

# PARENTING WITH PURPOSE

**Purpose: To train and equip parents as the primary faith trainers of their children.**

## GROW

**TOGETHER:**  
PICK ONE  
FROM EACH  
SECTION TO  
IMPLEMENT  
WEEKLY

### Section 1: Prayer

- Family Prayer Time
- Prayer Walking
- A.C.T.S. Prayer

### Section 2: Bible

- Table Talk
- Verse of the Week
- For The One

## TIME

**TOGETHER:**  
PICK TWO OF  
THESE  
ACTIVITIES TO  
IMPLEMENT  
EACH MONTH

- Family Worship
- Parent Child Date
- Serve the Kingdom
- Time Unplugged
- Family Movie Night
- How To...
- Family Day Out

**Parenting With Purpose** is a guide that encourages parents in their role as the primary faith trainers of their children. There are two subtitles on this guide (Grow Together and Time Together). **Grow Together** encourages spiritual growth, and **Time Together** encourages quality time. Each subtitle has a list of suggested discipleship ideas and a frequency. The intent is that parents would select one of the suggested ideas in each section and simply implement it according to the frequency. Once parents have selected one of the suggested discipleship ideas they can go to the corresponding page to find a description of that particular idea and several practical suggestions for implementation.

**FOR MORE RESOURCES GO TO  
[WWW.GHBC.ORG/STUDENTS](http://WWW.GHBC.ORG/STUDENTS)**



# GROW TOGETHER

## Family Prayer Time

***Family Prayer Time*** is a once a week time in which families set aside a block of time to pray together. During this time parents should invite their families to meet together in order to pray over each other, over family issues, and/or over anything else the Lord should bring to mind. This is a great opportunity for parents to emphasize the importance of the spiritual discipline of prayer.

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- **Select a day/time that the entire family can meet together for prayer (Consistency is key: Ensure that this is a weekly time). Make sure to Inform each family member a few days in advance in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. Take some time to talk, as a family, about the different events going on in each member's life. Create a prayer list based on this conversation and then ask each member of the family to pray for one of the requests that were mentioned (If there are not enough requests for each family member the parent may have to suggest a few).**



# GROW TOGETHER

## Prayer Walking

**Prayer Walking incorporates the spiritual discipline of prayer with physical exercise. Prayer walking can be done in an area where families regularly spend time throughout the week (This can include a neighborhood, a child's school, a parent's workplace, a local church, etc...). Simply take some time to walk around whichever location a family should choose and pray, as a family, for that location**

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- **Entire families set aside some time to walk a circle around their local church while at the same time praying for their pastors, the church congregation, and for the lost.**
- **Entire families set aside some time to walk a circle around their neighborhood, while at the same time praying for their neighbors.**



# GROW TOGETHER

## A.C.T.S. Prayer

*A.C.T.S. Prayer is a tool that can be utilized to teach children a pattern of prayer seen in the Bible. The acrostic "A.C.T.S." can help teach children about the importance of prayer and will also teach children how to pray (See the model below)*

*(A) Adoration: This aspect of the prayer pattern is set aside to praise God for who He is and what He has done.*

*(C) Confession: This aspect of the prayer pattern is set aside for confessing of our sin and then walking in holiness according to God's design.*

*(T) Thanksgiving: This aspect of the prayer pattern is set aside to thank God for who He is and what He has done.*

*(S) Supplication: This aspect of the prayer pattern is set aside to ask God, as our Supplier, to supply our needs.*

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- **Select a day/time that the entire family can meet together for prayer (Consistency is key: Ensure that this is a weekly time). Make sure to Inform each family member a few days in advance in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. Take some time to talk, as a family, about the different elements of the A.C.T.S. prayer pattern. Then take time to pray through the different elements of the prayer pattern as a family.**



# GROW TOGETHER

## Table Talk

***Table Talks*** are a once a week time in which you, the parent, set aside a block of time to share a meal with your student. The intent of this dinner is simply to spend quality time with your student while intentionally discipling them according to Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Each week questions that correspond to Sunday's message will be sent out in the Parent Page. These questions should be the aim of the Table Talk conversation.

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- **Select a day/time that the entire family can meet together for dinner (Consistency is key: Ensure that this is a weekly time). Make sure to Inform each family member a few days in advance in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. Before dinner download the Table Talk questions from the Parent Page email and take some time to review them. Discuss the Table Talk questions with your family either during, or directly after, dinner (Note: Do not get discouraged if either your child, or even you, do not know the answer to a question. It is ok to not know every answer to every question). If by chance you do not know an answer to a question simply tell your child that you are unsure of the answer, but you will try to find an appropriate answer. Then, later on, take the time to utilize the resources that are available to you in order to find an answer (Other passages of the Bible, other trustworthy literature, a Pastor or leader in your church).**



# GROW TOGETHER

## Verse of the Week

***Verse of the Week*** is a discipleship tool that encourages families to memorize Bible verses together. Parents should select a Bible verse to highlight each week. Parents should set aside a consistent time each week (preferably at the beginning of the week) to discuss the selected verse. Then parents should place the Bible verse in an area within the home that is regularly visited by members of the family. Each family member should be encouraged to try to memorize the verse by the end of the week (Note: Don't be discouraged if a family member doesn't have the verse perfectly memorized at the end of the week).

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- Write a Bible verse on a notecard and then take a few moments to discuss the verse as a family. Use a magnet to hang the notecard on the refrigerator and encourage each family member to attempt to memorize a few words, or sentences, each time they go to the refrigerator. At the end of the week gather together as a family and attempt to recite the verse together.
- Select a Bible verse and then take a few moments to discuss the verse as a family. Using a dry-erase marker, write the Bible verse on all of the bathroom mirrors throughout the house. Encourage each family member to attempt to memorize a few words, or sentences, each time they look in the mirror. At the end of the week gather together as a family and attempt to recite the verse together.



# GROW TOGETHER

## For The One

*For The One is a tool that can be utilized to teach children about the importance of evangelism. During this time parents should invite their families to meet together in order to discuss the importance of sharing the gospel as taught in the Bible. During this family gathering parents should encourage family members to share "For The One" testimonies with the rest of the family (The phrase "For The One" comes from Luke 15 which shows us Jesus' deep love for the lost). A "For The One" testimony is an experience in which someone shares the gospel message with a family member, a friend, a stranger, etc...*

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- **Select a day/time that the entire family can meet together to share "For the One" testimonies. (Consistency is key: Ensure that this is a weekly time). Make sure to inform each family member a few days in advance in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. Take some time to talk, as a family, about God's desire for His people to share the gospel. After sharing, allow each person in the family to share a "For The One" testimony. Take some time to praise your children if they share and to encourage if they do not (Note: Do not be discouraged, or discourage your child, if they do not share. This is a great teaching opportunity).**



# TIME TOGETHER

## FAMILY WORSHIP

***Family Worship*** is a simple idea that encourages quality, teachable, time with a child. During this time families are encouraged to identify one Sunday each month to worship together as a family, rather than sitting with friends (The more opportunities to worship together the better). This is a great opportunity for a parent to model biblical worship.

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- Parents, identify at least one Sunday each month to worship together as a family unit. Inform your children of your plans in advance in order to avoid confusion. Take the opportunity to discuss the reasons for worshipping together as a family before the worship service, and then after the service spend some time discussing the truths that were preached that particular Sunday.





# TIME TOGETHER

## PARENT CHILD DATE

***Parent Child Date*** is a simple idea that encourages one-on-one (or two-on-one) time with a child. During this date night one parent (or both parents) should plan, and implement, a "date" with one of their children (This will have to be done over multiple nights if a family has more than one child).

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- **Fathers, take your daughter on a father/daughter date. Pick a fun activity that your daughter enjoys and use it to spend quality time with her (Note: Try to avoid activities that prevent conversation). This is a great opportunity for fathers to model godly characteristics that a young lady should look for in a future mate. This can also be planned as a father/son "bonding" time, which would be a great opportunity for fathers to show their sons what it looks like to be a godly man.**
- **Moms, take your son on a mother/son date. Pick a fun activity that your son enjoys and use it to spend quality time with him (Note: Try to avoid activities that prevent conversation). This is a great opportunity for mothers to model godly characteristics that a young man should look for in a future mate. This can also be planned as a mother/daughter date, which would be a great opportunity for mothers to show their daughters what it looks like to be a godly woman.**



# TIME TOGETHER

## SERVE THE KINGDOM

***Serve The Kingdom*** is a simple idea that encourages parents and children to serve the Kingdom of God together. Parents should identify a service opportunity that allows the entire family to serve together, discuss the opportunity with the whole family, and then carry out the project as a family.

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- Parents should work with their local church to identify service opportunities within the church that allow entire families to serve together. Once the service opportunity is identified inform each member of the family several days in advance in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. Then discuss the service opportunity as a family and explain how the project works to advance the Kingdom of God. Then enjoy serving together.
- Parents should work to identify service opportunities within their local community (Note: Make sure this service opportunity fits into God's design for advancing His Kingdom). Once the service opportunity is identified inform each member of the family several days in advance in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. Then discuss the service opportunity as a family and explain how the project works to advance the Kingdom of God. Then enjoy serving together.



# TIME TOGETHER

## TIME UNPLUGGED

***Time Unplugged*** is a simple idea that encourages quality time with a child. During this time families are encouraged to set aside a block of time to enjoy quality time together without distraction from electronic devices.

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- **As a family pick an activity that the whole family would enjoy. It is beneficial to schedule the activity several days in advance to prevent scheduling conflicts (Note: Try to avoid activities that prevent conversation). Encourage everyone to leave their electronic devices at home during Time Unplugged (Note: It would be a great idea for one parent to take their phone for emergency situations. But be sure not to use it unless needed). Enjoy spending quality time together as a family.**
- **As a family schedule a board game night. It is beneficial to schedule the game night several days in advance to prevent scheduling conflicts. When game night arrives place a basket in a public place in the house and encourage each family member to put their electronic devices in the basket (This prevents family members from disappearing to check their devices). Then, enjoy spending quality time together as a family.**



# TIME TOGETHER

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

***Family Movie Night*** is a simple idea that provides an opportunity for parents to spend quality time with their child doing something that both parent and child enjoy.

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- **Select a movie with a teachable theme. Carve out an evening to enjoy the movie with your children and discuss the teachable theme afterward.**
- **Make "Family Movie Night" a part of your family dinner. Plan on having an electronics free dinner followed by a movie night as a family.**



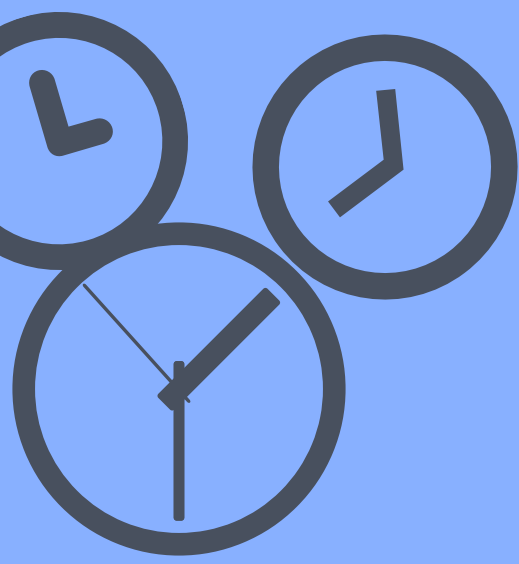
# TIME TOGETHER

## HOW TO...

***How To...*** is a simple idea that provides an opportunity for parents to spend quality time with their children by taking advantage of teaching opportunities. Parents should identify a task that they do on a regular basis, that would be beneficial to a child later in life, and allow their children to be a part of accomplishing the task. This could include teaching a child basic mechanic work, basic home repair, cooking skills, balancing a budget, etc...

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- Parent, next time you balance your checkbook consider allowing your child to peak over your shoulder. Although you may not want them to see some of the specifics of your budget, it is beneficial to give them some of the basic tools they need to manage money.
- Parent, next time you cook a family meal consider allowing your child to join you for the preparations. As you are preparing the meal take some time to talk through the "why" and "how" of the process.



# TIME TOGETHER

## FAMILY DAY OUT

***Family Day Out*** is a simple idea that encourages quality time with a child. During this time families are encouraged to set aside a block of time to enjoy quality time together while doing something fun outdoors.

### **Suggestions for Implementation:**

- As a family pick an outdoor activity that the whole family would enjoy (For example: Take a walk through Zilker Park, spend a few hours at Milburn Park). It is beneficial to schedule the activity several days in advance to prevent scheduling conflicts (Note: Try to avoid activities that prevent conversation). Plainly, try to identify an outdoor activity that the whole family enjoys, and can enjoy spending quality time together doing. Enjoy spending quality time together as a family.