear a hat. You can experience the same thing wearing a jacket that says “recycled” with a cross on it, or a tee shirt that says “GodTheFather” in the same logo format as the movie the “TheGodFather.” Many logos on hats, shirts, and jewelry communicate an introduction to spiritual things.

Why are these small things effective at drawing people in? They get people thinking about spiritual things. Just the thought is intriguing and often corresponds to what the Holy Spirit is already doing in a person’s heart.

John 6:40 says, ***“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*** The Lord’s love is true. He does not require you to be a pastor or even an older Christian. God just wants a willing heart.

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These aren't forced conversations; they are divine appointments. God brings folks to you. There are promises in these verses. God is saying to these drawn folks - I'm loving, I sent Jesus for you, believe in him and you will be saved. This is the whisper those being drawn are hearing, that yearning of the heart now grows, the seed germinating as at were. Then God takes willing hearts all around them to nurture the yearning heart so they see and feel the love of God in and through others. Then God reassures the willing heart, "Just be here, believe, and let me work through you."

All this takes is a willing heart. Open your heart to the idea, don't force it. Just make quiet statement of faith by what you wear and be ready to be used. You'll be amazed as you watch God do the work.

PREPARING FOR WEEK9

Spiritual Closeness

Sharing the faith with others requires courage and trust. Both are important. Those who overemphasize their courage may find themselves discouraged because they don't see the results they were looking for.

Courage isn't an absence of fear. Rather, courage is the ability to act in spite of fears. It's an important quality that you build in your own heart as you share the gospel with others.

On the other hand, trust is essential. Trust is the recognition that God is at work and that he has a plan. God uses people to accomplish his will but we can only do so much. God must take the work we do and incorporate it with his grace in people's lives for them to experience Jesus personally.

Colossians 3:2-6 gives an excellent model for us. Paul asks his readers to pray for him because Paul recognizes the importance of God's work in his evangelistic efforts. "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

Yes, we must take initiative in sharing God's love with people, but we must also rely on God and his grace to touch the hearts of those with whom we are sharing.



WEEK 9

Young Person

Staying Close to God

The Christian life isn't just about making a decision in the past. It's about living that life everyday. Here's a question for your parents that might get them thinking as well as provide you with interesting answers that you might use for yourself.

How do you cultivate your relationship with God on an ongoing basis? Or, What do you do to keep your relationship with the Lord fresh and active?

Wow. That's a question that gets anyone thinking. In fact, you'll want to consider that question for your own heart.



Here's a question for your

parents that might get them thinking as well as provide you with interesting answers that you might use for yourself: How do you cultivate your relationship with God on an ongoing basis? Or, What do you do to keep your relationship with the Lord fresh and active?



WEEK 9

Parent

Be Separate, But Not Weird

Kids need to understand the careful balance between living in the world but not getting sucked into the world's ways.

A preschooler, for example, can learn to share instead of hoard toys. That's a demonstration of demonstrating God's ways instead of the world's ways. An elementary child can look for ways to include a child who has no friends. A teen can say no to evil that other teens are engaged in.

Separate is different than weird. Some people act strange under the banner of Christianity. That's not the same as taking a stand for what's right or extending love to others who are in need.

Kids need to understand that Christians are different than other people. It doesn't have anything to do with being intolerant of others. We still accept differences and we don't condemn others. But we still take a stand for what's right and aren't afraid to communicate what we believe. A careful balance is needed to stick to convictions while demonstrating love at the same time.

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. Eggs (one for each member of the family)
2. Saucers (one for each member of the family plus the Family Saucer)
3. Empty plastic water bottle

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together as you did last week.
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture time by reading 2 Corinthians 6:17, "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord."
4. **Talk** about what it means for Christians to be separate. How are

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Christians different from non-believers? How are some Christians just weird?

- 5. Activity:** You're going to spend a lot of time this week on the activity. Get out some eggs. (You'll need one for everyone in the family.) You'll also need some a few saucers. Crack one egg on a saucer. Use an empty plastic water bottle to suck up the yoke of the egg from the saucer and transplant it to another saucer. (This is the family saucer.) Now have everyone in the family crack an egg in their own saucer. (Young children may need assistance with this.) Have each member of the family separate the yoke from the white. (Again, parents will need to help young children.) As you separate the yoke from the white of the egg, you can talk further about what it means to be separate from the world. All of the yolks should end up in the Family Saucer. As Christians gather together, represented by yokes on a saucer, they can encourage each other to be the people that God called them to be. (Save the eggs and put them in the frig for a family breakfast sometime during the week.)
- 6. Tell** a story about how being together with other Christians has helped you be separate from the world.
- 7. Take time to pray** together and thank God for his work in your lives and in your family.

Enjoy the adventure this week.

Throughout the Week

Remember to build relationships, share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. Likely if you're trying to live for the Lord in your home, you'll have regular conversations about what it means to be separate from the world. Sometime during the week, you might want to enjoy an egg breakfast together and talk about being separate.



WEEK 9

Anyone Can Share Jesus

Facebook or Faithbook

Facebook and other social media provide a huge platform from which to evangelize. With just a few simple clicks you can start evangelizing to hundreds of people, to encourage or provide a piece of scripture that might redirect a life.

God says in Isaiah 55:9, “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the scripture you posted lead someone to the foot of the cross and to salvation?

Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, and other social networking sites are wonderful tools. You can gain insight into your friends’ and associates’ lives and you can tell within just a few clicks if there is someone in your online social community that needs encouragement, prayer, or a friend.

The establishment of the roads and trade routes in Bible times enabled a faster transport of goods and information, speeding the gospel message from village to town to seaport. In a similar way, social media leads to the hearts of people that need to hear the gospel message.

Your testimony is on Facebook. If there’s nothing about God there, then that is your testimony. Is that what you want? You don’t want your faith to be a secret. Instead, you want to be a vessel used by God to reach others. You can put your spiritual life out there for people to browse so they can see the impact of Jesus in your life and the lives of those around you.

So how do you do it? Look for times to post scripture, a song, or a prayer and that’s where it starts and just let the Lord do the rest. You’ll find Facebook friends all over the world. Those friends will find you on Facebook. You can then use your facetime to worship the Lord with others and discuss his Word.

Why don’t you try it today? Post your favorite scripture, maybe your life

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verse and tell the folks on Facebook why this verse is important to you.

Give it a shot! Go post for the Lord!

WEEK 10

PREPARING FOR WEEK 10

Why Do You Go to Church?

Some people go to church to be with friends; others are seeking to find spiritual strength. Still others, go to church because that's what they've always done. It's part of their heritage. Although all of those are good reasons to attend church, one of the primary benefits is that God created the church to be a community.

Church is a special place where needs are met, people serve, and God speaks works of conviction, encouragement, and direction. The longer you've been a Christian, the more valuable you find the church to be. In this lesson you'll explore a bit more about why the church is important to you and then use it as a basis for sharing with others.



WEEK 10

Young Person

Choosing the Right Church

One of the ways people grow in their relationship with God is through a church. But there are a lot of different kinds of churches out there. Here's a question that you can ask your parents that will help you learn some important things about what they value.

How do you choose a church? And why did you choose the church you go to now? Why is church important anyway?

As you listen to the answers, you might want to create a list of things you'll use to evaluate what church you'll attend when you are on your own or when you're an adult.



Here's a question that you can

ask your parents that will help you learn some important things about what they value: How do you choose a church? And why did you choose the church you go to now? Why is church important anyway?



WEEK 10

Parent

The Church is a Community

What does it mean to be a “community?” I like to consider the concept of “team.” A team has a purpose to accomplish and it’s done together. In order to be successful, the members of the team must all do their part or the team will not succeed. In baseball, the pitcher needs the rest of the team to field the ball and make plays. In many sports, the team needs to pass the ball in order to find a good shot and score a goal.

When a team is strong, the members are able to look past individual glory and seek the success of the team. Each member has unique talents or gifts that contribute to the healthy functioning of the team, but these must work in harmony. It is the same in a strong church or family.

This week we’re going to focus on the idea of the team (family) supporting each other and all pulling the same direction. Next week we will focus on identifying and developing the unique strengths or “gifts” of each member of the family.

One activity that takes a significant amount of energy and time is food. Buying, preparing, eating, and cleaning up food take up hours in a week. Mealtimes then can be a great time to bring the family together. In fact, even outside the home, mealtimes are a social experience allowing people to get to know each other better.

Unfortunately, many mealtimes are ruined by conflict in one way or another. Sometimes it’s the selfishness of children bickering or fighting. Other times, the problem is parents who make the mistake of overemphasizing manners or diet. All of those issues must be addressed in some way, but it’s important to be proactive and not just corrective at the table.

Use mealtimes to talk about the Lord and you’ll find great conversations grow out of your table talk together.

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Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. Find a bowl that can serve as the Question Bowl. You can label it as such or just identify it as such.
2. Tear up some paper into smaller sections. These will be used to write down questions that will go into the Question Bowl. You'll also need some writing implements.

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together as you did last week.
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture time by reading Acts 2:42-47.
4. **Talk** about the passage. What are all the ways that the early church functioned as a community or a team?
5. **Activity:** Create a Question Bowl for the family. You will put this bowl on the table with the rest of the food when the family sits down to eat a meal. During this family time, everyone will write out questions and put them into the Question Bowl. These might be questions such as "What is your favorite time of day and why?" "Where is a place you'd like to travel to?" Or, "What is your first memory?" Once you have a good number of questions written, you'll take turns picking one question from the bowl and answering it. Everyone gets one question this time. You will be doing this during your meal times throughout the coming week.
6. **Take time to pray** together and thank God for his work in your lives and in your family.

Enjoy the adventure this week.

Throughout the Week

Remember to build relationships, share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. During meal times this week, make sure that you put the Question Bowl on the table with the serving dishes. One at a time during

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the meal, each person must take a question out of the bowl and answer it. Enjoy listening to each other and offer words of affirmation after each person has shared. You should have some fun and stimulating discussions as a family during your meals this week!



WEEK10

Anyone Can Share Jesus

What Happened On Your Weekend?

Conversations happen. People talk about the weather, the latest movie, the news, and interesting things they are doing. One of the interesting things you're doing is attending church and that gives you something to talk about. You might start the conversation by asking someone about their weekend, what they did and what happened. Often people will return the question and when they do, you want to have an answer ready to go?

So, in order to prepare that answer, it might be good to do some soul searching yourself and ask the important question, "Why do you go to church anyway?" And even, "Why do you go to the church you're presently attending?" The answers to those questions lead directly back to your relationship with God, providing talking points that will likely be interesting to anyone.

In that conversation you don't have to invite the person to attend church with you unless that's a natural flow of the conversation. What you're doing is being real with someone else about your own personal faith practice. Sometimes people wonder why giving up a Sunday morning to go to church would be helpful for them. Your personal testimony about the benefit of church for you can open new ways of thinking for others who are trying to live busy lives.

Everyone must choose how to use the 168 hours during their week. Much of their decisions have to do with what they value. If going to church is important then it will increase its perceived importance in a week. People who don't attend church are missing something very important for their lives. They may not realize what they're missing and when you share about the benefit for you of attending church this week, you might just open up new ways of thinking for others to consider their own experience this weekend.

So, think about it and be ready to share, "What did you do this weekend that is worth sharing with others?"

WEEK 11

PREPARING FOR WEEK 11

Team Members Complement Each Other

Not everyone plays the same position on a team. If they did then they would be ineffective. Rather, a good team is a gathering of people with complementary skills and talents who can work together toward a goal. Each team member must value the other players, recognizing that they are different and have unique strengths that they bring.

Sometimes people get sidetracked in life because they compete and compare themselves to each other, wanting to be first or best. Of course, that kind of attitude works against any productive sense of cooperation.

In this lesson you'll explore the benefit of working as a team and seeing the strengths in others that contribute to success.



WEEK**11**

Young Person

What is Your Spiritual Gift?

God gives each Christian a spiritual gift. That gift helps people contribute to the lives of others. Although all Christians should be helping others, some have a more clear understanding about their spiritual gifts than others. So you might need to start with the first question and then broaden the question if your dad or mom doesn't have a clear answer to the first one.

What is your spiritual gift? And more importantly, "What ways does God use you to help others?"

Jesus taught us how to serve and care about others. As you embrace the faith in your life, helping others will be one of the characteristics that others will see in you.



You might need to start with the first question and then broaden the question if your dad or mom doesn't have a clear answer to the first one.

What is your spiritual gift? And more importantly, "What ways does God use you to help others?"



WEEK 11

Parent

Working as a Team

We talked about the nature of a team last week. This week we will focus on identifying and developing the unique strengths or “gifts” of each member of the family. Not everyone can play the same position on a team. In football, not everyone can be the quarterback. The team needs players who can block, tackle, catch the ball, run with the ball and cover receivers. Yes, the team needs a field general leads the team and can pass the ball effectively.

Too often on teams, everyone wants to play the “star” position. Those kinds of teams ultimately don’t do very well. It’s only when everyone knows their role or their “gift” that the team is strong and successful. The Bible talks about the “body of Christ” as a human body with many parts. This is the same idea.

We’re going to work on identifying the gifts and talents of each member of the family this week.

Preparing for Family Time

Here’s what you’ll need for your family activity this week.

1. The adults in the family may want to give some thought to the gifts and talents of the children.

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together as you did last week.
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture time by reading Romans 12:3-6a.
4. **Talk** about what it means that we each have different gifts and talents. Ask each member of the family to share one of their gifts or talents. Adults may have to suggest possibilities for the younger children in the family.

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- 5. Activity:** This activity is sometimes called strength bombardment. Each member of the family takes turns getting in the middle of the circle. Everyone in the family shares the gifts and talents that they recognize in the person in the middle. Now rotate to a different person in the middle of the circle.
- 6. Take time to pray** together and thank God for the specific gifts that he has given to each member of the family.

Enjoy the adventure this week.

Throughout the Week

Remember to build relationships, share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. You might want to comment to make it a practice of complimenting family members when you observe them using their gifts or talents.



WEEK11

Anyone Can Share Jesus

The Gift of Affirmation

It was Mark Twain who said, “I can live for two months on a good compliment.” He was describing the value to a person’s heart of true affirmation. The Bible says in Proverbs 25:11, “A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.” Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

Some people in the world do better at this than others. You might want to spend this week honing down your skills of affirmation by looking for positive things to say about others. One way to do that is by simply focusing on another person’s strengths. What makes that person interesting, valuable, or successful? What unique qualities does that person have?

Words of affirmation open up the heart. People develop trust and are more ready to talk about things that may be more significant. You’re not simply praising someone to butter them up for a spiritual conversation. But rather you’re offering genuine praise and admiration. The reality is that people need that kind of encouragement and it rarely happens in the world today.

You might point out affirmation of behavior by pointing to an accomplishment or an action. Or, you may choose to acknowledge some character quality such as patience, persistence, or creativity. That kind of habit in your life makes you a more attractive person and someone that people want to listen to.

When people feel valued, they are often more open to listen or hear new ideas. That provides you with an opportunity to share spiritually. It might not be sharing the gospel, but maybe it’s sharing how you admire God or appreciate being a Christian.

An open heart is a prerequisite for receiving a heart-based message. God opens the heart in many ways. Sometimes it’s just the thoughtfulness of

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someone like you that makes them more interested in the deeper message about who you are.

WEEK 12

PREPARING FOR WEEK 12

Unwrapping the Present

2 Corinthians 9:16 gives a summary of salvation when Paul says, “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.” What is that gift? Many would say, “He gave His only begotten son.” And of course, you’re right. Others might say, “He gave us evidence of His love.” And of course, that would be right, too.

But let’s be a bit more specific than that, for in actuality, God gave us several very valuable gifts all wrapped up in this package we call salvation. He gave us forgiveness of sin and the ability to forgive others resulting in peace inside our hearts. He took up residence inside of us and gave us a new life. We have freedom from the power of sin and a hope for the future. We enjoy closeness with other brothers and sisters and are given purpose for living.

Another part of that gift is hope and this week you’ll explore ways to share the hope that God has given to you with others.



WEEK 12

Young Person

Being Positive in a Negative World

Christians find hope in the Lord and that produces an internal strength even in the midst of tough times. Nehemiah said it well in Nehemiah 8:10: "The joy of the LORD is your strength." However it's interesting to hear how people work this out in their own lives. This is one of those questions you might want to allow your parents to think about a bit before answering. You might give them a preview of the question so that they can prepare their answer.

How does your faith provide a positive outlook on life when things seem to be bad either personally or in our world in general?

Being a Christian allows you to have an attitude about life that is different than the person who doesn't yet know Christ. It's a beautiful thing to trust in God and hope is just one of the benefits he provides.



This is one of those questions

you might want to allow your parents to think about a bit before answering. You might give them a preview of the question so that they can prepare their answer.

How does your faith provide a positive outlook on life when things seem to be bad either personally or in our world in general?



WEEK12

Parent

Build Up or Tear Down

One of the aspects of passing faith on to kids is teaching them how to live life every day in a way that considers God's desires and values. This week, just take one area, personal speech, a challenge for most people.

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. There is no preparation needed for this Family Time.

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together as you did last week. Is the place you've chosen working well for your family?
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture time by reading 1 Thess. 5:11. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
4. **Talk** about how we talk with each other. You may want to start with something like this. "I've been looking for ways to make our house a place where others feel built up instead of torn down. I think some of that has to do with how we talk. Let's discuss this question.
 - a. What are some ways that we can build each other up, even if we disagree or the other person isn't cooperating?
5. **Activity:** We're going to play the "Oops and Ahhh" Game today. Every time a member of the family does or says something that builds up another member of the family, everyone says "Ahhh" to affirm this person. When someone says or does something that tears down another person, everyone says "Oops!" Practice this for a few minutes to get the hang of it. Play this game for the rest of the evening or for a couple of hours.

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- 6. Take time to pray** together and ask the Lord to help your family grow in building up one another.

Enjoy the adventure this week.

Throughout the Week

Remember to build relationships, share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. You could decide to play the “Oops and Ahhh” Game at various times throughout the week. Be careful not to do it too often as it can become frustrating!



WEEK12

Anyone Can Share Jesus

Being People of Encouragement

One of the greatest gifts Jesus gave us is the gift of hope. We not only have a hope for heaven someday, but we have hope every day that God will work in situations in our lives. God works in the lives of people, and what better way to share your faith than to give it away to others in the form of encouragement.

Bad things happen in the lives of people all around. Some of those bad things result in hearts overwhelmed with discouragement, anger, or even annoyance. You can be a peacemaker by sharing a bit of your faith with someone else. You might not come right out and express that Jesus is the answer to the problem. But you might say, “It looks like you’re having a tough day. I want you to know that I’m praying for you.” Or, “That was a tough situation you just experienced. That would make anyone upset. I’m thinking about you today. If I can help, please let me know.”

The reality is that your faith is practical and relevant to the daily interactions of life. Our God is a God of encouragement and hope. You can share that message by just being a person who is positive, encouraging, and a blessing to others. People will enjoy being around you and will lean on you for strength, providing you with an opportunity every once in a while to talk about where that strength really comes from.

1 Peter 3:15 says, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” It’s not just about having hope. It’s about knowing the God of hope and having him resident in your life. Who can you encourage today with the hope that God has given you?

WEEK 13

PREPARING FOR WEEK 13

Allowing God to Lead You

Passing the faith on to others isn't so much about going to a class or preparing a speech as it is about being willing to take advantage of the opportunities that come your way. The goal is to be just a little more spiritually transparent with others.

Philip was ready to be used by God when he was called away from a revival in Samaria to have what appeared to be a random meeting with the Ethiopian Eunuch. He was ready and God used him mightily.

You never know how the words you share might impact the hearts of others. God uses people to spread his message of salvation to others. One conversation isn't usually the only thing that God uses to draw a person to himself but it may be one piece of a larger plan that God is doing in that person's life.

The important thing is to be ready to share. Allow God to speak and watch how he works through you.



WEEK 13

Young Person

Letting God Speak

Let's start with a question for you. Does God speak to you? If so, how does he do that?

God does speak to young people. I'm not just talking about audibly, although that does occur sometimes. I'm talking about how he speaks to you through the Bible, through your heart, and even through others such as your parents.

Here's a great question to ask your parents and the answer may help you understand yourself more as well.

How do you know when God is speaking to you? You can follow that up with this question: What is something that God has told you?

And then here's an interesting question you might ask: Has God ever used me to communicate something to you?

It's interesting that parents often learn about God by having kids and sometimes working with young people teaches adults some important lessons. I would think those questions would teach you a lot about your parents and might even help you understand more about how God might speak to you.



**Here's
a great
question to**

**ask your parents and
the answer may help
you understand yourself
more as well: How do
you know when God is
speaking to you? You
can follow that up with
this question: What is
something that God has
told you?**



WEEK13

Parent

Led By the Spirit

God is working in our lives. He doesn't always work the way we might expect. If children can grasp the idea of God at work always, then they will do much better at understanding life itself.

We always must remember that people are watching, God is working, and that our mission in life is more than simply to get things done around the house or at school. We are growing in Jesus and sharing him with others all the time.

If we live in the reality of the presence of God, then we are different people. Being sensitive to our role as servants before God as our Lord can help us respond better to life situations throughout the day.

Preparing for Family Time

Here's what you'll need for your family activity this week.

1. One candle and a lighter or matches
2. Items from your kitchen to serve as a barrier to blowing out the candle. You'll want to use round as well as square shapes of various sizes that you find in your kitchen. (ie. Can of beans, coffee, and pitcher, as opposed to a quart of milk.)

Family Time

1. **Gather** your family together as you did last week.
2. **Open** with prayer.
3. **Start** your Scripture time by reading John 3:8. "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

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4. **Talk** about this passage using the following questions.
 - a. Why do you think that God uses the picture of wind to describe the person who is a Christian?
 - b. What does it mean to responsive to the Holy Spirit in practical terms?
 - c. You might ask a child this question, “What does God want you to do today?”
5. **Activity:** Light a candle and place it on the table. Invite a child to use his wind to blow out the candle. Let all of the children have a turn. Then experiment with different barriers between the children and the candle. Use round as well as square shapes of various sizes that you find in your kitchen and try to blow the candle out. (ie. Can of beans, coffee, and pitcher, as opposed to a quart of milk.) Air bends around a large cylinder to extinguish the flame but doesn't pass as easily around corners. Just as the air doesn't always do what we think it might, God also does the unexpected.
6. **Tell** a story about how God did the unexpected in your life. Make this a real-life story.
7. **Take time to pray** together and ask the Lord to make you sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Thank God for his work in your lives and in your family.

Throughout the Week

Remember to build relationships, share Scripture and practice faith throughout the week. You may also want to discuss some ideas for continuing your family times each week in the future. If you enjoyed it, why not keep going!



WEEK13

Anyone Can Share Jesus

What are You Waiting For?

We do a bunch of waiting in our lives. I recently read a study that said we spend 2 to 3 years in total over the entirety of our lives just waiting. Waiting in lines, waiting in the doctor's office, waiting at traffic lights, waiting at the bus stop...

Ever look around at the folks waiting around with you? Have you ever wondered about them? Have you ever had the urging to speak to one of them? I have, it's normally when I see a hint of sadness or feel a bit of tension. We know the closer you get to God, the more sensitive we become to others in pain and the needs of others in general. I've learned that when that happens I account that directly to God. We call it a prompting of the Spirit and I turn the encounter over to God and engage with them.

Romans 8:14 says — For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

The Spirit leads. He leads through the Word and from within, He teaches and guides and if you are willing and obedient He will lead you as well. That is part of our birthright as followers of Christ, as children of the Most High. Jesus promised the “Helper” who “dwells with you and will be in you” — John 14:15-17, “he will teach you all things and bring to remembrance all that I have said to you” John 14:26.

It can just start with something as simple as a feeling to talk to a person and trusting in that feeling I engage them in a conversation – I don't worry about what to say, I just start on the journey.

Practically, I react to the things I see and feel and lean on the things I believe and have been taught. I see someone in pain and I ask if they are okay. I see someone in need and I ask if I can help. I do it in accordance to all that I have been given in Christ. More often than not a connection is made and I find myself taking a back seat to my own thoughts, as the conversations continue I begin to worship God in awe of His wisdom and

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knowledge as the person seems to open up and the conversation turns towards God.

There are those that feel that being led by the Spirit is complicated, but in all honesty it is very simple. I've experienced this many times in my walk, being led by the Spirit, a crucial component to "being led" is a willingness to be guided. It starts with an earnest faith, the obedient heart and the willingness to step out in Jesus' name.

So while you are waiting around... what are you waiting for? Take a look around, see if the Spirit has a mini mission for you and if so, if the urge comes; take the step and watch the Lord do something amazing.

So, just what are you waiting for anyway?

CONCLUSION

Fanning the Flame

The most important thing a Christian can do is know God and make him known to others. 2 Corinthians 5:11 says, “Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.” Allowing others to see that is strategic in your plan of evangelism.

When people watch you live they are more persuaded than seeing a snapshot of things that are good. Don't be afraid to share the process of God's work in your life. After all, that's really the best testimony for anyone else to see.

Your work to help lead people through the 90-Day Adventure is strategic. Likely you heard some good testimonies and met with some challenges. As in most initiatives such as this one, some people start well but don't persevere. Don't let that discourage you. You're contributing to a culture shift. You're helping Christians take their faith seriously. That sometimes happens one step at a time. In the end, it's God who brings revival to the human heart. He often uses people to bring the message but that human endeavor is accompanied by the divine work of spiritual quickening of individuals.

You never know how many people you touch when you embark on a program like this. Be encouraged. It's been some significant work but God is the one who brings about results. Our job as fellow-laborers is just to be faithful. Thank you for your faithfulness to God in your work to help people pass the faith on to others, particularly to the next generation.

Free E-mail Parenting Tips



Receive guidance and inspiration a couple of times a week in your inbox. Free Parenting Tips give practical suggestions to help you relate better to your kids and help your kids change their hearts, not just their behavior.

The National Center for Biblical Parenting is here to help you. Visit biblicalparenting.info and sign up today for Free Email Parenting Tips, available in English and Spanish. While you're there, discover other great resources for parents.



76 Hopatcong Drive, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-4136
Phone: (609) 771-8002
Email: parent@biblicalparenting.org
Web: biblicalparenting.info



4/14 Movement

Identify your website, blog, or event with the 4/14 Movement. Consider putting one of these badges on your site.



You can find these badges at
takethefamilychallenge.com/badge.asp



4/14 **Family Challenge** **CONFERENCE**

Might your church be interested in hosting a 4/14 Family Challenge Conference?

This conference provides vision for the importance of discipleship in the home and uses local speakers who can help tackle the challenges facing the family today.

The conference begins a process of ongoing partnership between churches and families.

If you're interested in learning more about this unique family development conference, please visit biblicalparenting.org/familyministry.asp



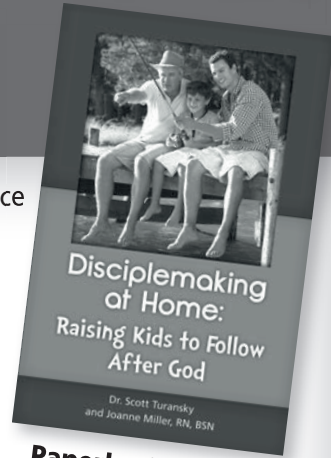
STRENGTHENING FAMILIES
and **HELPING THEM PASS**
the **FAITH** on to their **KIDS**

Disciplemaking at Home: Raising Kids to Follow After God

By Dr. Scott Turansky
and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN

Every child's heart has an internal guidance system to keep it on track. Learn to parent in a way that strengthens a child's relationship with God and encourages a commitment to do what's right. The internal guidance system, made up of the conscience and the Holy Spirit, can move a child to a higher level of maturity and responsibility. One of the greatest gifts you give to your children is spiritual and moral direction. In this book you'll learn practical, biblical advice that will change the way you work with your child. For example, you will learn...

- Practical ways to pass the faith on to your kids.
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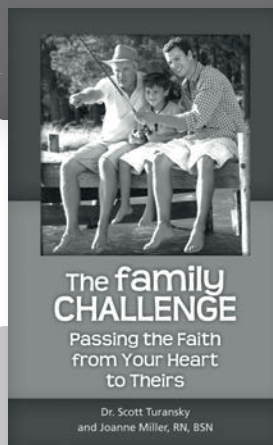
The family CHALLENGE

Passing the Faith from Your Heart to Theirs

By Dr. Scott Turansky
and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN

You have a job to do—pass the faith on to your kids. This book will show you how to use three tools to accomplish your goal:

- **Build Relationship**
- **Share Scripture**
- **Practice Faith**



Free Download at
TakeTheFamilyChallenge.com

The National Center for Biblical Parenting is committed to empowering parents to pass the faith on to their kids and mobilizing the church to equip them. This book contains 5 chapters from the larger book *Disciplemaking at Home*.



Find out more at
TakeTheFamilyChallenge.com

Equip Parents to Pass on the Faith and Empower the Kids Too!

- Parents receive 13 fun Family Time activities to bring their family together around spiritual nurture. With just 20-30 minutes a week, parents can have a dramatic influence on their children's spiritual development.
- Kids (ages 9 and up) receive 13 questions to ask of their parents to learn more about faith.
- All adults receive 13 suggestions for sharing their faith with others.

Using this three-pronged approach, your 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure can inspire and encourage your whole church or school with new spiritual vitality.

In short, the 90-Day Adventure brings an emphasis to faith that is more than soaking it in. Now faith is being shared, with a special emphasis on spiritual development in families.

The 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure is one of the Family Ministry Development tools of the National Center for Biblical Parenting. We are committed to helping parents pass the faith on to their children and mobilizing churches to equip them. You might want to evaluate your church or school using our Four Components of Family Ministry at biblicalparenting.org.

Dr. Scott Turansky, co-founder of the National Center for Biblical Parenting and Ed Miller, Director of Development for the National Center for Biblical Parenting, designed and developed the 4/14 Family Challenge 90-Day Adventure as one of the tools used to enhance Family Ministry in churches and schools. For a free Family Ministry consultation with the National Center for Biblical Parenting, please contact Ed at Ed@biblicalparenting.org.



Dr. Scott
Turansky



Ed Miller



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