

EQUIPPING

for intergenerational ministry

Encouraging faith at home



Our primary goal as followers of Jesus is that everyone should know who their heavenly Father is and that He wishes to have an intimate and purpose-filled relationship with each and every one of His precious children.

This relationship is deepened when we:

- live as disciples of Jesus Christ at home, in the workplace, in the community and the world
- develop an understanding of the Bible and our faith tradition
- deepen our spiritual life and practices, and engage in service and mission
- relate the Christian faith to life today
- participate in the life and ministries of our faith communities.



The Four Keys of Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, Rituals and Traditions provide some ideas that can assist us. Christian values and faith are passed on to the next generation when they are seen in action. Faith becomes real when others can see God working in the lives of people.

Caring Conversations



Christian values and faith are passed on to your children through supportive conversations.

- In your conversations with your children, listen closely to the important issues, core values, passions, faith and doubts expressed. It's important that we allow children to ask questions. Respond to their concerns compassionately, showing God's love and understanding.
- Pray together - bring God into the conversation.
- Tell your children about the gifts you see in their lives - encourage them.
- Discuss with them how to use resources wisely, faithfully and joyfully.
- Be intentional and initiate conversations with your children about the way you spend your time, money and how you can allow God into every part of your life and seek His guidance and instruction.
- Share your story with them - hearing faith stories is one of the most important influences on the faith of children and young people.



Devotions



Our faith shapes the whole of our lives and involves a lifetime of Bible study, reflection and prayer.

- Pray at all times.
- Instead of feeding the insatiable quest for more news and social networking, consider beginning and/or ending the day reading, praying or meditating on Scripture. This key is important for parents and children!
- Family devotions provide a way to learn more about the Bible and Christian tradition as a family.
- Encourage your children to apply these teachings to daily life then share what happened.
- Share a 'God moment' in your day with your children, a time when you have been keenly aware of God's presence and interaction in your life.



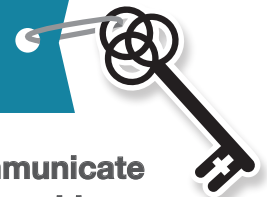
Service



Serving others together provides an opportunity for children to see people's gifts, faith and values in action. Service is the day-in and day-out lifestyle we lead that demonstrates the faith in us and involves our children and young people in the faith. Families can engage in this key every day.

- Do simple things that show God's love in the world. Open the door for someone, give up your seat, and smile!
- Both children and adults are more likely to have a growing, strong faith when their family serves others together.
- Find a charity, locally, nationally or internationally that you can assist. Get involved in a service event in your community!

Rituals and Traditions



Rituals and traditions communicate meaning, values and relationships that exist between people and with God. Rituals and traditions are those patterns of behaviour that occur with regularity.

- Family rituals can take many forms, from daily rituals such as mealtime, bedtime, leaving and returning (hugs and kisses before you go and when you come home), to celebrations such as birthdays, anniversaries, and special achievements.
- Celebrate church year rituals at home, such as Advent and Lent.
- Recognise milestones such as first days of school and graduations, etc.
- Bless people when they arrive and when they leave your home.
- Have symbols in your home that express your faith.

