

KIDS CHRONICLES

We would love to hear your feedback about this newsletter as we continue to develop how we partner with parents. Several man hours are poured into creating this content, so we want to make sure it is valuable to the discipleship in your home. [Here is the survey form.](#)

Dec 4th: Jesus Called Disciples (Matthew 4; 9; Mark 1-3; Luke 5-6)

The word *rabbi* translates to “teacher.” Jewish students would seek out a rabbi and ask to follow him. Those chosen to be a rabbi’s disciples followed him everywhere. They learned from the rabbi how to think and how to act. They trusted the rabbi, and the goal was to become just like him. When Jesus chose His disciples, His strategy was different. Rather than waiting for students to come to Him, Jesus sought out His disciples among the people who followed Him. The call to follow Jesus is not an easy one. Jesus said, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Matt. 16:24). Jesus calls us to do the same—to surrender our lives.

Dec 11th: Jesus’ Early Miracles (Mark 1)

Jesus set Himself apart from the scribes who relied completely on traditional interpretations of the Torah from other teachers. Jesus’ teaching came from His own authority as the Author of truth! The miracles He performed demonstrated Jesus’ power and authority as the Son of God. Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law, and that evening the people in the town brought to Jesus all those who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits. While Jesus’ miracles brought some people to faith in Him, they also proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. These miracles strengthened people’s faith and met their needs. Isaiah prophesied that the promised Messiah would bear our sickness and carry our pain. (Isa. 53:4) Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as He healed people.

Dec 18th: Jesus Taught In Nazareth (Luke 4)

Jesus went to the town of Nazareth, where He had grown up. On the Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue to teach. He read aloud the words of the prophet Isaiah (Isa. 61:1-2) as He explained, “Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled.” The words Jesus read were coming true. Some people remembered Jesus from His youth. They asked, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” Jesus knew their thoughts; Jesus had performed miracles in Capernaum, and the people wanted Jesus to do miracles in His hometown too. Jesus reminded them of two Old Testament accounts. Many widows lived in Israel when the prophet Elijah was there, but God sent Elijah to help a widow in another country. And Elisha likely encountered Israelites who had leprosy, but he healed Naaman the Syrian. Jesus wanted the people to understand that His miracles were an act of grace—a gift. No one deserves God’s grace, so God may show grace to whomever He pleases—even Gentiles. The people were angry about that last part. They drove Jesus away, intending to kill Him, but Jesus escaped through the crowd.

Dec 25th: Christmas Service

The families will come together to worship and celebrate our King! A list of Advent resources can be found in the November version of Kids Chronicles if you want extra resources to celebrate the first coming of the Messiah.

GOSPEL TIP

One hindrance of discipleship in the home is when parents assume too early that their children are born again. It is done out of a heart of love and earnest desire to see their kids follow Christ. But sometimes, parents can be too optimistic about their children's conversion.

If your child expresses the desire to trust Christ, praise the Lord! You should encourage, affirm, and then ask questions: "Why do you want to follow Christ, Claire?", "Why is God willing to forgive us of our sins, Tom?", "What does it mean to be born again, Hannah?" Your child may not have an answer, but what you are setting up is a chance to help your child cultivate gospel clarity.

From there, continue to plant seeds of the gospel and teach the character and works of God. As they mature, examine their lives to see if they display the fruits of the Spirit (Matt 7:16-20). Your patience to train your children and lead them towards gospel clarity will allow more profitable evangelism conversations as they grow older.

GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART

Scripture Memory Challenge

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
~Romans 5:8-9

EVERY MOMENT REDEEMED

One of the ways this information era deceives us is that it reduces wisdom to the obtaining of data. It comes in the form of searching everything on Google or YouTube or bingeing podcasts and sermons. The volume of info available is seemingly infinite, but why isn't there a tangible difference in our lives? While wisdom is not less than obtaining info, it is certainly more than that.

What's missing is the discipleship relationship. It is in the context of a relationship where that information is discerned, processed, evaluated, and applied. While it is expedient and helpful to look up the information needed, we forfeit discipleship opportunities that could come from seeking help, advice, guidance from a person.

Instead of your daughter looking up a recipe on YouTube, why not make a meal together and hear about her life? Instead of your son looking up how to build Legos, why not work together to understand the instructions? Instead of listening to a sermon on parenting, why not seek counsel from an older, godly couple who has children walking with the Lord? These are the discipleship dynamics in our everyday lives that bring glory to Christ.

CHILD SAFETY TEAM:

At The Grove Bible Chapel we take seriously the responsibility of shepherding our children and families, which includes the safety of the children in our care, to the best of our ability. This [form](#) is being provided as a means to receive any concerns or information that someone may desire to relay to the leadership of The Grove.