




FAMILY

Building a Legacy

Discipling Your Child
through the Gospel

The background of the slide features several thin, wavy, light red lines that flow across the page, creating a sense of movement and elegance.

***“Children are a
gift from the Lord;
they are a reward
from him.”***

—Psalm 127:3 (NLT)



Building a Legacy

Discipling Your Child through the Gospel

A relationship with Jesus changes everything! Knowing this, we created this guide to help you and your family grow closer to Jesus and discover the gospel in a new and deeper way. We applaud and celebrate your passion to influence your child's spiritual life! And it's our prayer that as you read the Bible and pray together as a family, that you'll not only bloom and grow as a family, but you'll also discover your identity, belonging, and purpose in Jesus.

What Is Scripture Engagement?

Scripture engagement is a fancy way of saying interacting with the Bible. The Bible is living and active (Hebrews 4:12), so we can actively engage with it. This can look like reading the Bible, listening to the Bible, creating a piece of art from a passage of Scripture, writing a song from the Bible, creating hand motions from a Bible verse, thinking deeply about a passage, and more! Scripture engagement is important because every time we interact with the Bible, we interact with God through His Word and know Him more! The devotionals, questions, and practical tips in this guide will help you engage in Scripture with your children.



What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at Different Stages?



Creation



Redemption



Life



Eternity



Devotional for Parents

Notes

"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector and was very rich. Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was. But he was a short man. He could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus, who was coming that way. Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was. He looked up and said, 'Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today.' So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this. They began to whisper among themselves. They said, 'Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner.' But Zacchaeus stood up. He said, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took.' Jesus said to Zacchaeus, 'Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line. The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.'" —Luke 19:1–10 (NIRV)

Identity. Belonging. Purpose. Every person is seeking to have these core needs met. Most people, whether they realize it or not, will spend their entire lives and all their energy trying to discover their identity, find true belonging, and experience a life of purpose. They'll seek them in relationships, career, hobbies, vices, activism, influence, money, and many other things. But here's the truth: Identity, belonging, and purpose can only be found in Jesus Christ; in a relationship with Him. The story of Zacchaeus, found in the devotional we just read, demonstrates this perfectly.

In this powerful story, we meet a tax collector named Zacchaeus. Now, even today, tax collectors usually aren't at the top of our list of favorite people. But in Jesus' day, tax collectors were among the most reviled groups of people because they were considered traitors. They worked for the enemy, Rome, and took money from their own people—usually taking more than they needed to and keeping the excess for themselves. Often, these taxes were unfair and unregulated. And according to Luke 19, Zacchaeus wasn't just any tax collector, he was the chief tax collector—a man who had become extremely rich off the misery and oppression of his own people.

This is who Zacchaeus was when we encounter him in Luke 19 . . . a man whose identity was placed in all the wrong things. But it wasn't the end of his story because he encountered Jesus! His life was about to hit a major turning point, and his story was about to change forever.

Shortly before coming into Jerusalem for the final time, Jesus passed through Jericho. Having heard this, Zacchaeus knew he needed to see Him. Certainly, he'd heard the buzz surrounding this preacher, prophet, and miracle worker—the One who many believed could be the long-awaited Messiah.

So, Zacchaeus went to go see Jesus. Sadly, though, he was too short to see over the crowds. But he wasn't going to let that stop him. And so, he did something a little out of the ordinary and climbed a tree! Now, you must understand how shocking and out of

character this was, not just for Zacchaeus—a man of wealth and power—but for pretty much any Jewish man. You see, according to various biblical scholars and historians, it was considered undignified and even dishonorable for first-century Jewish men to do such an extravagant thing like this. They never ran or became overly excited. They needed to be in control at all times.

But Zacchaeus, fearing he'd miss his chance to see Jesus, knowing he couldn't miss out on this opportunity, "ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus, who was coming that way" (Luke 19:4 NIRV). How did Jesus react to this? He called out to Zacchaeus by name and then invited Himself over to Zacchaeus' house! Can you imagine the utter shock of the crowd? Surely they knew who Zacchaeus was and how he made his fortune. Surely he was a deeply hated man by the majority of the people. How could Jesus actually associate Himself so personally with this man? Because "people look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7 NIRV). On the outside, everyone saw a selfish, greedy, traitorous pest, but Jesus saw a broken, repentant sinner seeking answers . . . seeking the face of God.

In just a brief encounter, seeing the compassion and grace of God through Jesus, Zacchaeus decides to do something radical. He says, "Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took" (Luke 19:8 NIRV).

What a change of heart! It seems crazy and extreme, but that's what happens when we encounter Jesus.

In response to his change of heart, Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line. The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them" (Luke 19:9–10 NIRV).

Wow, what a declaration! Jesus welcomes Zacchaeus into His family. And Jesus can do the same for us. When we hear His loving voice and respond, our lives change . . . He calls us by name and gives us our identity as sons and daughters!

And just like Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house and dined with him, He enters our hearts and gives us a place to belong as both children of God and members of God's family.

"Because you are his children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. He is the Holy Spirit. By his power we call God Abba. Abba means Father" (Galatians 4:6 NIRV). Through the Holy Spirit, God enables us to walk in our true identity and purpose according to His will!

Just like Zacchaeus, we're all (including your kids) trying to figure out who we are, where we belong, and why we're here.

Only Jesus has the answers. Only Jesus can speak our true identity over us and bring us to the place where we know who we are as we discover who He is. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV, emphasis added) tells us, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**," 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV, emphasis added) says, "But you are **a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation**, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him

who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light,” and most profoundly, John 1:12 (ESV) declares, “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” As a parent, you have the privilege to help your kids understand and walk in all that God has spoken over them and all He has declared them to be in His Son! What an encouragement, comfort, and security you can share with them.

Only Jesus brings us true acceptance and belonging, giving us a place to belong and a community to be part of. 1 Corinthians 12:13 (ESV) says, “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” Isn’t that amazing? Not only do we get to explain to our kids they have infinite value and a place to belong in Jesus, but we can show them by creating a community of believers around them who will help build them up in Christ and challenge them to live out their faith and calling!

Only Jesus can enable us to live out the purpose for which we were called and created! And you have the great privilege of helping your kids know Him and grow in their relationship with Him. Philippians 2:13 (NIV) says, “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

As a parent, you can guide your kids toward their purpose and calling by guiding them to dependence and submission to God and His work. And the end results? Hebrews 13:21 (NLT) tells us the Lord Himself will “equip you with all you need for doing his will” and “produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him.” What an amazing gift God gives us as parents to be able to walk with our kids into this life with Jesus!

Notes

Early Childhood





All children are a gift from God and are so vital to the heartbeat of each family. Just like you, every child is created in the image of God. An important part of their spiritual growth is learning to develop their knowledge of and relationship with Jesus.

Did you know that 85% of people who accept Christ as their Savior do it between the ages of 4 and 14? This is why it's so important to create a foundation of biblical truths for our children at a young age, so they'll be prepared to become all God has created them to be.

In this guide, you'll find a breakdown of biblical truths to go over and implement with your child that's ideal for their age. As you go over this guide and engage with your children in meaningful conversations, your children will gain a deeper understanding of the Word of God.



“Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.”

—Matthew 19:14 (NLT)



It All Starts at Home

Here are some practical steps to help your children grow in their identity, find their belonging, and walk in their purpose. You'll discover more about your children at each age level, learn basic truths your children should know, read a passage from Scripture that supports that truth, and be equipped with practices you can implement at home.

As a parent, you're building a legacy as you help your children grow into who they were made to be. You're helping them build a house they'll live in for the rest of their lives. You want to ensure the foundation of their house is solid and built on the Word of God. This is made possible when you as the parent have intentional rhythms of discipleship in your home that brings about identity, belonging, and purpose in your children.

Creating Foundations of



Identity



Belonging



Purpose

at Home





Building a Foundation at Home



Identity

When it comes to creating a strong grasp of identity in your children, here are some practical ways you can help them discover their identity:

- Speak life over your children every day. Affirm them in their gifts and talents, no matter how small. God can use the smallest task or talent to spark a movement.
- Begin doing devotionals together. Make a habit of studying the Bible (picture Bibles are great for this age) with your children and teach them how to dissect the Word of God and truly understand the context of what they're reading so they may apply it to their lives accordingly.
- Pray together! Help set your children up for success in their relationship with Jesus by establishing a consistent rhythm of prayer—individually and as a family.
- Listen to worship music together—have it playing in your house and whenever you're driving in the car. Have fun by singing the songs together!

Belonging



Making sure your child feels a sense of belonging in your family is so vital to their development as they're growing up. This will provide them with a sense of security as well as the confidence they need to be who God created them to be. Your children are a very important part of your family! Make sure they know that. God chose YOU to be their parent. Here are some ways you can begin instilling a sense of belonging in your children:

- Create family traditions together. This doesn't have to be centered around the holidays either! Create an expectation with your children that you'll set aside quality time with them on a consistent basis.
- Identify a family Bible verse. Have fun with your kids by making a sign with the verse on it, and talk about this verse often.
- Live life in community by joining a small group with other families who have children the same ages as your children. Being part of a community group will model for your children what it means to live in community and teach your children the value of friendships while strengthening their knowledge, understanding, and sense of belonging.



Purpose

Help your children develop a heart of servanthood. Find an outreach you can participate in together as a family (see the Outreach Guide on page 17 for ideas). Intentionally modeling what it looks like to serve is a vital aspect of this discovery. Your children will see you and mimic your life on mission!

- As your little ones are growing up, be intentional to model a heart of servanthood. One way you can do this is to participate in various outreaches together—as a family is even better (see the Outreach Guide on page 17 for ideas)!
- Empower and engage your children when they show an interest in something. Teach them they can make a difference, whether it's taking them shopping with you to pick out school supplies for families in need or filling up an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. Enjoy the journey of discovering your children's passions and servanthood!
- Help your children build an old-fashioned lemonade stand so they can raise money for a specific cause or organization. Take your children with you to donate the money they raised.



Welcome, Baby (Newborn–12 Months)



What is my baby's basic need?

Your baby is completely dependent on you for everything and needs you to show up and be there consistently in order to establish their love and trust. This helps them in their overall mental, physical, and spiritual development.

What is the basic truth my baby should understand?

While your baby may not comprehend things the way you do, you can demonstrate they're loved and valued by taking care of them. This is an example of how God provides for us. The basic truth you should convey with your actions and words is to affirm the fact that God created them, loves them, and is always there for them. You need to be there for your baby, but even more than you, God is always there!

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?



What Bible story should we read together?

The creation story in Genesis 1 is a perfect affirmation of how we're all created by God.

What verse should I memorize with my baby?

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

—Genesis 1:1 (NIRV)



What can I practice at home?

- Be sure to cuddle with your baby often and consistently. By embracing their physical needs, you give them an early impression of love so they learn to trust.
- Consistently tell them Jesus loves them.
- Use daily affirmations to showcase that God made everything, including them!
 - Example: "God made everything! God made bananas, milk, juice, and God made you! God made the sun, sky, trees, flowers, kitty cats, puppies, and God made you! God made me and God made you!"
- **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING!** He is our Creator!

Isn't it amazing how God is always with you?



Toddler Time (12–24 Months)



What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?



What Bible story should we read together?

Read Luke 2:10–14, and explain how God loves them so much that He sent His only Son to the earth. God showed His love by allowing His Son to come and forgive us for all of our mistakes and sins and make a way for us to spend all of eternity with Him. That way, we'll never be separated from Him ever again—no matter what!

What verse should I memorize with my toddler?

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."—John 3:16 (NIRV)



What is my toddler's basic need?

Your toddler needs you to continue building the foundation of trust so they feel safe. This helps continue your toddler's overall mental, physical, and spiritual development.

What is the basic truth my toddler should understand?

It's important to instill in them that God created them and loves them even when they're sad or upset, when they don't get what they want, or when they make wrong choices. God never stops loving them.

What can I practice at home?

- Make sure to create a consistent routine with your toddler. This will help continue to establish and shape their trust.
- Practice setting healthy and loving boundaries when your toddler acts out.
- Use daily moments with your toddler to incorporate biblical principles and an understanding of faith. This can look like talking, singing, or praying together while doing daily activities like playing, eating dinner together, and getting ready for bed.

Isn't it amazing how God loves us all the time, no matter what? Isn't it amazing that God forgives us just like He forgave Adam and Eve, and how He sent Jesus to save us from our sins and be our forever friend?



Terrific Two-Year-Olds



What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?

What Bible story should we read together?

Read Exodus 2:1–10, and explain how God has a plan for them the same way He had a plan for baby Moses when he was placed in the Red Sea by his mother.

What verse should I memorize with my two-year-old?

"Before I formed you in your mother's body I chose you. Before you were born I set you apart to serve me. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations." —Jeremiah 1:5 (NIRV)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. —Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

"You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother's body. How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well." —Psalm 139:13–14 (NIRV)



What is my two-year-old's basic need?

Your two-year-old's basic need is to have encouragement and confidence. This is important to establish when they're young, so they take it with them into every life stage! You'll see encouragement and confidence come into play as they learn to develop their relationship with God on their own when they're older.

What is the basic truth my two-year-old should understand?

It's so important for your child to understand that God made them for a purpose!

What can I practice at home?

- Help develop confidence in your two-year-old by encouraging them to try new skills.
- Constantly remind them that God has a plan for them and created them with special and unique gifts and talents to use for His glory and kingdom.
- Have them help you in the kitchen and show patience as you encourage them to learn new things.
- Assign them age-appropriate chores to boost their confidence, like picking up their toys and putting them in the toy bin.
- As a parent, it's important to pick and choose our battles. Tolerate the messes and try to incorporate games and songs into your simple daily routines. Singing while cleaning makes for a fun bonding activity you can do together while teaching them to clean up and instilling a sense of hard work and responsibility in them.

God Made Me!



Three-Year-Olds



What is my three-year-old's basic need?

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Your three-year-old's basic need is to play, and it's so important for them to have fun! Encourage this by getting on their level and playing with them often. This will help foster your relationship with them as they get older.

What is the basic truth my three-year-old should understand?

.....

It's so important for them to understand that Jesus is their friend!

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?



What Bible story should we read together?

Read Mark 10:13–16, and explain how Jesus is their friend and He wants a relationship with them the same way He wanted a relationship with the children in this passage below.

What verse should I memorize with my three-year-old?

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

—Mark 10:14 (NIV)



What can I practice at home?

-
- Make your daily activities fun and turn them into games! By embracing their need for intentional fun, you're giving them their first impression of their heavenly Father.
 - As they continue to learn new rules, be patient and stay consistent with discipline, solidifying their feelings of security and structure.
 - Talk to them about friendships. Teach them that friendships are to be nurtured and take time. Just like we talk to our friends every day, we need to talk to Jesus every day because Jesus is our best friend.

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Jesus Loves Me!

.....



Four and Five-Year-Olds



What is my four or five-year-old's basic need?

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Your four or five-year-old's basic need is to use their imagination! Fostering your child's ability to use their imagination will help them be more open-minded and allow them to receive the gospel's truth easier as they grow up.

What is the basic truth my four or five-year-old should understand?

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It's so important they understand that Jesus is alive!

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?



What Bible story should we read together?

Read Matthew 28:1–10, and explain how even though Jesus died for our sins on the cross, He rose from the dead three days later, because not even death could defeat Him.

What verse should I memorize with my four or five-year-old?

"I am the Living One. I was dead. But now look! I am alive for ever and ever!"—Revelation 1:18 (NIRV)



What can I practice at home?

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- The best way to motivate your preschooler is to encourage the use of their imagination. Take some time and explain the gospel in a creative way that will help them picture the story in their minds.
 - You can introduce simple truths of the gospel through dramatic play. Allow your child to dress up as characters and act out stories from the Bible.

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I can talk to Jesus every day.

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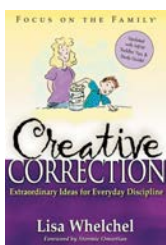


Parent Resources for Early Childhood

There are so many resources out there to help you along the journey of parenting, and we want to help make it simple for you. We've gathered some of our favorites and have them listed on our parenting website (**CalvaryFTL.org/Parenting**) for you to access quickly. You'll find resources for various topics like faith, technology, crisis, discipline, etc.

During this time in your children's lives, it's important to continue to plant biblical principles in their lives and practice living it out in front of them.

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:



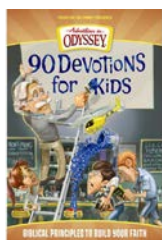
Creative Correction



**Intentional Parenting
Workbook-10 Ways to Be an
Exceptional Parent in a
Quick Fix World**



Bible App for Kids



90 Devotions for Kids



**Power of a Praying Parent,
Husband, and Wife**



5 Love Languages



**Calvary Outreach Guide on
CalvaryParenting.org**

Visit us at **CalvaryParenting.org** for more tools and tips!



Prayer of Salvation for Kids

Your children may have questions about what it means to ask Jesus into their heart. Listen to them and respond as best you can. If they want to pray the prayer of salvation, here's an example you can lead them in. It's as easy as ABC—ask, believe, commit!

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me! I **ask** you to come into my heart to be my Lord and Savior. I **believe** You created me and that You sent Your son Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for all the wrong things I've done. I **commit** my life to you! Help me to honor you all the days of my life.

Ask

Believe

Commit

Elementary





All children are a gift from God and are so vital to the heartbeat of each family. Just like their parents, they're created in the image of God. An important part of their spiritual growth is learning to develop their knowledge of and relationship with Jesus.

Did you know that 85% of people who accept Christ as their Savior do it between the ages of 4 and 14? This is why it's so important to create a foundation of biblical truths for our kids at a young age, so they'll be prepared to become all God has created them to be.

In this guide, you'll find a breakdown of biblical truths to go over and implement with your kids that are ideal for their age. As you go over this guide and engage with your kids in meaningful conversations, your kids will gain a deeper understanding of the Word of God.



“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.”

—Psalm 127:3 (NLT)



It All Starts at Home

Here are some practical steps to help your kids grow in their identity, find their belonging, and walk in their purpose. You'll discover more about your kids at each age level, learn basic truths your kids should know, read a passage from Scripture that supports that truth, and be equipped with practices you can implement at home.

As a parent, you're building a legacy as you help your kids grow into who they were made to be. You're helping them build a house they'll live in for the rest of their lives. You want to ensure the foundation of their house is solid and built on the Word of God. This is made possible when you as the parent have intentional rhythms of discipleship in your home that brings about identity, belonging, and purpose in your kids.

Creating Foundations of



Identity



Belonging



Purpose

at Home





Building a Foundation at Home



Identity

When it comes to creating a strong grasp of identity in your kids, here are some practical ways you can partner with them as they grow:

- Speak life over your kids every day. Affirm them in their gifts and talents, no matter how small. God can use the smallest task or talent to spark a movement.
- Start doing devotionals together. Make a habit of studying the Bible with your kids and teach them how to dissect the Word of God and truly understand the context of what they're reading so they may apply it to their lives accordingly.
- Help set your kids up for success in their relationship with Jesus by establishing a consistent rhythm of prayer—individually and as a family.
- Listen to worship music together—have it playing in your house and whenever you're driving in the car. Have fun by singing the songs together!

Belonging



Making sure your kids feel a sense of belonging in their home is so vital to their development as they grow up. This will provide them with peace in knowing they'll always have a place at home no matter what happens. Here are some ways you can foster this:

- Create family traditions together. This doesn't have to be centered around the holidays either! Create an expectation with your kids that you'll set aside quality time with them on a consistent basis.
- Make sure your kids have healthy friendships, a solid community, and at least five spiritual leaders that can pour into them in a way that will affirm your teachings at home. Their spiritual leaders can be anyone from a pastor, a coach, a teacher, a neighbor, or even a family member.



Purpose

Helping your kids discover their purpose sounds like an overwhelming task, but there are simple practices you can implement in your home to help your kids discover why they're here. Here are some practical tips you can start doing today:

- Help them practice having a heart of servanthood. One way you can do this is to participate in various outreaches together—as a family is even better (see the Outreach Guide on page 30 for ideas)! Living on mission is a vital aspect of this discovery. Your kids will see you and mimic your life on mission.
- Empower and engage your kids when they show an interest in how they can make a difference. Go on that journey of discovery together.
- Discover the promises of God for your children and family through the Bible. And then, share these promises with your children, pray them over your children, and continually encourage and direct them toward seeing the promises fulfilled in their lives.



Kindergarten



What is my kindergartener's basic need?

Your kindergartener's basic need is to have your undivided attention! Showing them how much you care and value them by giving them your time and attention is so important. This will help grow their trust in you to know they can always come to you with any questions or problems.

What is the basic truth my kindergartener should understand?

It's so important they understand they're created in the image of God!

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?



What Bible story should we read together?

Read Genesis 1, and explain how when God was creating the world, He took the time and effort to make all people in His image. Because people are made in His image, they have value, worth, and are loved unconditionally!

What verse should I memorize with my kindergartener?

"So God created human beings in his own likeness. He created them to be like himself. He created them as male and female."—Genesis 1:27 (NIRV)

What can I practice at home?



- Always make sure you're engaging in your child's interest by listening to their stories and giving concrete answers to their questions. You're the most influential teacher they have!
- Be intentional with your conversations with your child so they'll be equipped with the values you want them to exemplify when it's time to go to school.
- Demonstrate love and care to all people who bear God's image. Your kindergartener is watching and listening to how you speak to and treat others!

I'm created in the image of God!



First Graders



What is my first grader's basic need?

Your first grader's basic need is to have a predictable life full of routine and unstructured playtime! This will continue to develop their sense of security, while also giving them some independence.

What is the basic truth my first-grader should understand?

It's so important for them to understand that God will always be by their side, no matter what!

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?



What Bible story should we read together?

Read Genesis 28:1–18, and explain how even though Jacob didn't realize it, God was already there. God's promise was true for Jacob even though he acted deceitfully with his family. God's promises of grace and mercy remain when we fail, the same way He's always present whether we can see Him or not.

What verse should I memorize with my first grader?

"Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."—Matthew 28:20 (NIRV)

What can I practice at home?



- Make sure you constantly repeat truths to your kid like "God is always with me," "I need to make wise choices," or "I should treat others the way I want to be treated." The more you say these truths together, the more these values and truths will stick with your kid at home, at school, or anywhere else!
- Make memories while having fun! Be intentional to make memories as a family—movie nights, pizza nights, game nights, family bike rides, walks, scenic drives, etc. These are just a few ways you can have consistent fun and quality time together as a family.



Second Graders



What is my second grader's basic need?

Your second grader's basic need is to be recognized for their uniqueness and praised for their efforts! This will continue to develop their confidence and their ability to branch out and gain more independence.

What is the basic truth my second grader should understand?

It's so important they understand they can have a relationship with God!

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?



What Bible story should we read together?

Read Exodus 3:13–14, and explain how important it was for Moses to have his own experience with God and how that helped him to fulfill a very big task! God chose Moses and equipped him to speak to Pharaoh. He also chooses us and gives us gifts in order to do big tasks of our own.

What verse should I memorize with my second grader?

"And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.'"—Exodus 34:6–7 (NIV)

What can I practice at home?



- Consistently talk to your kid about your own relationship with God. What experiences in your life made you feel like God was speaking to you? Why did you decide to follow Jesus?
- Write an encouraging letter to your child expressing your love for them and sharing some great things you see in their character.
- Enjoy family devotional time. Take some time each week to read God's Word together as a family and talk about it. Create a family journal of what God showed you and a prayer list.



Third Graders



What is my third grader's basic need?

Your third grader's basic need is to have fun and celebrate their uniqueness! This will instill in them that differences are what make us unique and loved by God.

What is the basic truth my third grader should understand?

It's so important for them to understand they're to love others because God loves them!

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?



What Bible story should we read together?

Read Luke 10:25–37, and explain the difference between the men who passed by the man who was hurt versus the one who helped him. Emphasize how the man who helped was showing love like God does, with no expectations for anything in return.

What verses should I memorize with my third grader?

"Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"—Matthew 22:37–39 (NIRV)

"Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become a child of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."—1 John 4:7–8 (NIRV)



What can I practice at home?

- Observe your kid's behaviors. Look out for their unique traits and talents. Find out their love language and be intentional about showing them love specific to their love language. Check out our parent resources at **CalvaryFTL.org/Parenting** for tools on how to do this.
- Begin serving and participating in local outreaches as a family to teach your children to love and serve others. A great example of this would be to start the tradition of filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

As kids enter fourth and fifth grade, they should know how to treat others as people who are also made in God's image. Loving God and others is the greatest thing any believer can do. Preteens are coming into an age where they begin to think abstractly and ask big questions. Regularly reading the Bible is one of the highest indicators of kids sticking with their faith as they grow older.

***“All your children
shall be taught by the
Lord, and great shall
be the peace of your
children.”***

—Isaiah 54:13 (NKJV)





Fourth Graders



What is my fourth grader's basic need?

Your fourth grader's basic need is to be engaged by you! Be intentional with your time with your preteen and ask them follow-up questions to help facilitate the deeper thinking they'll need to develop their own sense of self and faith.

What is the basic truth my fourth grader should understand?

It's so important for them to understand they're part of the kingdom of God!

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?



What Bible story should we read together?

Read Matthew 13:24–40, and explain how the Bible uses a lot of stories, called parables, to describe what the kingdom of God is like. Ask your kid what they think the kingdom of God is like based off of these parables. It's ultimately God who builds His kingdom and invites us to be a part of it. There's so much to discover about the kingdom of God and our purpose in God's plan to build it. As we read the Bible, we learn more about it!

What verse should I memorize with my fourth grader?

"But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you."

—Matthew 6:33 (NIRV)

What can I practice at home?



- Let your kid know you believe in them and see their potential! Encourage them in their interests.
- Encourage your kid to read the Bible on their own. Get them their very own journal and devotional book. Gift them a Bible with their name engraved on it. Continue creating a routine with them in the morning or at night, including devotional time, Bible verse reading, or Scripture memorization. Make it engaging, fun, and consistent.



Fifth Graders



What is my fifth grader's basic need?

Your fifth grader's basic need is confidence and affirmation. Be on the lookout for ways you can praise your kid to affirm them and help boost their confidence.

What is the basic truth my fifth grader should understand?

It's so important for them to understand that by making a difference in their community they can help change the world!

What can I practice at home?



- Before a kid can set about changing the world, they must first see God's change in them. Be consistent in being an example of fairness and responsibility. Explain the whys of the decisions you make for the family. Before Joshua would embark on taking the land God had promised to His people, Joshua needed to have a sense of his responsibility before God. The best way to show your kid God's truth is to live it for yourself!

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?



What Bible story should we read together?

Read Joshua 4:13–15, and explain how Joshua was on the cusp of the biggest task of his life—the conquest of the land God had promised to Israel hundreds of years ago. Talk about what it must've been like the night before attacking Jericho, and how the Angel of the Lord appeared to Joshua and spoke to him in a manner similar to Moses. Joshua is an example of Jesus because Joshua saved his people just like Jesus saves us. Jesus still speaks to us today and gives us what we need to follow Him. Even as we want to change the world, we all must stand before God and listen to Him!

What verse should I memorize with my fifth grader?

"The commander of the Lord's army replied, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.' And Joshua did so."—Joshua 5:15 (NIV)

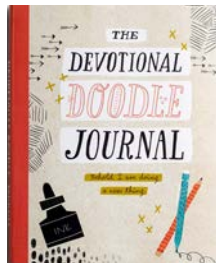


Parent Resources for Elementary-Aged Children

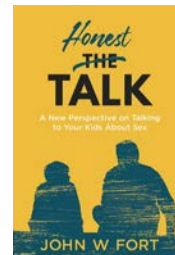
There are so many resources out there to help you along the journey of parenting, and we want to help make it simple for you. We've gathered some of our favorites and have them listed on our parenting website (CalvaryFTL.org/Parenting) for you to access quickly. You'll find resources for various topics like faith, technology, crisis, discipline, sex, etc.

During this time in your kids' lives, it's important to talk to them about steps in their faith journey, like dedicating their lives to Jesus and getting baptized.

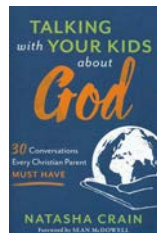
WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:



The Devotional Doodle Journal



Honest Talk: A New Perspective on Talking to Your Kids About Sex



Talking to Your Kids About God: 30 Conversations Every Christian Parent Must Have



5 Love Languages



Intentional Parenting



Calvary Outreach Guide on CalvaryParenting.org

Visit us at CalvaryParenting.org for more tools and tips!



Prayer of Salvation for Your Elementary Child

Your kids may have questions about what it means to ask Jesus into their heart. Listen to them and respond as best you can. If they want to pray the prayer of salvation, here's an example you can lead them in. It's as easy as ABC—ask, believe, commit!

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me! I **ask** you to come into my heart to be my Lord and Savior. I **believe** You created me and that You sent Your son Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for all the wrong things I've done. I **commit** my life to you! Help me to honor you all the days of my life.

Ask

Believe

Commit



Middle & High School





Middle school is the first real taste of freedom kids in sixth through eighth grade often have. By the end of their time here, kids will have learned what it means to love God, love people, and have fun. Our goal for these kids is for them to begin to own their faith in various ways, such as Scripture engagement, serving, and taking on leadership in multiple facets of their lives.

***Love
God.***

***Love
People.***

***Have
Fun!***



***“Whoever believes in
him is not condemned,
but whoever does
not believe stands
condemned already
because they have not
believed in the name of
God’s one and only Son.”***

—John 3:18 (NIV)



It All Starts at Home

Here are some practical steps to help your kids grow in their identity, find their belonging, and walk in their purpose. You'll discover more about your kids at each age level, learn basic truths your kids should know, read a passage from Scripture that supports that truth, and be equipped with practices you can implement at home.

As a parent, you're building a legacy as you help your kids grow into who they were made to be. You're helping them build a house they'll live in for the rest of their lives. You want to ensure the foundation of their house is solid and built on the Word of God. This is made possible when you as the parent have intentional rhythms of discipleship in your home that brings about identity, belonging, and purpose in your kids.

Creating Foundations of



Identity



Belonging



Purpose

at Home





Building a Foundation in Middle and High School



Identity

When it comes to creating a strong grasp of identity in your kids, here are some practical ways you can partner with them as they grow:

- Speak life over your kids every day. Affirm them in their gifts and talents, no matter how small. God can use the smallest task or talent to spark a movement.
- Start doing devotionals together. Make a habit of studying the Bible with your kids and teach them how to dissect the Word of God and truly understand the context of what they're reading so they may apply it to their lives accordingly.
- Help set your kids up for success in their relationship with Jesus by establishing a consistent rhythm of prayer—individually and as a family.
- Help establish offering and receiving forgiveness in your home regularly—it's one of the most powerful things you can do in your home.
- Look for ways to identify and see God's presence in each member of your family.

Belonging



Making sure your kids feel a sense of belonging in their home is so vital to their development as they grow up. This will provide them with peace in knowing they'll always have a place at home no matter what happens. Here are some ways you can foster this:

- Create family traditions together. This doesn't have to be centered around the holidays either! Create an expectation with your kids that you'll set aside quality time with them on a consistent basis. Create moments and memories, both big and small.
- Make sure your kids have healthy friendships, a solid community, and at least five spiritual leaders that can pour into them in a way that will affirm your teachings at home. Their spiritual leaders can be anyone from a pastor, a coach, a small group leader, a teacher, a neighbor, or even a family member.
- Your kids should live in community and develop authentic relationships. Help your kids find a community group. Often, serving in the church helps them find a community group.

Purpose



Helping your kids discover their purpose sounds like an overwhelming task, but there are simple practices you can implement in your home to help your kids discover why they're here. Here are some practical tips you can start doing today:

- Help them practice having a heart of servanthood. One way you can do this is to participate in various outreaches together—as a family is even better (see the Outreach Guide on page 45 for ideas)! Living on mission is a vital aspect of this discovery. Your kids will see you and mimic your life on mission.
- Empower and engage your kids when they show an interest in how they can make a difference. Go on that journey of discovery together.
- Help them discover and use their spiritual gifts and talents in the church, their community, at home, and in school.
- Invest in and mentor others.
- Help your kids with their college and career planning.
- Share the promises and plans God has for your kids.



Sixth Graders



What is my sixth grader's basic need?

Your sixth grader's basic need is stability! Transitioning from elementary to middle school is a big adjustment for this age. It's important to create a sense of security so they can flourish in this new season of life.

What is the key transition my sixth grader is dealing with?

Most often, they find themselves dealing with things like navigating new freedoms, physical, relational, and emotional changes, and being seen as the low man on the totem pole.

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?

What verse should I memorize with my sixth grader?

"And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas.'"
—John 1:42 (NIV)



Why this verse?

Jesus gave Simon a new name which meant "the rock." Cephas is also translated as Peter. Jesus gave Peter a new identity. He wasn't looking at Peter's past life or at all the mistakes Peter would make in the future. Jesus saw who Peter was meant to be—a man on fire for Jesus. Peter became the rock that helped build the foundation for Christianity all over the globe.

Jesus knows your sixth grader by name and has a perfect plan and destiny for them. With Jesus as their foundation, they'll never be shaken.

What can I practice at home?

- Ensure you're doing everything to encourage your sixth grader to get plugged into a church and own their faith.
- Encourage them to bring a Bible and journal to church every week so they can take notes and highlight verses that stand out to them.
- Start a YouVersion plan as a family. Encourage them to comment on it daily.
- Ask them to share once a week what they've learned from God's Word.
- Ensure you're a consistent person and actively take an interest in their life despite whatever changes they go through. Having a consistent time to connect and talk is important at this age, even if they're wanting to be more independent. Regular dates, dinner time, or bedtime conversations with your kid is a good rhythm to be consistent in.



Seventh Graders



What is my seventh grader's basic need?

Your seventh grader's basic need is to understand themselves and their identity. At this time in their lives, it can be confusing where they should find their identity. It's so important to encourage them to always find their identity in Christ.

What is the key transition my seventh grader is dealing with?

Most often, they find themselves feeling like they're in a transitional or in-between phase. They're trying to navigate growing up, while also wanting to keep the fun that comes with being a younger kid.

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?

What verse should I memorize with my seventh grader?

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."—Romans 6:23 (NIV)



Why this verse?

It's scary to know the price of our sin is death, but we've received the incredible gift of salvation that we don't deserve through the grace of God in Jesus Christ! And in light of this, we can have joy in life! Why? Because living in His love and grace allows us to experience joy in every circumstance. In a season of so much life change, our identity can be found in this gift!

What can I practice at home?

- Make sure your home is a safe place to ask questions. As your kid discovers their identity, they may have challenging questions about life and faith. Embrace and encourage every question.
- Create space throughout the week to give your kid an opportunity to ask questions (i.e. at the dinner table, during a date night, while driving together, at bed time, etc.).



Eighth Graders



What is my eighth grader's basic need?

Your eighth grader's basic need is freedom. As they get closer to high school, they'll begin to tap into their independence and want to explore their space more.

What is the key transition my eighth grader is dealing with?

Most often, they feel like they're at the top of the food chain. They feel confident in their intelligence at this age, but may fall for the myth that girls are smarter than boys.

What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?

What verse should I memorize with my eighth grader?

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

—Romans 8:18 (NIV)



Why this verse?

Eighth grade is a season that won't last forever. Everything that's hard—every trial, every bit of suffering—is temporary and leads to eternal glory. One day, when Jesus returns, He will restore all things and remove all suffering. In the meantime, it's important they understand Jesus doesn't promise an easy life, but He promises one that's worth it in the end.

What can I practice at home?

- Take the time to help your kid apply their faith in everyday experiences. This can look like showing them what it looks like to rely on God and pray for His provision, even if it's something small.
- Encourage them to keep a prayer journal so they can record their prayers and reflect back on God's faithfulness.



In high school, we desire for all kids to leave with seven core truths and behaviors established and formed in their lives. These seven core truths, or pillars, will guide and shape them along their journey of following Jesus long after high school.



1. The Gospel:

A correct understanding of the gospel and authentic faith in Jesus



2. God's Word:

The acknowledgment of the Bible as our ultimate authority and a passion for searching the Scriptures daily



3. Spiritual Disciplines:

The daily disciplines of a life changed by Christ—Scripture reading, prayer, worship, and evangelism



4. Divine Purpose:

The recognition of our gifts and talents and how we can fulfill our purpose in God's story



5. Community:

The need to grow in a community of believers and to be discipled by a spiritual mentor



6. Love:

A genuine love for others and the desire to serve the way Jesus did



7. Mission:

A craving to share the gospel with the world and to live a life on mission



Ninth Graders



What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?

What verse should I memorize with my ninth grader?

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

—2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)



Why this verse?

This verse helps us understand what the gospel really is. It's an exchange of our sin for the righteousness of Jesus!

There's nothing we have to do to earn righteousness because Jesus did it all. God loves us so much and there's nothing we could do to earn that love. We only need to receive the good news! This will set a foundation for the gospel throughout high school.

What is my ninth grader's basic need?

Your ninth grader's most significant need revolves around being grounded. They need to know how important it is to find their identity in Christ, building a gospel-centered foundation. They can continue to build this by making sure they're involved in a church community and by investing in good friends.

What is my ninth grader's biggest adjustment?

They're in a season of big changes. They're dealing with new school adjustments, new friends, and the pressure of finding their identity and building a reputation.

What can I practice at home?

- Make sure you take the time to get to know your teenager's friends. Invite them over so you can learn more about them by asking intentional questions. Let your kid know you value the people they value.
- Every once in a while, send your kid an encouraging text reminding them about God's grace and love—an encouraging letter can be cherished forever as well.
- Throughout high school have regular dates with your teenager to strengthen your bond with them and to have meaningful conversations.



Tenth Graders



What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?

What verse should I memorize with my tenth grader?

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."—Acts 2:42 (NIV)



Why this verse?

This verse gives every believer a framework for finding a meaningful Christian community. Every tenth grader should devote themselves to studying the Bible, hanging out, eating, and praying with other believers! This community can become a safe place for them to ask questions, to learn to serve one another, and to grow in their personal understanding of God.

What is my tenth grader's basic need?

Your tenth grader's biggest need is to have a place to ask good questions. At this age, it's normal for them to wrestle with doubts, so they must have a safe space and biblical community where they can ask the theological and cultural questions they may have.

What is my tenth grader's biggest adjustment?

They often find themselves navigating new freedoms, whether it's dating or getting their driver's license. They're also constantly being put in new situations where they need to decide what's right or wrong.

What can I practice at home?

- Try to constantly engage your teenager to discuss their faith and see their questions or possible doubts. Always do your best to teach them how to think instead of what to think, so they have a solid grasp of their beliefs. Point them back to the foundations of the Bible for their source of truth.
- Read through the book *Understanding Your Teen* by Jim Burns with your teenager and discuss each chapter.



Eleventh Graders



What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?

What verse should I memorize with my eleventh grader?

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction."—Psalm 1 (NIV)



Why this verse?

Psalm 1 gives us a picture of what it's like to plant ourselves firmly in the presence and Word of God. This builds us like a consistently fruitful tree and is filled with the refreshing power of the Holy Spirit! Its roots go down deep and will be able to withstand whatever pressures and plans the future brings.

What is my eleventh grader's basic need?

Your eleventh grader's biggest need is to have Scripture engagement and daily time with Jesus in order to help them with the building pressures from school and future planning. Encouraging them during this season is so important for their emotional and spiritual health.

What is my eleventh grader's biggest adjustment?

They're continually being bombarded with ideas of what to do for their future. This is when they begin to question their purpose as they're starting to think about college. This can bring on a lot of high stress, anxiety, and depression. It's a big world, and they're trying to figure out where they fit in it.

What can I practice at home?

- Make sure you're available and willing to listen when they need it. Step into their shoes and listen from their perspective. Acknowledge how they feel and the way they see things—you can focus on right vs wrong in another conversation. Engaging them during this season is so crucial for your ability to connect with them and offer them guidance.
- Have conversations with them about what life will be like after high school when they start taking on the world independently.
- This is a good season to look for a mentor. This can be a small group leader from church and/or a professional in the field they're looking to have a career in.



Twelfth Graders



What Does Scripture Engagement Look Like for My Child at This Stage?

What verse should I memorize with my twelfth grader?

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."
—Romans 1:16 (NIV)



Why this verse?

As a twelfth grader prepares to leave high school, they'll be pressured to abandon their faith. They'll have to make important decisions that will either make Jesus a priority or not. They should be unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ as they follow Him into this new journey!

What is my twelfth grader's basic need?

It's so important for your twelfth grader to solidify their beliefs in Christ. As they enter into a new phase of life, they'll be exposed to a plethora of different worldviews and having that strong foundation will help them stay strong in the Lord. They also need encouragement to discover and utilize the spiritual gifts God has given them to reach others for Jesus!

What is my twelfth grader's biggest adjustment?

They're in a hard and exciting season! While they're looking ahead at their new and exciting opportunities, they're also mourning the idea of leaving their friends and family soon.

What can I practice at home?

- This time with your teenager is your last season to be able to teach them new life skills that will help prepare them for adulthood. Take the time to make teachable moments for them so they can continue to grow and be encouraged.
- Celebrate all their hard work and reminisce on some of the best times they had as a child. Solidify their positive memories.
- If they're moving away for college, sit down with them and help them research churches in that area so they can be prepared with a new place to get involved in.
- Go through the book *Before You Go* by Gerald Fadayomi with your teenager.
- This is a good season to look for a mentor. This can be a small group leader from church and/or a professional in the field they're looking to have a career in.



Parent Resources for Middle and High School Children

There are so many resources out there to help you along the journey of parenting, and we want to help make it simple for you. We've gathered some of our favorites and have them listed on our parenting website (CalvaryFTL.org/Parenting) for you to access quickly. You'll find resources for various topics like faith, technology, crisis, mental health, discipline, sex, etc. Be sure to check out the Technology tab while you're there!

During this time in your teenager's life, it's important to talk to them and equip them with tools on how to live a godly life as they mature and begin to enter adulthood.

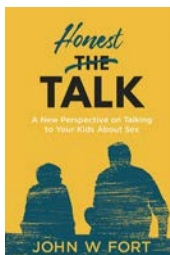
WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL:



Passport to Purity Weekend Getaway
(6th grade is a great time to attend)



Understanding Your Teen



**Honest Talk: A New Perspective on
Talking to Your Kids About Sex**

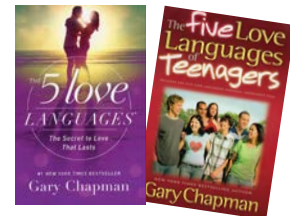


**Calvary Outreach Guide
at CalvaryParenting.org**

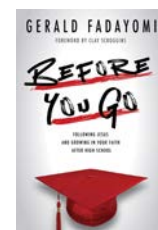


**Chasing Sex, Love,
and Relationships
in a Confused Culture**

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING FOR HIGH SCHOOL:



**4 Love Languages and
5 Love Languages of Teenagers**



Before You Go



**Doing Life with
Your Adult Children**

Visit us at CalvaryParenting.org for more tools and tips!



Prayer of Salvation for Teens

When your kids are ready to receive Christ as Lord and Savior, here's an easy way to remember how to lead them. It's as simple as ABC.

Admit

Admit you're a sinner and that you've made mistakes.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."—Romans 3:23 (NIV)

Believe

You simply believe in Jesus and in what He did: He's God's Son, He lived on Earth and was perfect, and He died on the cross and rose again from the dead.

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."—John 1:12 (NIV)

Confess/Commit

Confess Jesus as the Lord of your life and commit your life to Him.

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."—Romans 10:9 (NKJV)

***“O Lord, you alone
are my hope.
I’ve trusted you,
O Lord,
from childhood.”***

—Psalm 71:5 (NLT)



CalvaryFTL.org/Parenting