

# VICTORY AT HOME

## NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



## THE VALUE OF FAMILY TRADITION

**Hear, O Israel:** The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9

**37%** of all people raised in a "Christian" household remain in the faith. **95%** of all Jews raised in a traditional Jewish home remain active in their faith. Celebration was integral to their identity.

It is likely you just skimmed or even skipped the verses above. That's OK, we get it, you've read or heard it a many times. Hang in here—in the verses just prior to this scripture Moses wrote, "**so that** you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, **and so that** you may enjoy a long life." We all want that, right? We want our children & our grandchildren to love and fear the Lord and we all want an enjoyable, long life! Unfortunately, according to the statistics\* we in the church are not producing children that love the Lord. The inference of the statistics would indicate "an enjoyable, long life" is subjective—it depends on who you talk to.

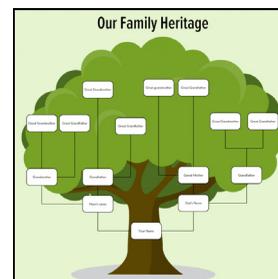
**Why is this? What are we missing?**  
**And more importantly, how do we do this?**  
**How do we live in this way of everyday discipleship that produces followers of Jesus?**

Let's start by asking how we in the "west" typically "do" family. Hopefully you'll agree that we generally try to create a nurturing environment hoping to create a springboard for individual success. In contrast, families raised in an "eastern" culture, when this passage in Deuteronomy was written, didn't think as individuals, they thought about lineage and legacy. A multigenerational team with a vision for the future was central to the society and culture. Remember those genealogies in the Bible? It was important to them to know their family history, the story of who they were for generations. It is a rarity to find a second or third generation western family that truly knows their heritage. This is no doubt why websites like Ancestry.com have such a huge user base. Family history is becoming so

important to those who understand its meaning and value.

In the west, we are pros at running teams in work and sports. We have a clear vision and can accomplish great things! But this concept doesn't carry into how we lead our families, which are individualistic and our kids are focused on what's fair. A team, however, has a shared mission, which helps to establish identity, and is outward focused. They have a coach, everyone on the team has a role, they sacrifice self for the sake of the team, have a secret handshake and insider language. This is what forms identity, this is how our kids will know "whose" they are.

So, if that's what we are missing, what does this family team do? How do we live this way in order to have Everyday Discipleship in our homes? It takes intentionality to set up the home as the center of identity formation. It takes time, consistency, a



cadence and a rhythm. It takes stories, ritual and pause. Start with thinking about your time as a family—measured daily, weekly and yearly. Daily, maybe a breakfast blessing. Weekly, may include a dinner celebration, complete with candles or flowers or special plates, a marking of the end of one week and the start of the new. Yearly is something we probably do well - anniversaries, birthdays etc. For every season of life there are opportunities to celebrate - be creative!

Parents - your job is to set your family up like a team with a purpose. Pretend you are a GA High School Football Coach. Your team is stacked with your hand picked players, and you are headed to the championship!

A family and a mission separates.  
A family as a mission makes family the most important.  
**A family on a mission has a purpose beyond themselves.**  
At the heart of your family team is the beautiful story of God's redemption.

\*Public Religious Research Institute (2016) Exodus: Why Americans are Leaving Religion—and Why They're Unlikely to Come Back

\*Lifeway Research (2014) Study of Acute Mental Illness and Christian Faith

# GOD IS WITH US ALL THE TIME!

## PRESCHOOL

### WEEK 1

## PAUL WAS IN PRISON - ACTS 21:1-23

**Read: Acts 21:1-23** Today in VicKids we learned God was with Paul as he shared with others how Jesus had changed his life.

**Explore Together:** God made Himself real to Paul and it changed his life forever. Paul wanted everyone to know how God had changed his life. Share with your child a time in your life when you were so excited that you told everyone you encountered about it. Some examples might be when you were getting married, buying a house, or having a baby. This news Paul shared was even more exciting! Paul knew the change that had been made in his life, and he wanted others to experience that same change. Even when he was arrested and put in prison, Paul continued to tell others about Jesus. He knew God was with him. We can know God Is With Us All the Time!

**Pray: Jesus, Thank You for always being with Paul, even during hard times. Thank You for always being with us. We love You! In Jesus Name, Amen!**

### WEEK 2

## PAUL WAS IN A STORM AND SHIPWRECKED - ACTS 24

**READ: Acts 24** This month we are learning that God Is With Us All The Time! Today we learned God was with Paul as he traveled to Rome.

**Explore Together:** God was with Paul when he was sent by ship to Rome. God was with Paul during the storm. God sent an angel to remind Paul he was not alone, and to encourage him. Talk about a time when you or your child may have felt scared or alone. Discuss some of the feelings Paul may have felt being on the ship, away from his friends, and in a bad storm. Ask questions about what Paul may have felt as the ship wrecked, and the people were in the water. Talk about how we can use the story of how God was with all 276 people during the shipwreck and brought them to safety to remind us how God cares for us and is always with us.

**Pray: Jesus, Thank You for keeping everyone on the ship safe. Thank You for giving us this story of Paul to remind us You are always with us. We love You! In Jesus Name, Amen!**

### WEEK 3

## GOD PROTECTED PAUL - ACTS 27

**Read: Acts 27** This week in VicKids we learned God was with Paul and protected him when a snake bit him.

**Explore Together:** Go to each room in your house. Talk about the different things you do in each room. What are some things we do in the kitchen? Your list may include fixing meals, coloring, and baking cookies. What are some things you do in your bedroom? Your list may include sleeping, reading books, and praying. Ask your child in each room, "Is God with us in here?" The next time you are riding in your car, ask your child if God is with you in the car. Continue to ask your child that same question as you visit different places (the park, the grocery store, the library, etc.). Remind your child God Is With Us All the Time!

**Pray: Jesus, Thank You for helping Paul and the others who were on the ship. Thank You for protecting Paul from the snake bite too! Thank You for helping us each day. Help us remember You are with us all the time. We love You! In Jesus Name, Amen!**

### WEEK 4

## PAUL HEALED PEOPLE - ACTS 28:1-10

**Read: Acts 28:1-10** All month long we learned that God Is With Us All The Time! Today we learned how God was with Paul on the island of Malta!

**Explore Together:** While Paul was on the island, he healed not only the island chief's father, but also some of the people who lived there. In return, they gathered supplies for Paul and the others to have on their journey to Rome. Have your child think about some basic things he or she uses and needs every day (toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, water, food, etc.). Discuss how sometimes a person or family is unable to purchase these items because of financial difficulties. Purchase some of these items and, together as a family, build your Operation Christmas Child Shoebox - it's never too late to help out one of these children who need the gift of Jesus!

**Pray: Jesus, Thank You for being with Paul in jail, in the storm, and while he was on the island. Thank You for this reminder from the Bible of how You are always with us! We love You! In Jesus Name, Amen!**

# EVERYDAY DISCIPLESHIP

## ELEMENTARY

### CHOICES WE MAKE - DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9: LUKE 9:23

WEEK 1

**Read: Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Luke 9:23:** Today in VicKids your student learned he or she is to love God all the time. The Bible tells us about God's great love for us. We are to love God and make Him a priority in our lives. We should choose to love God with our heart, soul, strength, and mind.

**Explore Together:** Following God is a daily decision Christians have to make. We grow in our relationship with God through Bible study, prayer, and fellowship with other believers. As our relationship grows, we learn how to glorify God and can teach others how to do so. Talk with your child/ren about the people who have discipled you in your faith. Was it a pastor, parent, friend or family member? What kind of opportunities for growth were involved? Ask if your children have any examples of people who have discipled them in the same way. Encourage them to write a thank you letter or draw a picture for one of them.

**Pray:** Lord, thank you so much for today and what you are doing through our family. We come to you and ask that you would remind us of what we have read today when it comes to our daily choices moving forward, Lord we know we can't do this without you. I pray that my family and I would practice talking to you God, making you our number one with our heart, soul, strength and mind. In Jesus name, Amen!

### HONORING GOD'S WORD - NEHEMIAH 8:1-18

WEEK 2

**Read: Nehemiah 8:1-18:** Today in VicKids your student learned the importance of honoring God's Word. He or she studied the time when Ezra read God's Word to the people and they obeyed it. We can honor God's Word by reading and obeying it. Your child was challenged to use his or her words to listen to God, praise Him, and ask Him to forgive our sin.

**Explore Together:** Most Christian households in America have multiple Bibles, but how often do we take the time to dig into God's Word? All Scripture comes directly from God, so we should honor it by reading it and applying it to our lives. Talk with your child about the different ways to study God's Word. As a family could work through reading the whole Bible in a year. Or together, you could use a devotional book and try to memorize Scripture verses. The important thing is to spend time every day in the Bible learning how God wants us to live our lives.

**Pray:** Lord we thank you so much for Your Word and the life it breathes. We come to you today as a family, wanting to know more about you. My family and I ask that You would give us a desire and hunger for Your Word so that we may know You more. Teach us to make this a daily habit so that we can use Your Word to guide us in our thinking and choices. In Jesus name, Amen!

### NURTURING FAMILY FAITH - EPHESIANS 6:1-4

WEEK 3

**Read: Ephesians 6:1-4, Proverbs 22:6:** Today in VicKids your student learned that Ephesians 6 tells us our families are to love God at home. God commands us to love and honor our parents. We are to show God's love for others, especially in our homes. We can honor our families through our thoughts, words, and actions.

**Explore Together** - Think about it - there is a big difference between raising a child and training a child. In this sense, "raising" means to attend to, provide basic needs and protect. On the other hand, "training" includes raising, but also means we are to instruct, guide, discipline and love our children as God our Father loves us. If we allow our children to follow their "own way" they would probably veer off the path that God would have for them. Ask your family which is the better "way". our way or God's way and why? What could happen if we choose our own way rather than God's?

**Pray:** Lord, we thank you so much for our family and how You use our home to make a difference for the Kingdom. We ask You today that we would be reminded in times of frustration and joy of how to honor one another with how we speak, act and think. Show us this week how we can lift one another up, encourage, and honor one another. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

### MODELING OUR FAITH - TITUS 2:1-15

WEEK 4

**Read: Acts 9:1-31 NLT:** Today in VicKids your student learned the Good Samaritan gives us a biblical example of showing God's love to others. God commands us to love others. When we show love, mercy, and compassion to others, we are modeling our faith. Your student was challenged to put his or her love for God and others into action!

**Explore Together:** You are never too old or too young to grow in your faith. The Bible gives specific instructions to many age groups on how we should live and interact with others. Find some of your child's baby clothes or shoes and ask him or her to try them on. You may also find something that your child outgrew last year to try on. Use this as an example of how we grow physically from one year to the next and likewise, we should also be growing emotionally and spiritually. Think about this and ask you child how they have grown in these ways.

**Pray:** Jesus, thank You for helping us to grow as a family. Help us to grow past where we are today as we try to show the love of God to others, especially those who may not look or act like we do. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

# WHAT DOES A **FAMILY TEAM** LOOK LIKE AND **HOW DO WE BECOME ONE?**



By definition, a **FAMILY TEAM** is a team on a mission and has a unifying purpose. Every family should have a purpose, a sense of meaningfulness that leads them and draws them through life. As disciples of Jesus, our main goal is to tell others about Him and in the process expand the Kingdom of Heaven.

In the context of a **FAMILY TEAM**, our goal as parents and significant adults in the life of a child, we must be intentional to communicate to our children the meaning of our Christian heritage and familial heritage (to the degree you are aware of it). From here we must be purposeful in creating memories around our family experience - celebrating seasons of life, important milestones, down to the micro-routine of family dinners together, all while keeping Jesus in our conversations. These small and large events instill a sense of value, purpose

and meaning in the life of your children - something they will never forget as they pass them on to their families. This is the essence of a multigenerational family team.

Jeremy Pryor and Jeff Bethke are two fathers who have taken the Scriptures literally when it comes to multigenerational legacy and have applied them to their families. Their website, books and podcasts are full of practical ideas and strategies for helping you become a **FAMILY TEAM on a MISSION**.

## Campus Calendar

### NORCROSS

- 11/02 - Parent Child Dedication Workshop
- 11/03 - THIRST
- 11/06 - Vickids Orientation - Lower V3 Auditorium
- 11/09 - Parent Child Dedication Celebration - Chapel
- 11/09 & 10 - Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Collection
- 11/16 & 17 - Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Collection

### HAMILTON MILL

- 11/03 - THIRST
- 11/10 - Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Collection
- 11/17 - Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Collection
- 12/03 - Membership Class

### MIDTOWN

- 11/03 - THIRST
- 11/10 - Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Collection
- 11/17 - Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Collection
- 11/17 - Parent Child Dedication - Workshop & Service

## FAMILYTEAMS.COM INFORMATION

- 31 Creative Ways to Transform Your Family
- The 7-Day Family E-course
- The Family Plan Calendar

*"There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues are created, strengthened and maintained."*  
—Winston Churchill

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind. And, Love your neighbor as yourself." - Luke 10:27 NLT

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*Additional Resources*

[victoryatl.com/athomenewsletter/](http://victoryatl.com/athomenewsletter/)