

Jesus FOR ALL
AGES

discipleship in the Home

Luke 2:41–45 (ESV)

⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

Luke 2:46–52 (ESV)

⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” ⁴⁹ And he said to them, **“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”** ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.** And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

It is important that children, at the youngest ages possible (meaning when they can understand basic concepts of sin and salvation), be challenged by their parents with the gospel. Pollster George Barna has indicated that “**nearly half of all Americans who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior do so before reaching the age of 13** (43 percent), and that **two out of three born again Christians (64 percent) made that commitment to Christ before their 18th birthday**.... Less than one out of every four born again Christians (23 percent) embraced Christ after their twenty-first birthday.”

Friedeman, Matt. Discipleship in the Home: Teaching Children. Changing Lives. (p. 90). Francis Asbury Press. Kindle Edition.

1. Get solid rituals in place.

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (ESV)

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on

your heart. ⁷**You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.** ⁸You shall bind

them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The single common denominator among National Merit Scholars (and all her children had been National Merit Finalists) is a regular family mealtime.

Friedeman, Matt. Discipleship in the Home: Teaching Children. Changing Lives. (p. 34). Francis Asbury Press. Kindle Edition.

A study by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University showed that, compared with teenagers who have five or more family dinners a week, those who have two or less are three times as likely to try marijuana, two and half times as likely to smoke cigarettes and one and half times as likely to try alcohol.

Friedeman, Matt. Discipleship in the Home: Teaching Children. Changing Lives. (p. 34). Francis Asbury Press. Kindle Edition.

Examples of Rituals

- Reading of a a portion of some significant Christian author or some hero/heroine in Christian history
- A hymn (purchase hymnbooks for each member of the family!)
- A section of the catechism (A parent reads questions and children chant memorized answers back).
- Memory work or recitation of a Bible chapter or extended passages.
- Reciting together a famous prayer of the church (e.g., the Lord's prayer, John Wesley's covenant prayer, the Prayer of St. Francis, etc.)
- Mom or Dad prays for the children and their spiritual journeys.
- Share a meal with conversation, laughter, occasional guided discussions.

2. Create an “Age 18 List”

Example Age 18 List

Spirituality

- Make a lifetime commitment to God
- Daily practice a devotional life of Bible study and prayer.
- Love the worldwide church, and our local church, and appreciate the hard work of both laity and clergy who God is using to build his kingdom
- Practice spiritual giftedness and produce spiritual fruit.
- Be prepared to accept full-time service in the Lord's work

Example Age 18 List

Money

- Know how to budget responsibly
- Have a healthy fear of debt/credit cards
- Give a generous offering to the church every paycheck, beginning with a tithe.

Example Age 18 List

Sex

- Be a virgin upon marriage.
- Have a healthy concept of how to treat and be treated by the opposite gender.
- Know how to make a good selection of a lifelong spouse.

Example Age 18 List

Biblical Literacy

- Have memorized major portions of character-building scripture (300 verses).
- Know the major sections of Scripture, the books of the Bible, and why each of the canonical books is included.
- Know a biblically based theology that comprises all traditional emphases.

Example Age 18 List

Intellect

- Know fundamental elements of mathematics, geography, writing skills; read broadly in Christian and secular classics; an intermediate level of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.
- Continue to expand intellectual attainment at a Christian liberal arts college.

Example Age 18 List

Evangelism

- Know the necessity of sharing faith with others.
- Know how to share the gospel with those who don't believe.

Example Age 18 List

The Poor

- Understand the biblical teaching concerning God's concern for the poor.
- Practice ministry with the poor (hungry, imprisoned, elderly, diseased, etc.)

Example Age 18 List

Health

- Live in the fullness of health the Lord has blessed us with.
- Regularly exercise.
- Recognize sports for their appropriate purposes: fun and exercise.

Example Age 18 List

Skills

- Common household aptitudes: doing laundry, cooking, etc.
- Mastery or pre-mastery of some trade (e.g., carpentry, plumbing, car engine maintenance)
- Play a musical instrument

Example Age 18 List

Self-Image

- Know who he/she is in light of God's Kingdom and His grace.
- Know how to properly relate to peers and how to handle negative peer pressure.

Example Age 18 List

Relationships

- Genuinely love and get along with family members.
- Be able to demonstrate common courtesy in social situations.
- Practice being a good friend.
- Enjoy interaction with all age levels.

3. Discipline (= Love +
Righteousness)

Discipline (= Love + Righteousness)

Holy God

Love

Intimacy
Affection
Grace
Kindness
Mercy
Tenderness

Righteousness

Discipline
Justice
Punishment
Standards
Uprightness
Toughness

Discipline (= Love + Righteousness)

Guidelines for Disciplining Children

- Let your children know, beyond any doubt, that they are loved by you as demonstrated in words and actions
- Set clear boundaries that are plainly stated in family rules.
- Expect to hear “Yes-sir” or “Yes-ma’am,” “No-sir” or “No-ma’am”
- If the child defies you or puts himself in harm’s way, punish immediately. Immediately! Demand immediate obedience.



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