

TEN NOTIPS



TEN TIPS ON CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR CHILD

by Sandy Galea
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- 1** God's amazing gift to us is the forgiveness of our sins through his son, Jesus. We don't deserve this gift nor did we do anything to earn this gift. It's a gift. And God never takes back his gift to us. So be careful not to discipline a child by taking a gift away as a punishment. If you do, then you'll teach them that they have to be good in order to deserve the gift and that they have to be good if they want the gift back. Gifts are neither deserved nor earned. They are freely given and never taken back.
- 2** Establish helpful family traditions that help your child to stop and be reminded both visually and verbally of the centrality of Jesus in the craziness of Christmas. Example: pray together after you've set up the Christmas tree, read a passage of scripture together before you open presents, retell the birth of Jesus using commercial or homemade figurines as a family...
- 3** Use an Advent Calendar to kick start your family into daily Bible Reading. Each day of December, read the verse suggested in the booklet, pray and open up a window in the calendar.
- 4** Foster a thankful heart in each of your children. Spend time with them making cards and writing letters thanking people who have been generous with their time and energy throughout the past year (e.g. Children's Church Leaders, Playtime Co-ordinators, tutors, coaches...).
- 5** Encourage your children to be servant hearted. Look for opportunities to serve as a family people who are in need in your local community.
- 6** Teach your children to have a generous heart. As a family, reduce the amount of gifts bought for family members, and instead select a gift from the Compassion Catalogue. When family gifts are being opened ask a child to remind the family what gift was purchased and how it will help people who are in need. As a family pray about the people who will receive this gift.
- 7** Seek to develop a sacrificial heart in each of your children. Encourage young children to think about what they can give away to children who don't have much (give their best, not to just give what they don't want anymore). Encourage older children to purchase gifts out of their own money and put a

shoe box of gifts together for a child in need for the Samaritan Purse appeal called, Operation Christmas Child (done in October each year).

8 Model a welcoming heart to your children by looking for opportunities to invite people who have no family into your home to share a meal at Christmas.

9 Keep Santa Claus in the area of fantasy. If you treat Santa Claus as real, children may then question whether Jesus is real.

10 Stop and consider what you model to your child about what's important at Christmas. So, gather around God's word, stop and pray together, meet with your church family, buy less and give more...

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Recommended Christmas Resources

Kidswise Mini Movies:

The Christmas Story

Do Not Be Afraid

God's Promised King

The Light Has Come

Available in Kidswise Shop <https://www.kidswise.com.au/shop/mini-movies>

King Of Christmas CD or DVD, by Colin Buchanan

Advent Calendars, produced by The Good Book Company

Beginning With God At Christmas, produced by The Good Book Company

My First Christmas Story, by Tim Dowley

Little One We Knew You'd Come, by Sally Lloyd-Jones

The Christmas Promise, by Alison Mitchell

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TEN TIPS ON ENCOURAGING INNER BEAUTY IN GIRLS

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- 1** Use the word 'beautiful' to describe godly behaviour in your daughter or the women around them. 'It was beautiful when you shared your toys.' 'Saying sorry is beautiful to God.' 'That woman is such a beautiful woman. She always looks out for people who are sitting by themselves at Church.' Try not to use the word to describe outward appearance.
- 2** Mother's be honest. Tell your daughters what parts of your own body you like and what parts you don't like. Encourage her to be honest. Then ask God to help both of you be thankful to God for the way he has made you.
- 3** How much time does your daughter see you spend in front of the mirror?
- 4** . Teach your daughter about modesty from a young age. When buying clothes ask: 'Is this modest? Is it too tight? Is it too short? Is my belly showing? Is it too low in the front?.....' Little girls who dress modestly will be more likely to grow to be women who dress modestly. Show your daughter how important modesty. Be prepared to buy a more expensive outfit if it means your daughter will be modestly dressed.
- 5** Stop and think about how often you talk about weight? Your own weight, the weight of family members, the weight of friends, people on TV, people in magazines...etc.
- 6** Come down hard on teasing or 'friendly joking' based on weight or body 'imperfections'.
- 7** Talk about eating a healthy balanced diet, not the fat content of every item in the fridge.
- 8** Talk about gluttony and greed (as your daughter consumes her fifth Tim Tam), not the weight they might gain.
- 9** Talk about self-control when your daughter impulsively fridge grazes. Delayed gratification is an important characteristic to develop in your daughter. Teach your daughter not to give in at the first hint of hunger, instead

to wait and eat with the family. Saying to 'no' when temptations are small will help her to learn to say 'no' when temptations are bigger.

10 Celebrate God's gifts - being a woman, being creative, the sheer variety of colours and fabrics God has given us to use and enjoy... Balance is very important.

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Recommended Resources

Bringing Up Girls, by James Dobson

How To Really Love Your Child, by Ross Campbell

Melinda Tankard Reist's web site is an excellent place to begin to looking at the issue of the sexualisation of girls in the media and how we as parents can combat this.

www.melindatankardreist.com

www.collectiveshout.org

TEN TIPS ON ADDRESSING KIDS FEARS AND DOUBTS

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- 1** Be ready - children, just like adults, will go through periods of doubt. Disbelief is the lot of the non-Christian, periods of doubt is the experience of the Christian. So expect that your children will go through periods of doubt just like you.
- 2** Be merciful to those who doubt. Jude 1:22 Our response to anyone experiencing doubt is always mercy. Sometimes the way children express things can be very cute or at times sound funny, but taking their issues seriously is important. Be careful not to belittle or make light of a child's doubts.
- 3** When your child expresses doubts (i.e. God's existence, Bible being true, Jesus resurrection...) stay calm. Children feel their parent's anxiety and this can make them feel uncomfortable. Our anxiety can deter them from sharing their doubts in the future.
- 4** .Be patient. It often takes a child a long time to express their thoughts. Try to understand them before responding.
- 5** Normalise doubts. Reassure them that this is normal. Children often think there is something wrong with them if they're unsure of something Mum and Dad think is true. Take them to heroes like David, Job and Thomas, all whom went through periods of doubt.
- 6** Encourage your child to express their doubts by encouraging questions. Doubts will continue to grow if not expressed. Encouraging questions is one way of helping children express doubts.
- 7** Fears are very real for children. Night terrors, fear of the dark, fear of being alone, fear of the green and yellow monster under the bed... Encourage your child to talk to their Father in Heaven about their fears and doubts. Sometimes this will mean children end up with a prayer that reads like a shopping list of all the things that terrify them, but speaking them out loud to their Father in Heaven is great! They will eventually grow out of this mantra as their fears subside and their prayers will begin to vary.

8 Teach your child verses from scripture that address their fears or doubts. Put them on the fridge, their bedroom walls... say them, chant them, sing them as you drive to school... remind them as they fall asleep. Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 18:2, Psalm 56:3-4, Psalm 118:6, James 1:5-8, 1 John 4:18

9 Appropriately share your fears and doubts with your child, and what you found helpful.

10 Read books that address fears and doubts appropriate for your child. *The Storm That Stopped*, by Alison Mitchell is a great retelling of Mark 4... Jesus asked his disciples, Why are you afraid? It reminds us that we have nothing to fear because our trust is in Jesus, God's Son. Or, for older children, the books listed below by Lee Strobel are a great start in addressing doubts.

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Recommended Resources

Big Truths For Little Kids, by Susan & Richie Hunt (...is a helpful book answering big questions kids ask... Did Jesus really come back from the dead? Where is God?)

Case For Christ For Kids, by Lee Strobel

Case For Faith For Kids, by Lee Strobel

Case For The Creator For Kids, by Lee Strobel

TEN TIPS ON READING THE BIBLE WITH CHILDREN

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- 1 It's never too early to begin reading the Bible to children. From a very young age establish the routine - Bible, bath, bed (or bath, Bible, bed).
- 2 Establish a regular time when you read the Bible with your child (breakfast, dinner or bedtime).
- 3 Regular and short is better than irregular and drawn-out.
- 4 Use age-appropriate Bibles (see recommended list).
- 5 Repetition is fine – children often want to hear the same story again and again.
- 6 As children grow older vary what you do - use bought material (see recommended list), or read a passage then ask: What do you like about the story? What questions do you have about the story?
- 7 As children grow older, encourage everyone in the family (adults as well as children) to ask one question about what's being read then pray together about what you've learnt.
- 8 If you're regularly away from your children, establishing the pattern of reading the Bible with your children over Skype.
- 9 Be creative - draw, dramatise or retell the Bible story. Use dress-ups, lego, toys... collage, paint, playdough...
- 10 Be sure to read books like The Big Picture Bible Story that teach the Bible's big story to help children see that the Bible is not just a collection of little stories but one big story. And that Jesus isn't in just parts of the Bible, the whole Bible is about Jesus!

Top Children's Bibles

The Beginner's Bible, illustrated by Kelly Pulley (a must have children aged 3 to 6 years)

International Children's Bible, published by Nelson Word Bibles (a must have for children aged 7 to 11 years)

The Big Picture Bible Story, by David Helm (teaches children the Bible's big story)

The Jesus Story Book Bible, by Sally Lloyd Jones (helps children see that Old or New Testament the Bible is all about Jesus)

The Action Bible, by Doug Mauss and Sergio Cariello (the best comic Bible, esp. helpful for boys aged 8 to 11)

TEN TIPS ON DEVELOPING A HEART FOR THE LOST IN KIDS

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- 1** Your family is your first mission field. Share Jesus with your kids. As you read the Bible and pray with your children balance between talking to your kids about turning to Jesus and living for Jesus. As children grow it'll become clearer whether they've understood God's good news - it's not what we've done, but what Jesus has done for us.
- 2** As a family pray for opportunities to share Jesus with friends and family. Pray as you go to parties, go to extended family gatherings, go to the park...
- 3** Share with your children every opportunity God has given you to talk about Jesus. Encourage your children to do the same. Share your joys when things go well. And share your failures... when you've failed to open your mouth, when you've not known what to say, when you regret what you've said... Be real and honest.
- 4** Adopt a missionary as a family. Write letters to, draw pictures for, send gifts to, skype, pray for, read newsletters from, place their picture on your fridge, learn about the country they live in and what they do there...
- 5** Do mission together as a family. Look for mission-focused program you can become active members of: Playtime, Music & Movement, Kids Club... Go on mission together as a family: church-run holiday clubs or Scripture Union family missions that are run up and down the coast each Christmas holidays.
- 6** As a family sponsor kids (not your own) to go on camps and clubs so that they'll get to hear about Jesus. Set aside time and petrol money in the family budget to be the family taxis that gets kids to and from mission programs. Ask opened ended questions in the car so that the kids (yours and those who you've offered to transport) talk about what they've been learning.
- 7** Learn simple gospel outlines as a family. An easy outline can be a simply drawing (e.g. Bridge to Life), a series of colours (e.g. The Wordless Book) or an action chant: God made it (one thumb up) He owns it (both thumbs up)

We broke it (both thumbs down) He fixed it (both thumbs up again)8 If you're regularly away from your children, establishing the pattern of reading the Bible with your children over Skype.

8 Talk about how to answer difficult questions that may be asked when sharing Jesus. Open the Bible and role-play possible answers.

9 Memorise verses of scripture that summarise the gospel.
John 3:16 John 14:6 John 20:31 Acts 2:21
Acts 10:43 Acts 16:31 Acts 17:30 Romans 5:8
Romans 6:23 Romans 10:9 Titus 3:5 Ephesians 2:8-9

10 Remind your children that no one can make another person a Christian - God does that. Nor is anyone the reason why someone does not turn to Jesus. But we can make Jesus look attractive if we live our lives loving and obeying Jesus. We first tell people how good Jesus is by the way we live... the way we love others, obey our teachers, play fair, speak the truth, say sorry quickly, don't hit back... John 13:35

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Recommend Resources

Who Will Be King? (a gospel track for kids aged 7 yrs & up)

Gumtree Gully by Kel Richards (an engaging fable set in the Australian bush that seeks to illustrate the gospel for kids, available: www.matthiasmedia.com.au)

The Amazing Rescue by Quizwox (comic for kids 7 yrs & up, available www.quizwox.com)

Case For Christ For Kids by Lee Strobel (a great read for kids aged 7-11, that answers big questions about Jesus existence, his ministry, his miracles, his resurrection... available www.reformers.org.au)

TEN TIPS ON SHAPING YOUR CHILD'S ATTITUDE TO CHURCH

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- 1** Make church a priority in your weekly family calendar. Children know how important school is because they have to go unless they're sick. Communicate how important it is to meet with God's people by only missing church for either sickness or family holidays.
- 2** Plan your family calendar around the church's calendar. Put church events (esp. the family events) into your family calendar and plan around these special church family gatherings.
- 3** On the way to church (as you walk or drive) pray as a family - that God will use each of you to serve other people at church and help them to grow. Pray also that God's Word would be taught faithfully to the kids, teenagers and adults at church.
- 4** On the way home from church give each family member an opportunity to share what they've learnt or what they've been reminded of at church.
- 5** Talk about how God has made us all different - we are all good at different things. Talents (things we are good at) become gifts when we use them to serve others at church. Discuss what each person in the family is good at and think about ways each person can use their gifts to help others at church grow to be more like Jesus.
- 6** Praise God for the gifts he has given each of you and celebrate when God gives you opportunities to serve the church family.
- 7** Think about a ministry you could get involved in as a family. It could be a monthly ministry (setting up or packing up) or a one off ministry (handing Christmas parcels out to needy families).
- 8** Sometimes children don't want to go to church. If they don't have a friend remind, then it takes about 6 months of regularly going before most children feel at home.

9 Talk as a family about how to encourage someone at church who has helped them grow. Encourage your child to thank people who have helped them love Jesus more and live for him by making a card, writing a letter, thanking them in person...

10 Be careful how you speak about church and people from church in front of your children.

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Recommended Web Sites

www.families.org.au

www.thegospelcoalition.org

australia.thegospelcoalition.org

www.youthworks.net/newsletters (sign up for Youthworks monthly newsletter aimed to help parents shepherd their children faithfully)

TEN TIPS ON HELPING KIDS WELCOME KIDS

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- 1** Teach your child (from scripture) that they have two families - the one they were born into and God's big family (our church family). And every member of our church family is important and special.
- 2** Talk about what it might be like to come into a new church and not know anyone. How might a new child feel? Who won't they know? What won't they know?
- 3** Role play with your child about how to welcome a new child. **Step 1:** Look them in the eye. **Step 2:** Smile. **Step 3:** Say, "Hi my name is What's your name? Would like to come and play?"
- 4** Regularly ask your child. "Was there anyone new at Children's Church today?" If they can't identify new children... continue to point #5.
- 5** Think of ways to help your child identify children who may not feel like they belong at MBM... stop and look around ... who is sitting by themselves? ... who looks sad? ... who is sitting alone?
- 6** Invite a new family to join your family on a picnic... for an ice-cream at a nearby McDonalds... to come and play in a local park...
- 7** Praise your child when you see them making an effort with a new child, or making an effort with a child sitting by themselves during morning tea.
- 8** Your child may not be new, but he/she may still feel like they don't belong. Talk to your child's leaders about children in your child's group whom he/she may connect with. Get to know the parents of those children. Go back to #6 and think of ways you can connect with these families outside of Children's Church. Sometimes one picnic is all it takes for your child to feel connected to other children at Church.
- 9** Every time your child sees you welcome someone, you teach them to have God's heart for those new to our Church.
- 10** Be real about your fears and struggles in this area.

TEN TIPS ON DEVELOPING A GENEROUS HEART IN KIDS

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- 1** Allow Scripture to shape your child's attitude about their possessions from an early age. Everything we have is his. He made it. He owns it. It's all his. (James 1:17) From an early age, encourage your child to be generous with what God has given them. Encourage them to share their toys and possessions. Some children naturally share, whereas others find this difficult. No matter the disposition of your child, expect your child to share with others.
- 2** As Christians we are unbelievably rich! God has given us Jesus and all the blessings that come from being in him. Read one verse per week from Ephesians 1:3-14. Choose one of these good things (blessings) and write it as a headline (Chosen By God Before The Word Began!). Each week discuss the blessing as a family, pray about it and put it up on the fridge.
- 3** We can trust God in everything. (Matthew 5:25-33) God's generosity and provision is observed in his generosity and provision in nature. He clothes and cares for the insignificant sparrow and the fleeting flower. Spend time with your child observing creation, highlighting God's care/provision.
- 4** Help your child learn to reflect on how unsatisfying money and material possessions really are. Exercise: sit down with your child and write a list of the things they have bought in the last 6 months. Share a list of things you've bought with them as well. Together, cross off things that are no longer around (eaten, broken, lost, old...). Underline with a wiggly line those things that are still around but are not liked or played with/used anymore. Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 together. Finally, circle the things that are still used and liked. How long will these things last?
- 5** Teach your child about long term investment - money that lasts for eternity. Regularly thank God as a family for the people who have come to faith in Jesus because of the work of your local church, mission work you support, the work of Compassion... anywhere where you as a family have given money for gospel work.
- 6** Children need to see how much to give. Giving is to be done in secret, only our Heavenly Father needs to know. But as parents, our children need to see how much to give. Show or visually represent how much money

you as a family have decided to give to God.

7 Praise your child when you see them making an effort with a new child, or making an effort with a child sitting by themselves during morning tea. Every now and again ask your child to hand in the family tithe on Sunday.

8 Warn your child of the dangers of loving of money. (Matt 5:24) Need: two firm balls about the size of a softball or bigger. Ask your child to put one hand behind their back and pick up both balls at the same time with the other hand. They will only ever be able to hold one ball at a time, never both at the same time. One will always be dropped. Point: you can't love money and God. One will always win your heart over the other.

9 When giving money to your child (pocket money, payment for jobs...) give it to them in coins. This makes it easier for them to divide it up as soon as they get it.

10 Help your child set up three moneyboxes, jars, wallets, purses... they can use to divide up their money as soon as they receive it: money for God, money for savings, money to spend. (see the free resource titled, 'Money For God' available in Kidswise Membership)

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ANSWERING TEN QUESTIONS KIDS ASK ABOUT HEAVEN

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- 1** *What is heaven?* Heaven is where God is. That's why we pray... Our Father in heaven... Heaven is also where God's people go to be with him. When Jesus comes back, God will make a new heaven and new earth and God will come down and live with us. .
- 2** *Will my friends be in heaven?* Not everyone gets to go to heaven. God only promises to live with his people. So everyone who says 'yes' to Jesus now will one day get to live with God in heaven. (Rev 21:3, 27)
- 3** *Can heaven get full?* No. Jesus said that he'd go ahead and prepare a place for everyone who follows him. So every person who trusts Jesus has a place booked for them in heaven. No one will miss out. (Jn 14:1-4)
- 4** *Will I get bored in heaven?* Impossible! The Bible says that heaven is like a party that never ends. (Lk 14, Is 25) You'll never want to leave this party - ever! And remember, Jesus didn't die on the cross so that you'd be bored.
- 5** *What won't be in heaven?* Satan, sin and sadness (Rev 21:3, 27). No one will cry, get hurt or be sick. No one will die - ever. We won't need tissues, bandages or medicine. We won't need doctors, police or soldiers. Wars will stop. There won't be any swords or spears, guns or bombs. How good is that! (Is 2:1-5)
- 6** *Can we go to heaven now?* It's so good that you know God's heaven is the best place to be. But God is the one who decides when he will take us to be with him. (Parents, don't be alarmed when kids say they want to go to heaven now. They're not suicidal. They're just expressing their child-like trust that heaven is a great place to be.)
- 7** *Can you have babies in heaven?* Mum won't be your Mum in heaven. And Dad won't be your Dad in heaven. Everyone will be brothers and sisters. No one will be married, so no babies will be born. We will all be Jesus' brothers and sisters. No one will be born - just like no one will die. (Matthew 22:30)

8 *Will my dog go to heaven?* There will be animals in the new heaven and new earth, but the Bible never tells us if our dog will be in heaven. The Bible does say that animals won't hurt us or attack each other in heaven. Animals will live in peace, just like us. In fact we can put our hand in a snake hole and never be bitten - ever! (Is 11) But don't do that now will you!

9 *How old will I be in heaven?* God will give his people new bodies when they get to heaven. New bodies that will never get tired or sick - bodies that will never break or die. But even though the bodies are new, we will still be able to see who each person is. But the Bible never tells us how old we'll be in heaven. All we know is that our bodies won't grow old anymore. (1 Corinthians 15)

10 *Where do you go after heaven?* No where. Heaven never ends, just like God never ends. And we'll never want it to end. Because in heaven we get to see God face to face and enjoy him forever. And that's the best part about heaven! (Rev 21:3,25; 22:3-5)

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Recommended Resources

Books that teach doctrine (big truths about who God is and what he's done) to children.

Everything A Child Should Know About God, by Kenneth Taylor (ages 3-5)

Big Truths For Little Kids, by Susan & Richie Hunt (ages 6-8)

Big Truths For Young Hearts, by Bruce A. Ware (ages 8-11)

TEN TIPS ON HELPING KIDS MEDITATE ON AND MEMORISE SCRIPTURE

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- 1** Purchase a family devotions book that focuses in on one verse and helpfully unpacks it for children (e.g. Thoughts To Make Your Heart Sing, by Sally Lloyd-Jones, Short Steps For Long Gains Family Edition, by Simon Manchester).
- 2** Purchase an International Children's Bible to read for family devotions. Read a section of scripture and look for one verse that stands on it's own (i.e. is able to be understood when separated from the surrounding verses). Encourage each family member to try and put that verse into his or her own words.
- 3** Try to arrange a verse as a family so that it's memorable. Add hand actions, a beat, stamps, claps, melody... or, sing the verse to a familiar nursery rhyme or tune. Revise the verse together regularly.
- 4** Ask each member of the family to cartoon or draw a series of pictures illustrating a verse. Encourage each family member to share their cartoons/illustrations and what the verse means.
- 5** Take out an Audio Kidswise Membership (www.kidswise.com.au) and download memory verses to learn as a family. Learn verses as you travel in the car (e.g. to and from school).
- 6** Purchase the app Fighter Verses. Select verses listed on this app to discuss and learn as a family. Each verse on Fighter Verses is categorised under a topic and has both an audio track and a musical arrangement. The app has Quiz Games and enables you to keep a record as a family of which verses you've learnt.
- 7** Think of people you could share your family memory verse with (e.g. missionary family, friends, church family member...). Either post, text, skype or e-mail the verse to encourage others.
- 8** Play a circle game where a memory verse is said, one word at time, by each member of the family. See how fast you can say the verse as a family.

9 Display your memory verse on your fridge or in a visible place where everyone in the family is reminded of it daily.

10 Find out what memory verses your child is learning at Children's Church, Kids Club, Scripture... (what ever group your child attends). Ask your child to teach the memory verse they've been learning to the whole family.

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Recommended Resources

Thoughts To Make Your Heart Sing, by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Short Steps For Long Gains Family Edition, by S Manchester

International Children's Bible (reading age of seven up)

Kidswise Audio Membership <https://kidswise.com.au/membership/join/levels>

Colin Buchanan <http://colinbuchanan.com.au/>

The Rizers <http://www.therizers.com/>

Fighter Verses - a helpful app to learn and meditate on verses of scripture

TEN TIPS ON TALKING TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT SEX

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- 1** The conversation between parent and child about sex/sexuality should begin when children are young and continue through to adulthood. The first messages your child hears about sex can powerfully shape your child's view. So aim to be the first to talk with them about it. Remember, repetition is crucial.
- 2** Discuss the joy of God's good creation, and how he's made us male and female - the same but different. And how sex is one of God's good gifts for to us to enjoy when we're grown up and married.
- 3** As you read, tell or watch stories together. Use them as a springboard to discussing sex and sexuality with your child. There are so many unhelpful stories on TV that give children a distorted view of sex and their bodies. Address the stories your children are being exposed to (e.g. the stories in advertising).
- 4** Teach your children delayed gratification - to wait for their turn, to save for the toy, to wait until it's dinner time. Children who learn to wait for something good, will be better prepared when faced with sexual temptations later on.
- 5** Let your children feel the impact of their choices. Don't step in and soften the negative consequences of their choices. Children who feel the full impact of their choice, develop the skills and resources to make wiser choices in the future. This is particularly important in the area of sexuality.
- 6** Aim to be an askable parent. Be open and responsive to questions rather than defensive and negative. If your child feels that you welcome, and honestly seek to answer their questions, they will be more likely to come to you with their more difficult questions.
- 7** Be accurate, simple and clear when explaining sexual intercourse, rather than vague and cryptic. Use the correct anatomical words, vagina and penis, rather than slang alternatives.

8 Talk with your children about their right to say 'no' to another person. This can be taught by role playing a family game together and asking your child to firmly say 'no' when they don't want to play anymore.

9 Teach your child about privacy and modesty from a young age. There are parts of their body that are private. No one is to touch or see those parts except the child (family members when the child is young and medical practitioners).

10 Teach your child that there's nothing God can't forgive. Forgiveness is at the heart of the Christian message. Children need to know that no matter what they do or say or see, because of Jesus, forgiveness is available to all who ask.

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Recommended Resources

How And When To Tell Your Kids About Sex, by Stanton and Brenna Jones (detailed, practical book that raises many issues)

Let's Talk About Parenting, by Tony and Judy Willis (an easy to read, practical book about raising kids to love and serve the Lord)

God's Design For Sex Series (a series of books designed to read with your child)

The Story of Me (ages 3-5)

Before I Was Born (ages 5-8)

What's The Big Deal? (ages 8-11)

Facing The Facts (ages 11-14)

TEN TIPS ON KEEPING KIDS SAFE IN A CYBER WORLD

by Kathryn Kettlewell

- 1** Think as a family about how you can use the internet to reflect Biblical principles and values. Look back at these again and again so your children understand why we do what we do. Do you “like” sites with wholesome material? With wholesome names?
- 2** Enjoy the cyber world together. Spend time with your child looking at clips, playing games together and searching the web. Show a genuine interest in what interests your child.
- 3** Spend time offline together. Have set times (dinner, movie nights, game nights) where all family members put away their phones (put them in a “cyber basket”, on silent, vibrations off, so notifications can’t be heard). As well as having fun as a family, this models discipline and self control.
- 4** When you read the Bible on your device (smart phone, tablet...) does your child know you’re reading God’s Word? Bible apps are great and convenient. However, children benefit from seeing their parents read the Bible in paper form. This removes any confusion as to what you are doing. If regularly reading the Bible or praying using a prayer diary on a device, occasionally communicate to your child what you’re doing.
- 5** Place computers in dining or family rooms (not bedrooms). Have filtering software fitted (www.covenanteyes.com) and develop the habit of handing in devices before going to bed.
- 6** Encourage and model honesty. Allowing your child to join social networking sites before the minimum age (by giving a false date of birth) tells them that it’s fine to break rules if they don’t agree with them. Minimum age for all is 13 years.
<http://www.adweek.com/socialtimes/social-media-minimum-age/501920>
- 7** When they are old enough to use social media, know your child’s password. Let them know you’ll randomly check their emails, the sites they visited and their online communication. Not because you don’t trust them, but because you want to be involved in all aspects of their life. To guide and protect them as they explore the online world.

8 Be your child's "friend" on social networking sites. Have your child "friend" other relatives whom you trust, who can model appropriate language, discussions and shared sites. Make it a requirement that your child knows all their social networking friends in person.

9 Talk about how people can be someone they're not on the internet (thus #8) and how your child's profile should reflect who they are at all times.

10 Talk with your child about potential issues – cyber bullying, stalking – before they arise. Discuss different possible scenarios and how they could be dealt with. Never blame your child for an issue but rather work through it with them. Open communication is vital.

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Recommended Resources

Cyber Parenting, by J & S Boswell

Safe Ministry Training Course Although designed to train leaders in both Children's and Youth Ministry, it is an excellent course for parents in understanding how best to keep children safe.

Child Sexual Abuse And The Churches, by Patrick Parkinson An honest and compelling look at the seriousness of child sexual abuse, with advice for parents on how to best protect their children.

TEN TIPS ON HELPING KIDS GET INTO 1 & 2 SAMUEL

by Sandy Galea
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- 1** Read David Helm's The Big Picture Big Story and see where 1 & 2 Samuel fits into the Bible's big story. Also, read through the stories of 1 & 2 Samuel found in The Beginners Bible or The Jesus Story Book Bible (see Recommended Resources below).
- 2** Select favourite stories from 1& 2 Samuel and create dioramas for one or more of them. Be sure children get the details of each story right by reading appropriate sections of the text out to them. Use the diorama to retell each story to each other.
- 3** Investigate the story of David and Goliath in detail. Read it, listen to it, create a diorama, make a life size Goliath and see how each family measures up, read comic versions of the story (see Recommended Resources below), dress up and retell the story, create a clay machine of the story, make your own comic version of the story...
- 4** Look up the definition of prophet and priest in the back of the International Children's Bible. Write your own definition of the word King. Who were the prophets, priests and Kings in 1 & 2 Samuel? Were they good or bad prophets/priests/kings? Who is God's perfect prophet/priest/king? Why is Jesus our perfect prophet/priest/king?
- 5** Create a series of cards (can be pictures, words or both) with stories from 1 & 2 Samuel. As a family put the cards in order to create a timeline and retell the story of 1 & 2 Samuel.
- 6** Each week as you drive home from church, discuss what you each learnt - from the kids talk, from the sermon. Listen carefully to the conclusions of the kids talk for age appropriate language with which to discuss the story with your child.
- 7** Download the Audio Bible for Kids from the Bible.is web site (see Recommended Resources below, suitable for children aged 7 plus). As a family listen to the dramatic readings of passages from 1 & 2 Samuel for family devotions.

8 Purchase Phil Vischer's DVD, *Buck Denver Asks... What's In The Bible?* Volume 5 (a great DVD for school aged kids)

9 Write a poem or rhyming story about a character or a story from 1 & 2 Samuel. To get inspired, read some rhyming stories from *The Rhyme Bible Storybook*, by L.J Sattgast.

10 As you read through the books of 1 & 2 Samuel make a list of everything you learn about God's character. Stop and praise God for everything on that list every now and again.

Ten Tips by Sandy Galea © 2014 Kidswise

Note: these ten tips were written to help parents in our church partner with us as we took our school age children (along with our adults) through the books of 1 & 2 Samuel. Both units (1 Samuel and 2 Samuel) are now available in Kidswise Membership (www.kidswise.com.au).

Recommended Resources

International Children's Bible, published by Nelson Word Bibles (a must have Bible for family devotions for school age children)

The Big Picture Bible Story, by David Helm (teaches kids the Bible's big story)

The Beginner's Bible, illustrated by Kelly Pulley (3 to 6 years)

The Jesus Story Book Bible, by Sally Lloyd Jones (6 years plus)

The Action Bible, by David C. Cook (7 years plus)

The Rhyme Bible Storybook, by L.J Sattgast (6 years plus)

Audio Bible for Kids <http://www.bible.is/download/audio>

Select English, then 2001 English Standard KIDZ Bible Audio Drama, and hit download. Great for family devotions for children aged 7 and older.

Buck Denver Asks... What's In The Bible? Volume 5 DVD by Phil Vischer

Crossroads Kids Club - A great web site full of free resources to explore David and Goliath as a family. <http://crossroadskidsclub.net/slingshot/>

