



connecting church and home

God has set eternity into the heart of man (Ecclesiastes 3:11). This eternal truth constantly emphasizes, empowers and validates our privilege as parents. Eternity is written into the hearts of our children as well. This is why Jesus said, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). Why are parents commanded to talk to their children about spiritual truths? The message of the Bible is eternal, and God gave parents a great role to play in speaking that message into their children's lives. John Angell James, a pastor from the mid-1800s, said, "Recollect what a solemn thing it is to be a parent, and what a weighty responsibility attaches to those who have the immortal souls of their children committed to their care!"

Delia Halverson, a well-known Christian education specialist, said, "To share your faith with your child is an opportunity that cannot be equaled elsewhere. The home is the most important influence in the child's life." Before there were churches, Sunday School programs, children ministries and youth groups, God entrusted parents with the privilege to teach their children (Deuteronomy 6).

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This week, your child(ren) will study the eagerness of four men who brought their friend to Christ (Mark 2:1-12). Their friend was a paralytic, but this was not his greatest need. In Mark 2:5, Jesus met this man's greatest need. Perhaps this week you can lead your family in a discussion concerning their greatest need and how Christ through the Gospel meets this need. Share your testimony with your family. Also ask your children this question: How can each of us engage our friends with the Gospel of Christ?

Treasure Verse: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:2-5).

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"It is not a single event, but a lifetime of interaction
 that is based on God's revelation. We are promised that our teaching will bear fruit in our children's lives. We must actively teach our children, and live the reality, that God defines life." – *Tedd Tripp, Instructing a Child's Heart, pg. 19*



Family Discipleship
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