

HOW TO RAISE A DISCIPLE



Why Raising Disciples Matters

Your child is a blessing from God. In the Gospels, Jesus clearly shows that he has a heart for children (Mk. 10:14) and even commands his followers to be like children (Matt. 18:3). We believe the primary call of the Christian is to be a disciple - to live and love like Jesus. As a parent, it is your responsibility to lead your child in the journey of learning how to live and love like Jesus.

Discipling your child is your responsibility, but we believe it's Foundry's responsibility to help you do that. We are committed to providing the resources and community you need to successfully raise a godly family.

How Do I Disciple My Child?

Have a Plan

The #1 reason that parents don't successfully disciple their child is they don't have a plan. Discipling your child doesn't happen by accident – it takes intentional planning and consistent execution. Here are Foundry's 4 steps for how to disciple your child:

1. TEACH (Deut. 6:4-9; Prov. 22:6)

If we want our children to be like Jesus, the best way to help them is teaching them scripture. The Bible tells parents to teach their children scripture everywhere they go (Deut. 6:4-9). The **Foundry Kids One Year Bible** is the easiest way to do that... and it's free! With only 10 minutes a day, your child can learn all of the major stories of scripture 5 times per year! You can read it to them, or they can read for themselves.

2. PRAY (Matt. 6:9-13)

Praying is how we build a relationship with God. It is important that our kids know God – not just know about God. A simple way to teach your child to pray is to use the Lord's Prayer. Teach them to:

- A. Talk to God relationally (*our Father in heaven, holy be your name...*)
- B. Pray for things God cares about (*your kingdom come, your will be done...*)
- C. Ask God to supply your needs (*give us this day our daily bread...*)
- D. Ask God for forgiveness (*forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin...*)
- E. Ask for his guidance (*lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil...*)

3. COMMUNITY (Heb. 10:24-25; Gal. 6:2)

You aren't meant to travel the road of parenting and faith alone! We all need support and community. God commands that we carry each other's burdens (Gal. 6:2), not neglecting to meet together because that is how we get encouragement (Heb. 10:24-25). There are two ways to embrace community: Sunday Experiences and Foundry Groups.

To check out all of our groups, go to thisisfoundry.com/groups/!

4. SERVE (1 Tim. 4:12)

Research shows that the #1 way to keep your child from leaving the faith when they grow up is to *serve with them*. Your child is part of the body of Christ, and God has an important role for every part of his body. At Foundry we value every person's contribution, and we want your child to be part of showing God's love to others. Scripture says that the young should "be an example to all believers" (1 Tim. 4:12). If you need some ideas for how your child can participate, we would be happy to help you find an area where they can serve!

The Big Picture

Habits

You have the responsibility to create a godly environment for your children. The key to raising a godly child is consistency. Creating habits that promote the word of God and a relationship with God is essential for your child's spiritual health.

Leading Your Child To Christ

If you want your child to be a disciple, it is important to know how to lead them into a relationship with him. As parents, this is not a one-time event, it is a process. Here are five steps to follow:

- A. Lay a foundation
Use steps 1-4 of the disciple-making plan.
- B. Discern your child's readiness
Wait until their heart and head can both understand the gospel and know God.
- C. Ask questions
Who is God? What is sin? What is forgiveness? What does it mean to live for God?
- D. Lead in a simple prayer
Help your child ask God to forgive them and be Lord of their life.
- E. Prepare your child for baptism
Explain what baptism is and why it's important.

Discipline

God's word says, "the Lord disciplines the one he loves" (Heb. 12:4-11). We believe this is true of parents too. One of the most loving things you can do is to show your child the godly way to live. The Bible has many verses telling parents not to neglect disciplining their children (Prov. 23:13-14; 22:15; 29:15-17), but it also instructs fathers not to provoke their children to anger through punishment (Eph. 6:4; Gal. 3:21). Here are some basic guidelines for disciplining your child.

Discipline is meant to teach your child godly living. To be effective, you must balance love and righteousness. If love alone is emphasized, your child won't truly learn what is right. But if righteousness alone is emphasized, your child won't grasp the love you and their heavenly Father have for them.

So create clear, godly rules to instruct your child. Your children can succeed when they know how to! If you create righteous rules and enforce them lovingly, your child will be a blessing to you and others!

FURTHER RESOURCES

The New Discipleship in the Home by Matt Friedeman

Faith-based parenting philosophy and practices for raising your children to be disciples who live and love like Jesus.

If Jesus Were a Parent: Coaching Your Child to Follow Jesus By Hal Perkins

How to use the same principles that Jesus used with his disciples for your child.

Parenting by the Book: Biblical Wisdom for Raising Your Child by John Rosemond

A renowned family psychologist gives Bible-based, practical parenting advice.

Hidden in the Heart: a Catechism for Children by Ray Easley; Matt Friedeman

The essentials of the faith packaged in a Q&A format that your child will be able to understand.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Foundry Groups

Joining a Foundry Group is the easiest way to find community and support. You need community, and your community needs you! You can check out all of the available Foundry Groups at thisisfoundry.com/groups.

Foundry Staff

If you have any questions on how to lead your child to live and love like Jesus or just want to connect, reach out to one of our staff members listed below!

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