

The 3 C's Of Family Discipleship

1. CALLED

It is the Lord who calls us as parents to “train up your child”

If He has called you, He will be faithful to equip you. And know that this calling is for wherever He has planted you as a family – even in Los Angeles! The Lord has appointed our days and thus we can rely on Him to be with us and to provide for us in the spiritual formation of our children. It is in Jesus that “all things hold together” – including our families.

Our primary calling is to our own journey of following Jesus

We must pay attention to our own lives: our marriages, mental and emotional health, and how we are growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. We cannot call our children to build their lives upon the rock if our lives are built on sand. If we are calling our children to consider Jesus and give up everything to follow Him, then they must see us doing the same.

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:17, Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 7:24-29, Hebrews 12:1-3, Proverbs 22:6

— So your hope as a parent is not found in your power, your wisdom, your character, your experience, or your success, but in this one thing alone: the presence of your Lord. The Creator, Savior, Almighty, Sovereign King is with you. Let your heart rest. You are not in this parenting drama alone. Your potential is greater than the size of your weaknesses, because the One who is without weakness is with you, and he does his best work through those who admit that they are weak but in weakness still heed his call.

Paul David Tripp

2. COMMUNITY

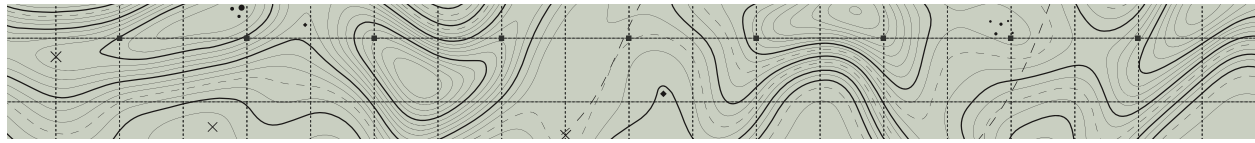
You are not alone! The Bible paints the picture of our children's discipleship as a church wide activity in the body of Christ.

We need one another as we encourage, support and work together to raise up the next generation. And our children specifically need more than just their parents; they need a wider community of spiritual mentors and friends. So as a family, get connected richly and deeply into the body of Christ in our city and here at Vintage – our Vintage communities, the NEST and Vintage Dads for parents and VKids and VYouth for your children.

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 & 20-25, Psalm 145





The 3 C's Of Family Discipleship *continued ...*

3. COUNTER FORMATION

Becoming an intentional family

If we are not *deliberate* about the formation happening in our family, our children will be formed by the *default* values of this world. Your children will indeed be disciplined, the question is by whom?

And to be clear, the default formation of this current cultural moment is producing exactly what it is designed to produce: *"anxiety ridden, depression prone, lonely, confused and screen addicted humans"* (Justin Earley, *Habits of the Household*). Knowing this, we must determine to be "Intentional Families" as our friend Jon Tyson says, and be vigilant about the spiritual ecosystem in which our children live.

Again, our kids will be "formed" - or instructed or disciplined - about how to be human during the years they live under our roof. It is up to us to make sure that they are formed by kingdom priorities and not those of the dominant culture in which we live.

Creating your family's culture

We are responsible for creating the cultures of our households. As we follow Jesus, may his character of love and grace be embodied in our homes and may we follow his example of cultivating discipleship opportunities in the everyday rhythms of life.

From your car rides to meals together, ask the Lord to show you the moments He's providing to both demonstrate and testify to His love, to His truth and to the grace of His gospel. Jesus so often taught his disciples in these everyday rhythms of life together and the Lord instructs us to do the same.

Additionally, how we operate out in the world is foundational to the formation of all of our hearts and minds. Making church a priority in your weekly schedules, being deliberate with your relationships and your annual calendar – with any and all of your "time, talent and treasure" – all are critical to your family's culture and how you roll as a family "team".

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:15-17, 2 Corinthians 9:8

"By not choosing our habits carefully, we are falling back on rhythms that are forming us in all the usual patterns of unceasing screentime, unending busyness, unrivaled consumerism, unrelenting loneliness, unmitigated addictions and unparalleled distraction."

Justin Earley, Habits of the Household

