

FAMILY TOOLBOX



SERIES

**WHAT THE
BIBLE SAYS
ABOUT ...**



Children's Ministry

Golden Hills Community Church

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A Note to Families

The Children's Ministry of Golden Hills Community Church exists to "*Glorify God by helping families develop age-appropriate disciples who impact their world for Christ*".

In order to accomplish this task, we at GHCC have attempted to describe the discipleship of a believer, which includes these three elements:

- **Worship**
- **Grow**
- **Serve**

We believe that children, as followers of Christ, can also participate in the discipleship process. We have further identified twelve specific spiritual growth issues within these three elements of discipleship.

It is our desire in Children's Ministry, to create a balanced program, which addresses all of these spiritual growth issues, helping to produce a healthy, age-appropriate disciple.

However, statistics tell us that the national average for children attending Sunday school is 26 hours each year (that's only half of the time). And our church is no exception to this. Our average Sunday attendance is roughly half of our total registration. What does this mean? Well, we could have the best programming, the best teachers and staff (which, by the way, I think we do) and we would still have a very hard time in accomplishing the goal God has set before us. But there is a way.

The way in which we can realize the goal of making age-appropriate disciples is stated in our purpose: "...by helping *families* develop age-appropriate disciples..." In fact, the best approach to aiding your child's faith development is *not* in the formal setting of the church, but in the informal, everyday life of your home. God's Word clearly reminds us of this in Deuteronomy 6:4-7:

"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. The commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress (teach) them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the road, when you lie down at night and when you get up."

We encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to "impress upon your children" spiritual truth. Use dinner conversation, driving in the car, bedtime routines and getting ready each morning as times to reflect and teach about God and his faithfulness.

To help you in these discussions, we have developed a series of tools for you to use. These tools are series of booklets (**THE FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**), each addressing the spiritual growth issues. In them you will find information, discussion questions and activity suggestions to help you guide your children on their spiritual journeys.

Introduction

As you guide your children along in their spiritual journeys, there will be times when you need to discuss exactly what the Bible says on certain topics. This booklet was designed to give you a tool in those discussions. Use it as a reference, or as a plan for discussion around the dinner table—however you see fit.

The scriptures used to illustrate each point are not intended to be exhaustive. They are only a starting point for your discussions. Your challenge is dig deeper into God’s Word to discover His truth with your family.

As part of our **FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**, I pray that this will be just one more tool for you to use with your children as you develop them into disciples.

Pastor Mark

What the Bible Says About...

...God:

God is Triune (exists in three persons)-Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, 2, 26; Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:1-3; Ephesians 1:2, 3 17).

God the Father is...

- Real and present everywhere (Psalm 139:7-12).
- Eternal. He always was and always will be (Psalm 90:2).
- Spirit. He can't be seen (John 4:24).
- Holy. He is separate from all sin; he hates sin (Exodus 15:11; Habakkuk 1:13a).
- All-powerful (Acts 4:24).
- All wise. He knows and understands everything (Psalm 139:1-6).
- Sovereign. He rules over all (Psalm 93:1,2).
- Faithful. He always keeps His word (Psalm 119:90).
- Love. He loves everyone (John 3:16).
- Just. He rewards and punishes according to His perfect Justice (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

Jesus Christ, God the Son is...

- Eternal. He existed with God the Father in eternity past and will live forever (John 1:1; 8:58).
- The Creator and Controller of all things (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16, 17).
- God in a human body (Luke 1:35; John 1:1-12).
- Perfect. He never sinned (1 Peter 2:22).
- Loving. He loves children as well as adults (Matthew 19:14).

- Our sacrifice. He died for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3).
- Alive. He rose from the dead (Ephesians 1:20).
- Lives in heaven today (Hebrews 1:3).
- Is the rightful Lord of each believer and deserves our service (John 20:28; Acts 9:6; Colossians 3:24; 1 Timothy 6:15).
- Coming again (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).
- Going to rule over all (Philippians 2:9-11).

God the Holy Spirit is...

- The One who gave special power and understanding to Old Testament believers.
- The promised Helper (John 14:16).
- The One who opens God's Word (1 Corinthians 2:12, 13; 12:3).
- Lives in each believer (Romans 8:11).
- Convicting people of sin, right and wrong, and coming judgment (John 16:7-11).
- A Guide to each Christian (John 16:13).
- Grieved when we sin (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30).
- The One who enables believers to win over sin and bear fruit in their lives (Galatians 5:16-25).

...Man:

Man was created in God's image: Just as God is an intelligent being, has a will, and can express emotions, so are we. We possess intelligence (we think); we have emotions (love, jealousy, anger); we have a will (make decisions to obey or not). (Genesis 1:26)

Man is body, soul and spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

- Our body is the house in which our soul and spirit live.
- Our soul is the unseen part that includes personality,

- mind, will, and emotions.
- Our spirit is our unseen part through which we can know God.

Man disobeyed God. (Romans 5:12)

Man's disobedience brought all under sin. (Romans 3:23; 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21,22)

...Sin:

Sin is disobeying God's Word. (Romans 1)

Sin is refusing to accept what the Lord Jesus has done as the only way of salvation. (John 3:16-18)

Sin must be punished; it brings death (Romans 6:23a; Ezekiel 18:4b). This death is eternal separation from God in a place of punishment-hell.

Every person is born with a sin nature and cannot keep from doing wrong. (Romans 3:23)

...Salvation:

Salvation is possible because Jesus gave His life on the cross to pay for all sin. (Hebrews 7:27; 1 Peter 2:24)

His resurrection proved that he had conquered death and Satan. (Genesis 3:15; 1 Corinthians 15:56; Ephesians 1:20)

Salvation is available to anyone willing to call on Christ. (John 1:7, 12; Romans 10:13)

Jesus gives eternal life to all who believe and accept His forgiveness. (John 3:36)

Eternal life means Jesus will never leave you. (John 10:27, 28; Hebrews 13:5, 6)

Jesus wants us to be baptized to announce to others that we have received Him as Savior. (Acts 2:41)

Once you have eternal life, your body may die, but the real you will live forever with Jesus. (John 14:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:19-22; 2 Corinthians 5:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:17)

Having eternal life frees you from sins power and makes it possible for you to live to please God. (Romans 6:18-22)

...The Bible:

The Bible is God's Word. (2 Timothy 3:16)

The Bible is True. (Psalm 119:160)

The Bible tells us:

- What God wants us to know. (Deuteronomy 4:1, 2; 29:29)
- What God is like. (1 John 1:5; 4:8; 5:20; see "God the Father")
- What we are like. (Isaiah 53:6; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23)
- How to be saved. (John 1:12; Acts 16:31)
- How to live for God. (Ephesians 2:10)

Learning God's Word and yielding to Christ will keep you from sin. (Psalm 119:11; Romans 6:12)

...The Church:

The church is made up of all who receive Jesus Christ as Savior from sin. (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18)

God wants believers to become part of a local church body. (Acts 2:46, 47; Hebrews 10:25a)

God wants believers to gather faithfully to worship and fellowship as a church. (Hebrews 10:25)

The Lord Jesus committed the church to follow two ordinances:

- Baptism by immersion. (Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 3:13-17)
- The Lord's Supper (Communion), a remembrance of His death. (1 Corinthians 11:20-34)

The church sends missionaries and gives to help those in need. (Acts 13:1-3; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4)

...Angels:

Angels are God's helpers. (Hebrews 1:7, 14)

Angels are God's messengers. (Luke 1:26)

Angels watch over God's children. (Matthew 18:10; Hebrews 1:13, 14)

Angels appeared like men in Bible times. (Genesis 18; Hebrews 13:2; Joshua 5:13-15)

...Satan:

Satan was a beautiful and special angel. (Isaiah 14:12)

Satan disobeyed God. (Isaiah 14:13-15)

Satan was cast out of heaven and now is active on earth. (Ezekiel 28:16; Luke 10:18)

Satan tempts us to do wrong, but Jesus is stronger; He has already defeated Satan. We must simply claim the victory He gives us to do right. (1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 4:4)

Satan will someday be cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:10)

...Last Things:

The Lord Jesus may come back at any time. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Believers will receive new bodies in heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:46-54)

Believers will be rewarded for obedience and service. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

Believers will live with the lord forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:17, 18)

Unbelievers will be judged. (Revelation 20:11-15)

The Spiritual Growth Issues:

Worship

- Salvation
- Worship

Grow

- Bible knowledge/Application
- Bible Memory
- Stewardship
- Healthy Relationships
- Using Gifts, Talents and Skills
- Church Commitment

Serve

- Outreach
- Missions Involvement
- Christian Service