

Four Practical Ways to Disciple Our Kids

(Hint: You probably already know them)

Our purpose as a parent is clearly defined in the Great Commission (Matthew 18:19-20)

We are not called to be perfect parents, but we are called to be purposeful parents.

#1 Love on our Kids

- Showing our children love is not only how they learn to love others, but it's the first way we can begin to allow God to write His love on their hearts.
- Modeling love is much better than just talking about it
- We cannot expect our kids to love, if we don't model it in their lives.

Put it into practice:

- Discover their love language (words of affirmation, acts of service, physical touch, gifts, quality time)
- Ask them what love means to them and discuss God's definition of love.
- Model it (there watching every move & word).

#2 Pray with our Kids

- As parents, we must teach our children to pray. After all, if we don't, who will?
- Jesus showed us how to pray, not what to pray (Matthew 6:9-13)

Hallowed be your name: God is worthy of praise.

Your kingdom come: For heaven to invade our everyday life.

Your will be done: Surrender to the will of God

Give us today our daily bread: Spiritual nourishment from God's word.

Forgive us our debts: Acknowledgment that we've done wrong.

As we also have forgiven our debtors: Reflect on how we should forgive.

Lead us not into temptation: Give us discernment not to sin.

Deliver us from the evil one: Rescue us from the times we do fall.

Five Finger Prayers

1. **Hello!** We can start our prayer by greeting God and telling God, "You're amazing!" By doing that we recognize who we're talking to
2. **Sorry.** It's good to admit when we've made a mistake. Tell God we know we messed up and we don't want to do it again.
3. **Thank you.** Say to God, "You've done so much for me," and remember all the things God has given you.
4. **Yes?** Pause and hear what God has to say, too. Tell God, "I'm listening."
5. **Please.** Always remember to ask God for help with whatever you need in your life. Pray for your family, friends, neighbors, the world — tell God everything!

It's important to let our kids know that we don't always get the answers we want when we pray.

Put it into practice:

- Engage in prayer for and with your kids today.
- Ask them what they'd like to talk to God about.
- Join them in going to the Lord with whatever is on their heart (let them pray).

#3 Connect with our Kids

- If we are not intentional about connecting with our kids, we will miss those heart-to-heart moments they need.
- Do your kids know you care?
 - Or do they think that you're....Indifferent, unreliable, disengaged, uninterested?
- If we are not intentional with our children, they'll find connection somewhere else.

Put it into practice:

- Ask your kids about their favorite thing to do with you. (It might surprise you)
- Be sensitive to moments you can connect with them (Be available).
- Be intentional: (it requires active engagement on your part)

#4 Engage God's Word with our Kids

- 2 Timothy 3:15-17 reminds us that the Word of God is inspired by God Himself and applies to every aspect of our lives.
- "Bible engagement is the most critical discipline you can have as a believer. It is most important because it impacts every other discipline in the life of a disciple.
- Engagement takes information from the page and applies it to their everyday lives.

Put it into practice:

- Take time today to ask your kids what they think about the Bible and what it means to them
- Get them a Bible! (Age-appropriate, translation, non-electronic)
- Daily devotions (apps, books)
- Games

BONUS Rest

- Why Rest? Because God said so. (Exodus 20:8-10)
- When's the last time you were truly still? What about your kids?

Put it into practice:

- Ask your kids what they find restful (you might be surprised).
- Plan a time of rest this week for the whole family.
- Get away from distractions.