

# Childhood Discipleship Leader S.K.I.L.L. Lesson # 8

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## Partnering with Parents to Help Children Grow in Christ

Understand **God's Plan** (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

- God's plan for us is revealed in the **Shema**. It is two-fold: to love God with our whole beings and to **teach our children** to love God with their whole beings.
- When Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest, he quotes the **Shema**. (Mark 12:28-30)
- Right after giving us this declaration of faith, God tells us to **pass our faith on to our children**.
- God also gives us a plan for passing on our faith. Notice he does not tell us to take our children to the **tabernacle**. God's plan is for parents to be the **primary faith trainers** for their children.

Ignite **Parents' Passion**

- Children are a **reward** from God. (Psalm 127:3)
- Children are very important in the **Kingdom of God**. (Matthew 18:1-6)
- Children can learn **spiritual truth**.
- Children need more than **church!**
- Children need their **parents** to teach them how to love and serve God.

Embark on a **Shared Path**

- Parents and churches must **work together** to help children grow spiritually.
- Churches can encourage parents to do three foundational things to help children grow spiritually:\*
  1. Have a weekly **faith talk or devotion** with your child.
  2. Recognize **God moments** throughout the day.
  3. Celebrate **spiritual milestones** with your family.
- Churches can equip parents by
  1. **Praying for the parents in your congregation.**
  2. **Hosting parent seminars.**
  3. **Ordering HomeLife, ParentLife or BabyLife from LifeWay for the parents in your church.**
  4. **Celebrating spiritual milestones at church.**
  5. **Creating a parent resource library in your church.**
  6. **Reinforcing learning from church at home by distributing parent pages from the Sunday school book.**
  7. **Connecting church and home by providing weekly faith talks that correspond to the sermon.**
  8. **Planning a multigenerational worship service that includes babies through senior adults.**
  9. **Teaching your weekly preschool and children's Bible studies with excellence.**

For further study see *Shift* by Brian Haynes and *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions* by George Barna.

\* Adapted from *Shift*.

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## Listening Guide

### Partnering with Parents to Help Children Grow in Christ

Understand \_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

- God's plan for us is revealed in the \_\_\_\_\_. It is two-fold: to love God with our whole beings and to \_\_\_\_\_ to love God with their whole beings.
- When Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest, he quotes the \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 12:28-30)
- Right after giving us this declaration of faith, God tells us to \_\_\_\_\_.
- God also gives us a plan for passing on our faith. Notice he does not tell us to take our children to the \_\_\_\_\_. God's plan is for parents to be the \_\_\_\_\_ for their children.

Ignite \_\_\_\_\_

- Children are a \_\_\_\_\_ from God. (Psalm 127:3)
- Children are very important in the \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 18:1-6)
- Children can learn \_\_\_\_\_.
- Children need more than \_\_\_\_\_!
- Children need their \_\_\_\_\_ to teach them how to love and serve God.

Embark on a \_\_\_\_\_

- Parents and churches must \_\_\_\_\_ to help children grow spiritually.
- Churches can encourage parents to do three foundational things to help children grow spiritually:\*
  1. Have a weekly \_\_\_\_\_ with your child.
  2. Recognize \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the day.
  3. Celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ with your family.
- Churches can equip parents by
- Praying for the parents in your congregation.
  1. Hosting parent seminars.
  2. Ordering *HomeLife*, *ParentLife* or *BabyLife* from LifeWay for the parents in your church.
  3. Celebrating spiritual milestones at church.
  4. Creating a parent resource library in your church.
  5. Reinforcing learning from church at home by distributing parent pages from the Sunday school book.
  6. Connecting church and home by providing weekly faith talks that correspond to the sermon.
  7. Planning a multigenerational worship service that includes babies through senior adults.
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