




# Family Devotional Guide



**REACH**

— 2023 —

Deep Roots. Lasting Fruit.





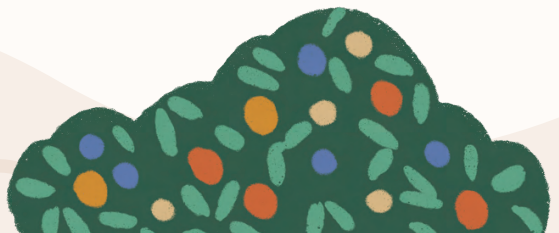
# A note for parents...



Citylight Kids exists to forward Jesus' disciple-making mission by partnering with parents to lay a foundation on which a child's relationship with the Lord can grow. We plant gospel seeds in an age-appropriate way and pray that God will bring growth (1 Cor. 3:5-9). Our primary goal is to support you, as parents, in your responsibility of discipling your kids to the glory of God (Deut. 6:7; Eph. 6:4).

As we embark on this two-year initiative as a church, called REACH, we want to equip you to not only engage with us as adults, but to lead your families in engaging with this initiative together. It's together that we're the church - kids included! We desire that this will be a formative season for our whole church as we partner together to see gospel ministry thrive in Northwest Philadelphia and beyond for generations to come.

For the next 6 weeks, we will be looking to God's Word together to inform our vision for this future. This Family Devotional Guide provides you with resources to take these truths home to your family. In it, you'll find weekly family discussions and activities that follow along with what we'll be learning together during our worship gatherings on Sundays. Please set aside a dedicated time each week to work through this guide as a family and put these truths into practice together.





Each week, you will find:

- 1 The **Scripture** and a modified version of the **big idea** from that week's sermon.
- 2 A **memory verse** for your family to memorize together.
  - a. Consider practicing this verse at family meals.
  - b. These verses are provided in the CSB translation of the Bible, which we use in our Elementary class because it's easier to read.
  - c. For younger children, consider using a smaller portion of the verse or asking them to memorize the big idea instead.
- 3 An **overview** of the passage and ways to apply it to our lives.
- 4 Discussion **questions** to talk through as a family.
- 5 A **family activity** to put these truths into practice together.

We hope and pray this resource creates an intentional opportunity for your family to engage with us together over the coming weeks. If, after participating in this guide, you would like to make practices like this a part of your regular rhythm as a family, we encourage you to check out the book *Family Discipleship*, by Matt Chandler & Adam Griffin.

May the Lord bless you as you embark on  
this journey with your family! 🍊





# Week 1



**Scripture:** Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

**Big Idea:** Join Jesus in his cause

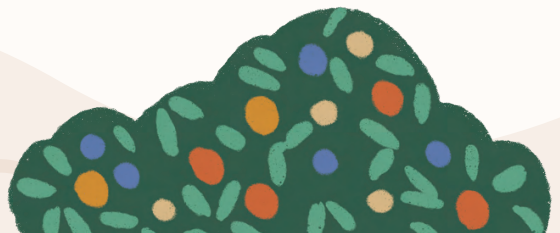
**Memory Verse:** “...And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the Lord to glorify him” (Isaiah 61:3b).


**Overview:** This passage is about Jesus! What’s amazing is that it was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born. God planned all along to send Jesus into the world and do the things this passage tells us about. Jesus came to bring good news and help people who needed help. And Jesus makes his followers into “righteous trees” that are strong because they depend on Jesus (deep roots) and follow Jesus in his cause (lasting fruit).

## Questions:

- 1 Have you ever seen a strong tree when it’s really windy? What happens? Why doesn’t it blow over?

*[Strong trees depend on their deep roots to stay strong, sprout leaves, and bear fruit.]*



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- 2 What does it mean to depend on Jesus (like strong trees depend on their deep roots)? How has God given us ways to depend on Jesus?

*[When we depend on Jesus, He makes us strong. Depending on Jesus means believing what we read in the Bible and asking Jesus to help us when we have needs.]*

- 3 If we are “righteous trees” who depend on Jesus, how can we join Jesus in bringing good news and being helpful to others?

*[When we’re strong in Jesus, we can tell others about the good news that Jesus made us strong and can make them strong too. Because Jesus helps us, we can help others.]*

**Family Activity:** Go for a family hike among the trees! This could be in the Wissahickon or another local park. As you walk, take a closer look at the trees around you. Do you see any of the roots? Try to push it over! Did it even move a little? In the warmer weather, what will the healthy trees look like? Will they grow leaves or bear any kind of fruit (e.g., acorns)? Talk more about how our life with Jesus can make us strong like a tree, able to withstand storms, and bear fruit that helps others.





## Week 2



**Scripture:** Matthew 25:14-30

**Big Idea:** Make an impact for Jesus


**Memory Verse:** “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy’” (Matthew 25:23).

**Overview:** Sometimes Jesus told stories to teach lessons to his followers. Here, Jesus tells a story about a boss who gives his workers money to manage. He gives more to some than others, but expects all of them to use that money to make more. Everything we have comes from God, and He gives us all kinds of things to use for His glory, so others will know Him. These things might include money, but it also includes our talents and abilities. When we use the things God has given us to glorify Him and bless others, it makes God happy!

### Questions:

1 What has God given you?

*[This might include money from an allowance, gifts, or a job. But it also might include talents and abilities, like singing or being good at math.]*

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- 2 If all of that comes from God, how does that affect how you might use it?

*[We can use the things God gives us to make Him happy and bless others.]*

- 3 Do you know anyone who uses the things God has given them to make God happy and bless others?

*[Answers will vary.]*

- 4 How can you use what God's given you to make Him happy and bless others?

*[Answers will vary.]*

**Family Activity:** Have everyone in the family take turns sharing something God's given them and decide on a way to use that to make God happy and bless others. If it's baking, this might mean baking cookies for a neighbor. If it's drawing, it could mean drawing a picture for someone. If you have older kids, it could be helpful to talk about spiritual gifts God gives us to serve the church (Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11), and how they might use them. Optional additional activity: Have a family talent show!





## Week 3



**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

**Big Idea:** Give yourself first to the Lord

**Memory Verse:** "...they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God's will" (2 Cor. 8:5).

**Overview:** 2 Corinthians is a letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to one of the early churches that formed after Jesus' resurrection. In 2 Corinthians 8-9, he begins to encourage the members of the church to be generous people. He starts, but telling a story about another church. The people in this church, even though they were poor, they were extremely generous in their support of God's mission. But before they gave financially, they gave themselves first to the Lord.

### Questions:


- 1 Who are some people that have been generous to you? How were they generous?

*[You may need to probe them to consider times when a relative or friend has extended generosity. This may include things like Christmas gifts, or even a friend sharing a snack at school.]*

- 2 Read 2 Corinthians 8:2-5. How would you describe the Macedonian's generosity?

*[They were really poor but still gave a lot; they were excited for the opportunity to be generous; they were joyful.]*



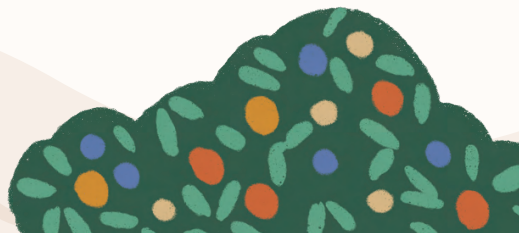
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- 3 2 Corinthians 8:5 tells us that the Macedonians gave themselves first to the Lord before being generous to others for God's mission. What does it mean that they gave themselves first to the Lord?

*[It involved worship and submission to God first and foremost. It was because they loved and trusted God that they gave generously. You might connect this to last week's discussion about everything we have coming from God.]*

- 4 What might it look like for you to give yourself first to the Lord?

*[This might include things like committing to time reading the Bible, praying or worshipping, or simply asking God how He might have them be generous and trusting Him by doing following through.]*

**Family Activity:** Decide as a family how you, together, will give yourselves first to the Lord. This could be as simple as following through on one of the things you talked about in question 4, or maybe a combination of things. It's possible this will lead to a regular/daily practice of family worship as part of your family's daily routine.





# Week 4



**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 8:6-15

**Big Idea:** Be generous!

**Memory Verse:** “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

**Overview:** Paul encourages the Corinthian church (and us) to excel in generosity. To excel at something means to be great at it - to go above and beyond, and even be one of the best. He points to Jesus as a perfect example of excelling in generosity.


## Questions:

- 1 Can you think of anyone who excels at something? What do you think it took for them to excel at that?

*[It could be someone they know personally (e.g., this relative is really good at X) or someone like an athlete or entertainer. For the 2nd question, talk about things like desire and dedication.]*

- 2 Why is it a good thing for us to excel in generosity toward others and God’s mission?

*[Revisit the ideas of desire and dedication from question 1. How does excelling in generosity display our desire and dedication to love God more than anything else?]*

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- 3 How did Jesus show generosity toward us? How did Jesus' generosity toward us make us rich?

*[See 2 Corinthians 8:9.]*

- 4 What is one way you can excel in generosity toward someone else this week?

*[This doesn't have to be financial, but it can be. It can also involve kids giving of themselves in other ways - through sharing, acts of service, etc.]*

**Family Activity:** Decide on a way to be generous as a family this week. It could be any number of things, and it doesn't have to be financial. Maybe it's setting up a hot chocolate stand in front of the house and donating the money to someone in need or a charity. If it snows, maybe it's shoveling for an elderly neighbor. Another idea is baking cookies for someone who might be lonely. Think together about what your family already has or does well, and be generous with it!





# Week 5



**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 9:1-10

**Big Idea:** Give bountifully!

**Memory Verse:** “The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously” (2 Corinthians 9:6).

**Overview:** The Apostle Paul encourages the Corinthians to give bountifully and cheerfully. When we give bountifully and cheerfully, it makes God happy and God uses it!

## Questions:

- 1 This passage talks about sowing and reaping, which are farming terms. What do you think they mean?

*[To sow is to plant seeds that will eventually grow into plants, like vegetables. To reap is to collect all the vegetables that grew from the seeds that were sown.]*

- 2 What do you think it means in verse 6, when we read, “The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously”?

*[If someone plants a few seeds, it'll only result in a few vegetables. But if someone plants a lot of seeds, it'll result in a lot of vegetables. Our generosity is similar. When we give a lot, God can use that to make a big impact for His mission, and often blesses us in other ways as well.]*



- 3 Why does it make God happy when we give cheerfully (instead of giving because we feel like we have to or are supposed to)?

*[An analogy might help. For example, how do these motivations compare when thinking of a husband buying flowers for his wife? If it's done out of duty or expectation, it may not mean as much to the wife as it would if done from a cheerful heart out of a husband's love for his wife.]*

- 4 How does the way Jesus gave himself for us help us to be cheerful in our generosity to others?

*[Because Jesus died for us and, by believing in Him, we can have a relationship with God, we already have everything we need in Jesus. Because we have everything we need, we're free to give of what we have to others, which makes us happy.]*

**Family Activity:** Plant some seeds together! This could be as simple as picking up a packet of seeds at a local store (garden center, Home Depot/Lowes, or even a dollar store) and planting them in an old egg carton. Use dirt from your yard or a local park if you don't want to buy some. Flowers, herbs, or even green beans are likely to sprout quickly, so kids can see results sooner. As you care for these plants, it provides a consistent opportunity to reinforce the message from this passage. As it warms up, and if you're able, consider planting them in your yard. Eventually, you'll be able to reap what you've sown - make a bouquet, or use the herbs/veggies in a recipe.

This would also be a great time to talk with your kids about the generosity commitment you intend to make, and how the Lord is stirring a heart of generosity in you. Consider praying together that God would use what your family is sowing to reap fruit for God's kingdom through our church.



# Week 6



**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 9:11-15

**Big Idea:** Thank God for His generosity

**Memory Verse:** “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15).

**Overview:** When we give, it leads others to give thanks to God. And we can also give thanks to God for His generosity to us, and the opportunity to be generous to others.

## Questions:

- 1 Why does God promise to enrich generous Christians (9:11)? How is that different from “giving in order to get”?

*[God already knows what we'll do with the things He gives us. Because of this, God often blesses generous people with more, so that they'll have even more opportunity to be generous to others. In the end, this leads people to thank God.]*

- 2 How does our generosity lead others to give thanks to God? Has someone else's generosity ever led you to thank God?

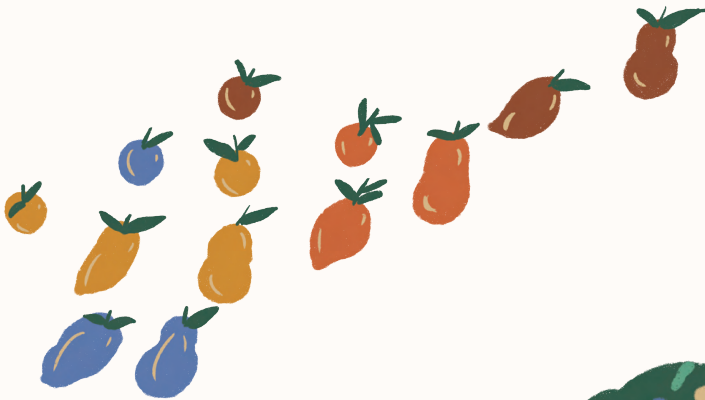
*[Everything we have comes from God, and God promises to provide for His children. Sometimes, when we pray to God for something, He provides it through other people. Kids might not be able to think of an example for the 2nd question here, but perhaps there's an opportunity for you to share an example with your kids about how you've experienced that.]*



3 What is God’s “incredible gift” (9:15)?

*[Because Jesus lived a perfect life, died in our place on the cross, and rose to new life, our sins can be forgiven and we can have new life through Jesus. This is God’s gift to us, that we can have a relationship with Jesus that lasts forever.]*

**Family Activity:** Set aside some time to sing worship songs together, expressing thanksgiving to God for His incredible gift. On YouTube, it’s easy to find songs by searching the title and adding the word “lyrics” (so you can sing along; many have kids versions). Some song suggestions include “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord),” “Amazing Grace (I’ve Got a Reason to Sing),” and “Good Good Father.”





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