



Family: The Discipleship Plan

Sunday, May 12, 2024
Ephesians 6:4

In Ephesians 6:4, Paul turns his attention to the important role parents play in the spiritual development of their children. Paul expected parents to actively lead and disciple their children.

Key thought: Parents, God expects you to actively lead and disciple your children.

Disciple” – (Matthew 28:18-20)

The root meaning of the term disciple refers to believing and learning. Jesus was not referring simply to believers or simply to learners, or He would have used other words. *Mathēteuō* carries a beautiful combination of meanings. Discipleship is the investment of one’s time and energy into the life of another individual or group of individuals so that they may become mature, reproducing members of the body of Christ.

Mathetes is the Greek word which has been translated as “disciple.” **Mathetes** is used to “indicate total attachment to someone in discipleship.” Jesus referred to his followers as his disciples. The term disciple marked the unique relationship which existed between Jesus and those who followed him as their teacher and master. Although the term disciple is used quite frequently in the gospels and the book of Acts, it is not found in any of the epistles. The word means simply a learner or pupil, which is doubtless the reason it is never used in the epistles. It occurs 270 times in the Gospels and Acts, where it sometimes refers to the disciples of John the Baptist, Matt. 9:14 , and of the Pharisees, Matt. 22:15, 16. Disciples were not synonymous with apostles, because Christ chose the apostles from a larger number of disciples, Luke 6:13.

PARENTS MUST OWN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DISCIPLESHIP OF THEIR CHILDREN!

PARENTS MUST ACTIVELY LEAD AND DISCIPLE THEIR CHILDREN! (Deut. 6:1-12)

- Be careful, don't alienate or embitter your children. (negative command)

“do not provoke”

- Be intentional to disciple your children. (positive command)

“bring them up”

- o In the discipline (of the Lord)

- o In the instruction (of the Lord)

Take away:

8 Tips to Help You Disciple Your Kids by Brian Dembowczyk

1. Set realistic expectations.
2. See family discipleship as a way of life, not a program.
3. Focus on Jesus.
4. Be a guide, not a general.
5. Feed your own growth.
6. Teach by your example.
7. Connect them deeply into your church.

8. Pray with them and for them.^[1]

Modeling is how disciples catch the faith. Paul understood this (1 Cor 11:1, Philippians 3:17, 4:9, 1 Thess 1:6-8)

Parents, you can't lead your children to be disciples of Jesus if you're not pursuing Jesus yourself.

^[1]<https://gospelproject.lifeway.com/8-tips-to-help-you-disciple-your-kids/>