

# Child Discipleship

## THE GOSPEL TOOLKIT



**It is so important for kiddos to know they belong to God and a body of believers. Its powerful for children to know and constantly be reminded that despite our sinfulness, those who believe in Jesus no longer belong to sin, but to Jesus!**

You may feel intimidated by the prospect of having to help your child understand things that may still be a mystery to you. That's okay! While you bear the responsibility in this process, God is ultimately the author of both your faith and theirs. Lean into the Holy Spirit, asking for help, wisdom, and discernment as you lead your child into an understanding of the gospel. Know and rely on the love that He has for you and for your child.

Also, know that Restore is available to help if you have any questions!

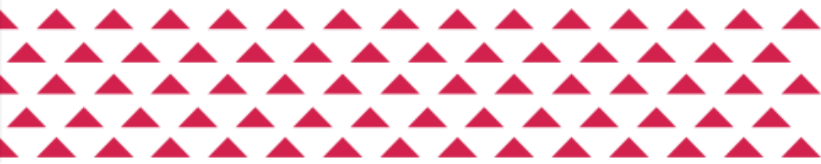
### 4 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ▶ Parents are neither Saviors nor Sanctifiers. That work of salvation and sanctification belongs to God and God alone!
- ▶ Parents are Spiritual Leaders. You have the honor of shepherding and discipling the children God has entrusted to you!
- ▶ Parenting requires Modeling. The best way to consistently tell your child about the gospel is to walk it out daily. Allow your children to see that you love Jesus and need His grace and forgiveness also.
- ▶ Parent with the end in mind - to send! Your child is the next generation of disciples getting raised up to disciple others!

### A GOSPEL INFUSED LIFE!

*What if a child's first memory was falling in love with the Savior their parents read about every night? What if parents engaged their kids in Gospel conversations regularly, praying, serving and tackling the tough topics with the truth of scripture?*

**Consider beginning this process by preparing and sharing your own testimony with your child. How did the gospel change your life? What was your old life like compared with the new?**



Entire *households* were coming to know Christ because of the testimony of Paul and Silas. This wasn't limited to just Paul's missionary journeys; the entirety of Scripture is routinely pointing to a personal encounter with God, sharing what He's done through hardship, joy and suffering.

These experiential moments bring the truth of God's Word to a vibrant place of clarity and connection in the life of a child. In other words, children learn about the truth of the Gospel lived out in a way that makes it tangible and easier to connect with on a personal level.

## WHAT ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH KIDS?

- 1 The Bible is your guide, the source of truth and the documented story of God's never-ending, all-consuming love for us.
- 2 The truth of Scripture is illuminated by the Holy Spirit.
- 3 Leading with relationship allows kids to see your own personal transformation.

## 4 STAGES OF A CHILD'S SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1 *Discovering Stage (0 - 6)*  
Children are downloading information about life, God, rules, etc
- 2 *Discerning Stage (4/5 - 9)*  
Kids will starting asking questions like "Why do people go to the altar?" or "What happens when I die?"
  - ▶ Do no confuse curiosity with confusion during this time!
  - ▶ Most kiddos who make a faith decision before 7 will make another decision later (its ok and normal!)
- 3 *Deciding Stage (8 - 12/14)*  
When kiddos typically make their faith decisions and it becomes personal
  - ▶ 85% Christians come to faith by age 13!
- 4 *Discipling Stage*  
This begins after salvation and goes through adulthood

## HERE ARE FOUR PRACTICAL WAYS TO INCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY AS YOU SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH KIDS:

- 1 When did you first hear about Jesus? Who explained the Gospel story to you, and why did you want to follow Jesus?
- 2 How have you seen the love of God in your life? Pair your story with John 3:16 to give kids a concrete example of His love. Then, ask them the question in return!
- 3 Are there habits or sin God has redeemed you from? If appropriate, share one and give kids a child-friendly glimpse into the way God continues to renew and restore your life. Share Romans 3:23, helping children understand that absolutely everyone sins, except Jesus! (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- 4 Have you ever experienced hardship? A difficult move? The loss of a relative? Share with a child how the peace of God came and comforted you in the midst of that trial/tragedy. (Isaiah 41:10)