



## Parents and The Gospel

Scripture teaches that it is primarily parents' responsibility to raise their children in the faith. As Christians, we want to disciple our children in the faith every day and at every opportunity.

Look at Deuteronomy 11:18-21. God says:

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **19** Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **20** Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, **21** so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

***According to Scripture, what is the responsibility of believing parents to their children?***

***How often should faith intersect with life, specifically parenting, according to these verses?***

We must remember that the MC is just one place where a child can grow in their faith. Yet the Missional Community gives a unique environment to teach our children, not just the words of faith, but also what faith looks like lived out in Gospel-formed community of Christians on mission together. It's also a great opportunity to witness to the children of spiritual seekers and to help disciple the children of the new Christians in your midst.

## Kids and MC Life

- Have a room or section of the house set aside for the kids. Have some snacks, games, toys, books, etc. for kids to play with.
- Have a teenager or an adult responsible for watching the kids each week. Sometimes adults from the MC will rotate through taking this responsibility. Other times the group pitches in to get a baby sitter.
- Don't worry about interruptions. Life together is messy. Sure, your child might come in and interrupt the group a few times. That's okay. We're a family and family life includes children.
- If you're a host, childproof a little, especially the outlets and the poisonous cleaners under the sink. Put any breakable stuff up high so parents aren't constantly worried about what their child is going to break.

## Involve the Kids

Children learn primarily through emulating or copying what they see other's do and say. They are disciples by nature. So we can't exclude our children from what we do as Christians through Gospel, Community, and Mission.

- Ask the kids who they want to pray for when praying together as a group.
- Ask your children if they have friends they want to invite to your MC night. You might just get their parents to come along.
- Make sure you involve your children as you serve others so they see what that looks like. That way they see serving as part of what they do as a Christian.
- Let your children listen to the story and be part of the conversation. Some MCs will let the kids hear the story each week and will have a few questions for dialogue with the kids before sending them off to play. If they're old enough, let them join you for the whole study.
- If your kids don't sit in on the Story, have an adult responsible for teaching the kids a short bible lesson. Use the *Jesus Storybook Bible* or *The Story-Formed Way for Kids*.
- Sing a simple Christian song with the Children. Maybe give a memory verse for the older children as well.

## Babysitting

- If you have a babysitter, make sure you pay them a fair wage. You have an opportunity to show the love of Jesus to that babysitter. Show that love, not just by your words but with your actions.
- Instill your authority in that baby sitter. This is very important! Sometimes our children are more sinners than saints. Make sure your children know that the babysitter is in charge, even if you're just in the other room or upstairs. Otherwise, they will interrupt all night as they bypass the babysitter and go right to you for all the tattling & requests. Also, your babysitter will get frustrated pretty quickly if your kids don't think they have to listen to her and run to you everything they disagree with her.
- Remember that it's an honor and privilege to be with children and to teach them God's word. It's tempting to feel that you are losing out on the conversation, bible study, or story, but you're also able to disciple children.