

NEWGEN NEWS

Partnering with parents to help children discover and deepen a relationship with Jesus.

WINTER/SPRING 2017

Eleven22 Family.

First of all, **thank you** for allowing us as a church to partner with you in the discipleship of your kids. It's a humbling thought that of all the people in the world **God has chosen you to be the primary disciple-maker of your children.** As a church, our role is to be your biggest cheerleader and equipper. And just so you know, I'm in the trenches with you as the father of an 11-year-old son and a 7-year-old daughter. From the perspective of a pastor and a parent, I want to share some thoughts on how to disciple kids. This is not a "5 steps to Godly kids" nor is it an exhaustive list, but rather a handful of things Gretchen and I try (and often fail) to do in our home.

#1- INCREASE YOUR OWNERSHIP OF THE DISCIPLESHIP OF YOUR CHILDREN.

If you don't make this the number one priority of your parenting, then it will always get the leftovers. Many parents seem to be more concerned about where their kids will go to college than where they'll spend eternity. Wake up! **The question that matters most in our children's life is, "What did you do with Jesus?"** Our job isn't to create well-behaved, successful citizens. Our job is to raise up disciples on mission for the glory of God.

#2- DECREASE YOUR EXPECTATIONS. That may sound shocking after #1 but it's true. This is a marathon, not a sprint. Small deposits of discipleship over a long period of time have a cumulative effect. Much like you never noticed your kids growing in one afternoon, you may not notice immediate results from your attempts to pour the Gospel into your kids. Hang in there! Don't lose heart! **What God started in their lives He will bring to completion.**

#3- FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL. Once a month, I simply ask my kids to explain the Gospel to me. I phrase it in an age-appropriate way (i.e. What does it mean to be a Christian?). I ask them the question and then I just listen to them talk. Sometimes I ask when they are filled with fear, doubt, or insecurity. I want them to be skilled in preaching the Gospel to themselves in all situations. **It's amazing how much their understanding of God's reconciling work through Jesus Christ grows as they explain it to me in their own words.**

#4- PRAY SPECIFIC BIBLE VERSES OVER YOUR KIDS. Every night of my kids' life that I have tucked them into bed, I've prayed Psalm 1 over my son and Psalm 139:14 over my daughter. **I want to sink the anchor of the Word of God deep into the souls of my kids.**

#5- READ THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE. No matter how much you know or don't know about the Bible, you can do this one. This version of God's Word is a very gospel-centered version of the Bible meant to be read to kids. But watch out, you'll learn a lot about God's Word while doing this as well. And, whether your child is a toddler or about to finish elementary school, the NewGen Connect Hub in the NewGen lobby is a great place to pick up the most age-appropriate version of the Bible.

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#6- ASK HEART QUESTIONS.

Each night when I tuck my kids into bed, I ask questions. After we read *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and pray over them, we talk. I rarely ask what they did today. I try to ask how they are doing at a heart level. Questions like:

- Were you disappointed today?
- What really excited you today?
- Did you see an opportunity to serve someone today or tell them about Jesus?

Questions that make them think less about what happened and more about how it affected them instead. **I want to train them to be able to talk to me, not so much about the circumstances of their lives, but the conditions of their souls.** Sometimes we have amazing talks that turn into more prayers (probably just a ploy to stay up longer) and sometimes it's like pulling teeth. But it's always worth it.

I hope these suggestions are helpful as you pour the Gospel into your kids. **Just remember, you've got this! God always equips the called and you have been called to disciple your kids.**

Love ya like crazy,
Pastor Joby

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SATURDAY, APRIL 15 @ 3PM

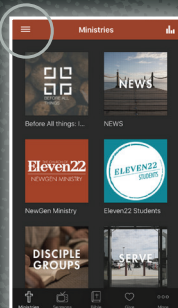
AT YOUR HOME CAMPUS!

Easter Service immediately following @ 5:30pm

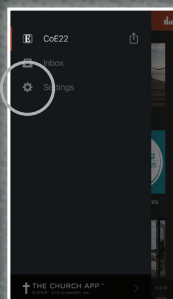
TAKE NEWGEN EVERYWHERE YOU GO!

If you download the church app on your phone, you're just a few clicks away from easily accessing all of our Weekly Take Homes designed to give you content, questions, and talking points you can discuss with your children throughout the week.

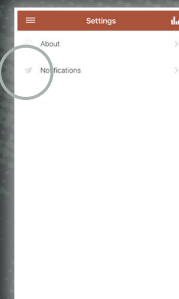
Now you can get push notifications specifically for parents on the Eleven22 app!
To receive these helpful notifications, complete these simple steps:



In the app, tap the three white lines in the top, left corner of the home screen...



Tap "Settings"...



Tap "Notifications"...



Slide the bar to green on "NewGen Parents"

Now you'll get the latest NewGen Kids announcements as we send them out.