



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia
St Mary's Cathedral
Making disciples of Jesus Christ

Parenting Seminar: How to Shepherd Our Children

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Our Mission:

*To glorify God together in response to his grace
by making disciples of Jesus Christ*



About the Speaker



Sandy is a Children's Minister at MBM (Multicultural Bible Ministry) in Sydney. Sandy's passion is to train children's ministry leaders - to equip and encourage them to speak God's truth into the lives of children everywhere. She partners with churches by making the resources and programs, developed for her own church, available on her web site Kidswise. Sandy is a wife, mother and grandmother (what a great privilege!).

How to Shepherd Our Children

EXERCISE

- a. What does my child need most from me?

- b. What do I need most from the church in regards my child?

- c. Who is the person best equipped to teach my child about the things of God?

- d. How many times in the last month have I:
 - 1) Talked to my child about my faith never once or twice weekly
daily 2) Prayed with my child never once or twice
weekly daily
 - 3) Read the Bible with my child never once or twice weekly daily
 - 4) Talked about what we give to God Never once or twice weekly
daily
 - 5) Served alongside my child never once or twice weekly
daily

- e. Reflect on this quote

"Hurry and intimacy are two entirely different things. What our children will remember most about their childhood when they grow older are two things - how



much love was in the home, and how much time you spent with them." (Richard Swenson)

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. Kids learn most from the people they spend the most time with.

- b. Kids learn more from those they are emotionally connected with.

2. AS YOU WALK ALONG THE PATH

- a. Deuteronomy 6:7-9

- b. Continual

- c. Visible

3. NEVER TOO YOUNG

- a. World view fully formed by 7 years

- b. Young kids need to know:
 - God made them
 - Loves them
 - Is in control of everything
 - Is personal - they can talk to him anytime, anywhere
 - Sent Jesus to save them



4. WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS MOST

- a. To hear me talk about my faith

- b. Bible Time
 - What do you like about the story?
 - What question do you have about the story?
 - What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Spirit)?
 - Who am I going to tell?

- c. End of each day: share your high and your low, then pray

- d. Way home from church: share what you learnt, were reminded of, were challenged by...

5. KEEP IT SIMPLE

- a. Daily Routines - Bible, Bath, Bed

- b. Family Traditions

6. EXERCISE

- a. Read “Ten Tips On Developing A Heart For the Lost” and “Ten Tips On Shaping Your Child’s Attitude to Church”. Discuss.



b. As a group develop Ten Tips On Discipling Your Child In The Car.

7. CASE STUDY

8. CONCLUSION

9. PRAYER



TEN TIPS ON DEVELOPING A HEART FOR THE LOST IN KIDS

#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: 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.

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|------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 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

Ten Tips by Sandy Galea © 2015 Kidswise

Recommended Resources

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

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

#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.

Ten Tips by Sandy Galea © 2013 Kidswise

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)

