



A PUBLICATION OF FBCE

# Family Discipleship



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FIRST BAPTIST

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# FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

What you hold in your hand is the first edition of First Baptist's quarterly magazine. Its purpose is to equip and cast vision. Each magazine will have a theme that will guide articles from staff members and church members. This edition's theme is "Family Discipleship."

My desire is that First Baptist Enterprise excels in equipping parents to disciple their children.

Sometimes I feel that parenting is like riding a bull. Once that gate opens, you just hang on for dear life and try not to get trampled when you are thrown off. John Wilmot, the second Earl of Rochester said, "Before I was married, I had no children and six theories; now that I'm married, I have six children and no theories." The aim of the articles in this edition is not to promote abstract theories, but rather equip you with gospel-centered ideas and truths for disciple-making in the home.

There is nothing more thrilling than shaping the heart of a child. According to God's Word, parents are called to be the primary disciple-makers in their child's life. Therefore, FBC wants to come alongside you and spur you on throughout this beautiful and terrifying journey. Our longing is to equip you to know God's Word so that you may confidently make disciples in the home.

Discipleship is "a personal and intentional process in which one or more Christians guide unbelievers or less-mature believers to embrace and apply the Gospel in every part of their lives," so as to be conformed to the image of Christ (Timothy Paul Jones). Disciple-making in the home is not for the faint of heart as it requires both resilience and love. But if you are a parent, or more specifically a *Christian* parent, then this is your calling—this is God's will for your life—to make disciples in your home.

May you find God's favor as you seek to be faithful.

*-Pastor Ben*





We exist  
to *glorify*  
God by  
making  
**disciples**  
of all  
nations.



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*Photo by Katie Blaise*



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# The Journey and The Struggle: The Search for the "How To" in Family Discipleship

Rev. Bryan Barrineau, *Minister to Students*

**T**he word discipleship is one of those words that can strike fear into a parent's heart. Most Christian parents would agree with the sentiment that they are responsible for their children's spiritual growth and want their children to honor and glorify Christ in their lives. However, putting this understanding into practice is fraught with perils around every corner. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature as he matured from childhood into his teenage years. However, even Mary and Joseph struggled with knowing how to disciple their son during the temple incident in Luke 2:41-52. No matter where you are on the discipleship spectrum with your children, it is important to acknowledge: (1) discipleship is essential in the lives of children; (2) it is the parent's responsibility; (3) the Bible gives us broad directions on how to engage in discipleship at home practically.

Before discussing the practical elements of family discipleship, we must arrive at a definition for *discipleship*. In *Family Ministry Field Guide*, Timothy Paul Jones captures the holistic nature of becoming a disciple of Jesus and continuing growth toward Christ. Jones defines discipleship and spiritual formation as:

*a personal and intentional process in which one or more Christians guide unbelievers or less-mature believers to embrace and apply the Gospel in every part of their lives. Discipleship is a process that includes the personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ, as he is revealed to us in Scripture. Discipleship involves developing perspectives and practices that reflect the mind of Christ. The Gospel, expressed and applied in the context of the community of faith, is the center point of discipleship; conformity to Jesus Christ is the goal of discipleship; 'spiritual development' and 'Christian formation' describe progress toward this goal.<sup>1</sup>*

Once one becomes a Christian, they begin their discipleship journey. The term "spiritual formation" helps to describe how the process continues forward and its goal; having a heart like Christ leads Christians to love and do, not in personal power, but the power of Christ. This process of discipleship and spiritual formation is firmly rooted in the family first and the church second. This process is essential for our children to have opportunities to be formed into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The parental necessity for engaging in discipleship is a complex process that eschews simple answers or programs. J. Gary Millar in *Changed into His Likeness*<sup>2</sup> gives four paradigms of how people involved in the discipleship and transformation process function, directly applicable to leading discipleship in your home.

**(1) Change is generally triggered by a stimulus and not chosen:** Being changed into the image of Christ requires a spark to light the match. This spark is parents leading their families toward Christ. This spark is the discipleship efforts seen throughout life's mundane happenings. Transformation into the image of Christ is not the natural path chosen by your children, as stated in Romans 7:14-25. We, as parents, need to create an environment where Christ-like change can happen in our children's lives.

**(2) Personal change is a highly complex and unpredictable process:** Discipling children in your home is not an easy process with clearly defined steps. We know that everyone has been fearfully and wonderfully made by God (Psalm 139:13-14). However, this does not negate the differences in attitude, temperament, and personalities that God has created in our children. Raising children is hard, and leading them towards Jesus can be even more challenging. This difficulty is apparent as parents are sinful, broken people attempting to lead their sinful, broken children towards Jesus

(Romans 3:23). Discipleship in your home is like running a race, where we continue to move and strive for the finish line (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). However, we do not run by ourselves. Older parents have run the same race that we are running. We must lean on their wisdom and experience to help us run the family discipleship race well (Hebrews 12:1-2).

**(3) Personal change requires personal effort:** To be changed into the likeness of Christ, a person must see it as a change worth engaging. Suppose our children do not think discipleship is worthy of the effort. In that case, they will be much less likely to spend effort working towards Christlikeness's goal. Parents have the blessing of being cheerleaders and guides for their children as they engage in discipleship. Inspiration and guidance are an integral part of leading someone into deeper discipleship.

**(4) Personal change requires support from others:** Parents must encourage their children in all areas, especially in becoming disciples and growing in Christ. So, how do we as parents initiate Christ-like change and discipleship in the lives of our children? The Bible gives instructions for the practical, day-to-day initiation of a discipleship process with our children in Deuteronomy 6.

Deuteronomy 6 gives the pattern for family discipleship. Deuteronomy 6 records a sermon Moses taught directly after sharing the Ten Commandments with the children of Israel. As a preamble to what Moses is about to teach them, he states in Deuteronomy 5:32-33, "Be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you are not to turn to the right or the left. Follow the whole instruction the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live, prosper, and have a long life in the land you will possess." These words are a guiding principle for family discipleship. We are to carefully follow God's whole instruction and His



# Family Discipleship

commandments so that through obedience, we can see the fulfillment of His blessing in our lives. Deuteronomy 6 continues this discussion as parents are presented with a pattern for instruction on how to lead their households in instruction for total devotion to God. This pattern includes a discussion of the content of this instruction, the method of instruction, and the end goal of that instruction as exhibited in their children's lives.

**Content of Instruction:** Moses was commanded by God to teach the statutes and ordinances of God. He begins this instruction in Deuteronomy 6:4 when he recites the *Shema*; the phrase repeated each morning and evening by Jewish families. This is reminiscent of Paul's final declaration to the elders of the Ephesian church in Acts 20:27 as he states, "Therefore I testify to you that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God." This attitude is one that the leadership of FBCE desires for parents to be able to make when their students reach adulthood. It's one of the reasons we encourage the use of catechisms to teach children and students the basics of the whole counsel of God's Word. Parents should delve deeply into God's Word so that we may love God with all that we are (Deuteronomy 6:5). Parents cannot effectively teach God's Word to our children if those words are not resident in our hearts (Deuteronomy 6:6).

**Method of Instruction:** How do we teach our children God's Word? God gives a great pattern for instructing our children in Deuteronomy 6:7-9. We need to live in homes where God's Word is something that is talked about daily. Parents are responsible for passing down the story of how God has worked in their own lives (Deuteronomy 6:20-25). Parents need to weave the whole counsel of God's Word into conversation, actions, attitudes, and emotions in all parts of the day. Because of our sinfulness, parents should exhibit belief in the power of God's Word as we seek forgiveness when our actions do not show Christ to our children. Parents should reinforce God's Word through conversations with our children because words have power (see Proverbs 18:21, Ephesians 4:29, Matthew 12:37, and James 1:26 for a discussion of the power of the tongue). Sharing God's Word with your children does not require a set time each day (not that a set time for

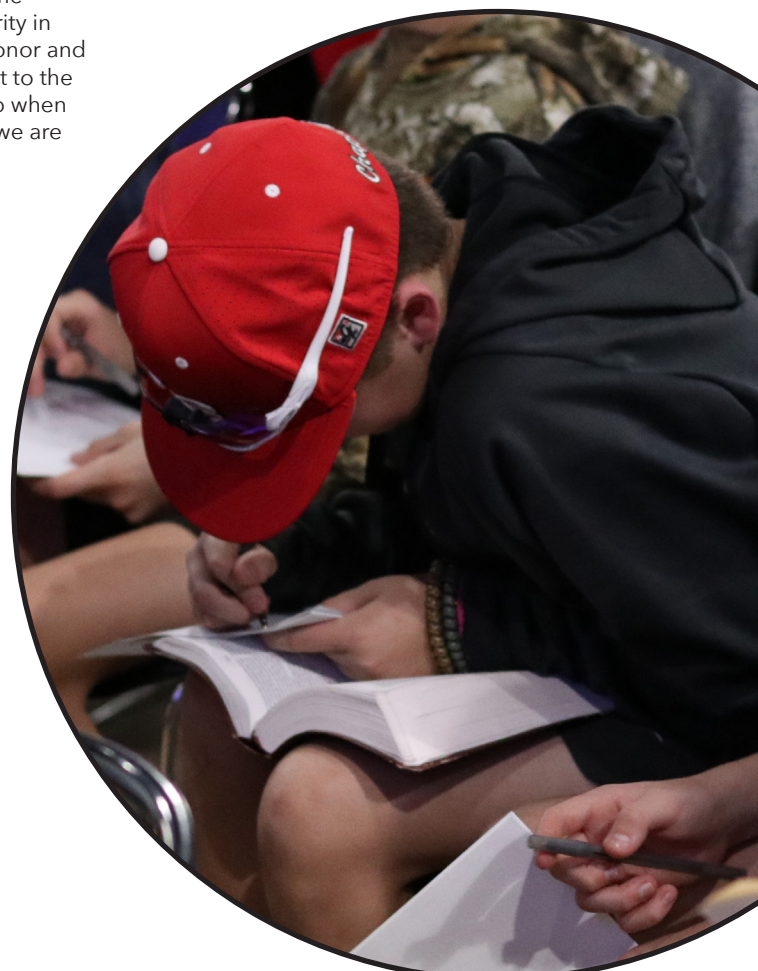
family worship is wrong) but should be done throughout the day. We need to live scripture-saturated lives with our children, not just in word but also in deed, so that our children can see what devotion to Christ looks like.

God-honoring lives are not only commanded for parents but are a generational reality. Deuteronomy 6:2 shows us that family discipleship involves generations of the whole family, not just the children living in our home. Lastly, God's Word should be evident to people who know our homes and families. Deuteronomy 6:8-9 tells us to have apparent signs of God's work in our lives outside our homes and in our very persons. Family discipleship is not only a specific time to engage in family worship or a once-a-week trip to church for our Jesus fix. It is a lifestyle where we cultivate God-honoring attitudes, emotions, and actions for our whole families.

**Instruction Goals:** Why should we engage in family discipleship? Deuteronomy 5 and 6 both speak about the goals for family discipleship. Most people want to prosper and live long lives (Deuteronomy 5:33). Modern culture teaches that others can manifest their prosperity by simply wanting it or hustling (working hard) enough to earn it. Parents who fear the Lord are to teach their children that someone can only find true, fulfilling prosperity in following the Lord and bringing Him honor and glory. Deuteronomy 6:25 drives straight to the point of engaging in family discipleship when it states, "Righteousness will be ours if we are careful to follow every one of these commands before the Lord our God." Teach your children to follow the Lord, and righteousness is your reward. Children need to know that the goal of the Christian life is to believe in Jesus, live a life that honors Him, and spend eternity in heaven with Him. There is no higher goal for a parent than to see their children "walking in the truth." (3 John 1:4).

To sum up the process of family discipleship, James Wilhoit presents the formative process of discipleship as both a journey and struggle, one which someone cannot undertake alone.<sup>3</sup> This journey is one in which

parents, with the help and guidance from God, walk with their children. The description of family discipleship as both a journey and a struggle captures the true nature of what happens as we raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Parenting is hard. Still, the Bible tells us that in our weakness that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27). Even in the hard times of teaching our children to fear the Lord, we must not lose sight that God blessed us with our children (Psalm 127:3-5). Our efforts toward discipleship are not in vain (Proverbs 22:6). Keep running the race toward Christ with your family and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your efforts. God is in control, and we are called to be faithful in our calling as parents.



<sup>1</sup>Timothy P. Jones, *Family Ministry Field Guide: How Your Church Can Equip Parents to Make Disciples* (Indianapolis, Ind: Wesleyan Pub. House, 2011), 17.

<sup>2</sup>J. G. Millar, *Changed into His Likeness: A Biblical Theology of Personal Transformation*, New Studies in Biblical Theology 55 (Downers Grove, Illinois: Apollos/IVP Academic), 6-7.

<sup>3</sup>Jim Wilhoit, *Spiritual Formation as If the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community*, 2nd edition. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2022), 20.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## The Clark Family



It started with basketball. No, really. Charles and Trish came to Enterprise in 1966 when Charles was head basketball coach at the high school. In '69 they moved away but were back in 1983 for good. Their two children, Reid and Stephanie, grew up in First Baptist alongside Stephanie's husband, Scott Quisenberry. Scott and Stephanie married in 1991. Scott has actually been a member of First Baptist Church for 41 years. Reid and Emily met in Birmingham in 2002 through work but returned to Enterprise to raise their family near family.

We sat down for this interview in the library, and I almost felt like I was at one of their family gatherings. I listened as they remembered how things used to be. They talked about the days when the Student Ministry was on the third floor, before we built the Children's Building. They told me about the Youth Choir, and how they'd go on trips and sing in the

choir loft on Sunday nights. We talked about the hard times. They picked at each other. They laughed and many cried. They're grateful for this church. So very grateful. This is a family who loves Christ, they love each other, and they love this church.

So many of the words said during this interview landed on my heart, but I'd love to tell you about one.

### **Resilience.**

Trish said it during the interview about this church, but I couldn't help but reflect on how true that word labels this family. In the short time I've been a member here, this family has convicted and encouraged me greatly, simply by how they live their lives.

For those of you who don't know, there should be another little boy in this family photo. Sawyer Clark left us, too early, at age six in November of 2021. While I can't imagine what

this family has been through, I know who they serve. It's so evident. During the interview, Reid talked about how important it is to just get up, dress up, and show up. I can't tell you how much seeing this family "show up" has moved me - as it should you.

I encourage you today to think about the people you know who show up and thank them. Thank them for how their dedication to Christ is an example to you. Thank them for how their love for Christ convicts you. Thank them for their ministry of presence.

For me, one of those families is this one. I love to see Trish in the choir, or Mr. Charles handing out bulletins. One of my favorite moments every Sunday is when I hear Hunter in the balcony. I would miss him if they didn't show up.

*Thank you, for showing up.*

-Nicole Parten



### What do you love about FBC?

**Scott:** The staff. It's a blessing to us to have the people we have in the positions they're in. They do an excellent job. They try to reach out to the community more than we ever did when I was younger. We're trying to pull a lot of people in and that's what we're here for. You usually saw the same people every Sunday and now I see people I don't know all the time.

**Stephanie:** This staff is so God-centered and mission-centered. They hold us accountable without being judgemental or critical. I feel this sense of accountability, of course to the Lord, but also as a member.

**Emily:** My one word is just people. It starts with having a staff that fosters that community with the members and it branches out.

**Trish:** Everything is so centered around the Word. Everything is the Bible. We're concerned about everyone being connected with God's Word and purpose. You are fed here. We're equipped to feel confident to go and share.

**Charles:** We have a talented group of folks. We've seen a lot of changes throughout the years, and I think we have more harmony in our church today than we've ever had. I think that's a tribute to the staff and the leadership.

**Reid:** It's a fun church. When we moved back, I told my parents we're not going to First Baptist just because that's where I grew up. I told them we were going to look, and we never did. The neat thing for me is I sit in a Sunday School class with guys that were my classmates and Walker is growing up with their kids. You can come to church and have fun. It's not about the numbers of how many people we can get in the door. It's about how many people can we train and teach the Word. I don't have any problem saying "I go to First Baptist Church. We're not perfect, but we will tell you what the Word says and we're not going to back down from that." You know Ben is going to preach it from the pulpit, Kaleb is going to have it in Sunday School, Catherine is going to teach the kids that way, Bryan too. It's consistent. We're not here to entertain. We're here to preach the Word and challenge you to go and spread that message.

### You've all been here long enough to see hard times. What made you want to stay?

**Trish:** We have had some valleys. I think the *resilience* of our people and the leadership from men and women in our church continued to carry us through that.

**Scott:** During all the things that went wrong, I was thinking "*God's got this.*" That's why we come to church to learn more about Him and understand what others go through. I knew He'd get us through it. He's going to take care of this and we'll get through it. I've been here long enough to know God has this.

**Stephanie:** Ben would never want people to come to this church because of him. That's how we looked at it. I'm not going to leave the church because things are hard. We pray through it. God brings us through things for specific reasons. It got us to where we are now.

### Why join a Sunday School class?

**Reid:** You've got to find people that you go through life with. The whole church embraced Hunter, but one of the reasons we're in the Townsend/Pittman/Thornton class is because they took care of us. Those people go through life with us. It holds you accountable. You'll get a text when you aren't here. You miss out on so much if you just come for service and leave.

**Charles:** I enjoy my Sunday School class. I tell them that all the time. We kind of think alike, and it's a good group of different ages to be with. When you get to be an adult you don't go through a promotion anymore. You stay with that group. I haven't changed classes in many years.

**Trish:** If you don't go to Sunday School you're missing companionship, someone that prays for you, someone that can become your best friend. You're missing someone to share things with whether it's highs or lows.

You're missing someone to lean on. I can't believe that there is anyone that doesn't need somebody to call and say, "This is going on, will you pray for me?" or "Do you want to go to lunch with me?" You just make lifelong friends and that's what my Sunday School is. ***Sunday School is the rock. It holds you together.***

**Stephanie:** When I went to college, I was at church every week but didn't join a Sunday School Class. I didn't get invested in a class, and I always felt like I missed something. If you aren't invested you don't feel like you're a part. Sunday School is the meat.

**Emily:** That's where you get plugged in. You may have to visit 4 or 5 classes, *but find it.*

### Why should you serve?

**Trish:** I grew up in New Brockton Baptist Church. I never thought about *not* serving. My mom played the piano until she was ninety. When you asked her about it, she would say "That's my service to God." It was ingrained in my head. You

need to be a servant. I grew up watching people serve and thought that was what you did.

**Stephanie:** Everyone can and should serve somewhere in the church. During Covid, we stepped away from teaching Sunday School to attend a class, and God really worked on me. I was not at peace. I wrestled with that lack of serving. It just felt like something was missing.

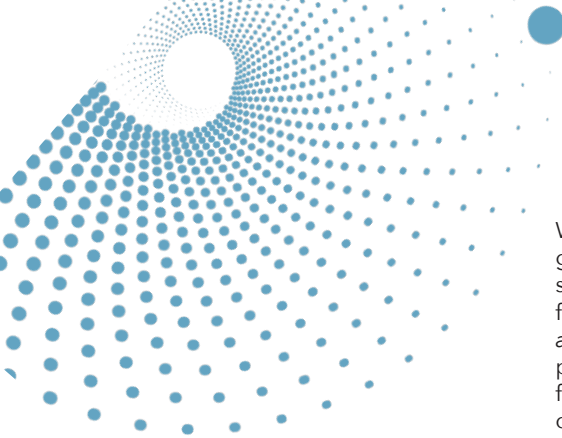
**Reid:** The hardest and most rewarding thing I've done was serving on the Personnel Committee when we had basically no staff. One of the greatest honors of my life was becoming a Deacon in this church. That's where I love to serve.

**Emily:** Everyone has a place. For me, it's been Women's Ministry and committees. It's helpful when the ministers know what your strengths are. Cat knows we're not really called to teach, but she knows when to call us and what we're good at. The church has provided so many opportunities to serve. It's not just one area. Whatever your gift may be, there's something for you.

**Charles:** I've served in a lot of different capacities in the church. I've served on committees, in my Sunday School class, and I've been an usher for a long time. I enjoy that. It's my service to my church. I get here at 7:30 AM every Sunday and stay until the end of second

"We're not perfect, but we will tell you what the Word says, and we're not going to back down from that."

Reid Clark



service usually. I enjoy meeting the people and handing them a bulletin. I like to joke with them. It's a lot of fun.

*There is a place for everyone. Not everyone wants to serve, but if you want to serve there is an opportunity.*

**Stephanie:** Every event we have, every generation is included. I know when our kids were little, Scott would take the kids to trunk-or-treat while all the moms were working the games. This church does such a great job allowing opportunities for the older generations to serve, so that the younger generations can enjoy that. It's like that with every event. We don't say, "We don't have to go that night because we don't have kids." There's a place. Our church has been successful because everyone feels included and has a chance to serve the Lord in some capacity.

**Scott:** We don't put it all on the same people. Our staff does a great job at asking others to help. They don't ask the same people.

We've had people tell us, "No, you guys do this, and we're going to get someone else to do this." I'm thankful for that. *I know the sacrifices that are made here.* Ben has a special place in my heart. He did his mom's funeral and our daughter's wedding on the same day. I couldn't imagine doing that.

**What is God teaching you right now?**

**Reid:** I don't know if Ben preached this at Sawyer's funeral or somewhere else. Get up. Dress up. Show up. When I can't do anything else, that's what I'm going to do. That hit me between the eyes. That's what I'll do until I can do more.

**Stephanie:** I've learned so much here about grace and mercy. I'm convicted here but not in a critical way. When Ben did the sermon about complaining a few weeks ago, that really convicted me. I'm shown how much grace and mercy God has given me, and in turn I need to show that to others.

**Trish:** Faith. In Numbers the Israelites were so unfaithful. Faith is something you have to seek every day and you have to build on it.

**Charles:** One thing I've learned through the years is for men to say they love each other. Men used to never say that. Growing up, my dad never said that. I knew he did, but it wasn't said. I learned that I would always tell my kids that. There are

"There are a lot of folks in this church to love. This is a wonderful group of people who love each other."

Charles Clark

a lot of folks in this church to love. This is a wonderful group of people who love each other. If we look at our tithes and offerings over the last five years, you see that. We want to do our part. In order to do our part, we have to support the church financially. It amazes me that we came through Covid like we did. People is what makes a church - it's not the building, it's the people.

**Anything else?**

**Emily:** I'm just thankful for this church. I had dinner with some good friends recently. The main thing I've heard from the ones who have moved away is you can't find First Baptist Enterprise anywhere

else. This church is very special. I'm thankful on *many different levels*. Between the staff and the people, this is something very special. **I don't know that we could say thank you enough.**

**Charles:** I don't know how people could go through what we've gone through without a church family like we have here. I've told my Sunday School class thank you over and over for what they've done. They pick you up and help you.

## MEG

*What do you love about First Baptist?*

I love the sense of togetherness. I know everyone and that's nice. I feel like everyone truly cares about this church. I really appreciate everyone here. I know there can be drama at churches and I don't feel like we have that here. Everyone respects one another, they respect the pastor, they respect whoever is in authority, and I love that.

## CLARK

*What do you love about First Baptist?*

I love how First Baptist Church feels like family. Everyone in the church is so kind, loving, and supportive of one another. I feel like no matter what you are going through in life, the church will support you and be there for you through thick and thin. I have gone to this church my entire life and formed lifelong friendships through FBCE. I will always cherish the relationships I have formed through First Baptist.

## WALKER

*What do you like about the Student Ministry?*

We all get along. It's not awkward. We dive in. We're all friends and know each other, so we don't have awkward silence between questions. We can open up and share what we're going through and what we think. Growing up in church has given me a friend group at school and in sports. I have people I can do stuff with. I have other friends that don't come here, but I've had a group here since I was three. They're some of my closest friends.





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# Women as Disciple-Makers

Catherine Sims, *Children's Minister*



**T**he Merriam Webster Dictionary defines a disciple as “one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another.” Discipleship in Bible times involved a disciple learning from a disciple-maker. The disciple desired to copy, as much as possible, his teacher. The Bible shows us that faithfulness, prayer, worship, and doctrine are all things that are to be passed on or taught to growing disciples. Of course, disciple-makers can be men, women, students, singles, married, or even children. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to lead others to grow in the Lord. However, I really think God has given women a special call as disciple-makers. Compared to men, women tend to be more compassionate, caring, merciful, and deeply loving. This makes women an important part of spreading the gospel to “make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Women can make a difference for the cause of Christ if they are faithful wherever they are. For some, that is as a daughter, an employee, a wife, a mother, or a grandmother. God has placed women in important and vital roles within the family, the workplace, and the church. We see women changing the world throughout the Bible, in church history, and as an important part in discipling her children. Women throughout scripture have always had a place in teaching, praying for children, being leaders, and worshipping the Lord.

The Bible is very clear about the roles of parents in family discipleship. In Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Moses declares, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” As mothers and fathers, our role in family discipleship is emphatic - teach your children. This shows us the importance of teaching the scripture to our children. As women, we should take this directive seriously, with our own children as well as others. Teaching children the Bible is important. The Bible records many women who were disciple-makers.

1 Samuel 1:10 says, “Deeply hurt, Hannah prayed to the Lord and wept with many tears.” Now, Hannah didn’t have a child at this time, but she wanted a child desperately. So, she prayed. Personally, I have wept over the desire to have a child, as well as, for all my children to follow the Lord with their lives. Hannah promised God, even before she had Samuel, that her son would belong to him. Samuel grew and became a great man of God who served Israel as a prophet. We should be ready to present our children to the Lord. We should pray that they would serve God with their whole hearts in whatever they do. This does not mean they have to be in full-time ministry, but that they would honor and glorify God and be His “witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8) - wherever God places them. Pray like Hannah - present yourself and your family as an offering to the Lord.



## Family Discipleship

Ruth married a man and became part of his family. Then, her husband died. Ruth followed her mother-in-law, Naomi, to take care of her and to be with her. Ruth said to Naomi, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16). Ruth was faithful to her family even when it was hard. She could have left Naomi, but she chose to remain faithful to her family. She would go on to marry Boaz, her kinsman redeemer, whose lineage would include King David. Be faithful like Ruth – enduring hard times to care for and love your family.

Esther was another woman that stepped up in a time of need. She was able to save the Jews from annihilation at the hand of Haman. Esther was an orphan whose cousin, Mordecai, raised as his own child. Esther was made queen and lived in the palace of King Ahasuerus. When a decree was issued to kill the Jews in the land, Mordecai called upon Esther to risk her own life to save her people. Mordecai challenged her by saying, "And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Women can make a difference in their family and in the world. Esther was able to save her people because she stepped up and did what was right. Be selfless like Esther – give of yourself for the good of others.

Deborah was a prophetess in the Old Testament. She also served as a judge over Israel. Deborah was faithful to share what God had commanded. Deborah had faith to go to the battlefield with Barak and defeated Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army. Be faithful like Deborah – speak the truth of God to others. Anna was a prophetess in the New Testament. She was in the temple, serving the Lord when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to be circumcised according to Jewish custom. Anna, a widow, was a woman devoted to prayer (Luke 2:37). When she saw Jesus, she proclaimed Jesus would be the redemption of the people of Israel (Luke 2:28). Be expectant like Anna – trust the Lord's promises and teach others to do the same.

In the New Testament, we see several occasions of women sitting at Jesus' feet listening and rightly honoring Him. Mary of Bethany stooped down to listen to the words of Jesus, and her sister, Martha, wasn't very happy about it. So many of us can relate to Martha. Women tend to be hard workers that give attention of every

little detail, but Jesus let us and Martha know that Mary chose well (Luke 10:38-42). Mary also worshipped Jesus when she poured expensive perfume on Jesus' feet (John 12:3). It is very important for women to spend time worshipping and learning about Jesus. If we are not doing those things, then we are not going to be great at leading others to do the same. A woman who is a great family disciple-maker sits at Jesus' feet. Women must be faithful to stop and listen to the teaching of God's word. Worship like Mary – sit at the feet of Jesus.

Eunice is the mother of Timothy. Eunice is described as a "believing Jewish woman," but his father was a Greek (Acts 16:1-2). Timothy was described as deeply loved and a faithful child of the Lord (1 Corinthians 4:17) and as doing a part of the Lord's work (1 Corinthians 16:10). Paul also says this about Timothy, "And we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you concerning your faith" (1 Thessalonians 3:2). So, what makes Timothy important for women and discipleship? The Apostle Paul spoke highly of Timothy (Acts 16:1-2). As a mother, I would like this said about my own children. I want them to be faithful to the Lord and to be people who encourage and strengthen others in their faith. Timothy's mom, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, were believing Jewish women. Knowing they were Jewish, we know they taught him the Old Testament, and as believers, they also told him all about Jesus. It is so important for us to teach our children and grandchildren about God. Here, we see the fruit of Eunice and Lois living out Deuteronomy 6:4-9 affecting the life of Timothy. Be diligent like Timothy's family – teach children the tenets of faith.

In Romans 16, Paul mentions some fellow early church leaders, many of them women, who were listed as faithful leaders in the new church. Phoebe was an important servant of the church, to Paul and others. There were many other women mentioned including married couples serving the church together. Throughout the Bible, God has used women to serve the church.

In more recent history, we have accounts of women serving the church, even in Southern Baptist life. Some of our greatest missionaries were women who made it their lives' work to advance the cause of Christ. Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong made huge impacts in how we as Southern Baptists support our missionaries. Lottie Moon never stopped working so the people in China could know Jesus. She wrote many letters to her church trying to get funding and help reaching the people of China for the Lord. Another woman, Annie Armstrong, traveled, wrote, and spoke to different societies in the church asking for money for missions.

In 1888, Annie helped raise \$2,833.49 for Lottie Moon in China. These women were faithful in serving the Lord and telling people about the Him. They understood the command to "go and make disciples of all nations." We must also continue to go and to send help to unreached people groups with the hope of the Gospel. We must be faithful to educate people in the need to give to missions. These women were living examples of Acts 1:8 as they served so faithfully at home and far away.

In Old Testament times, and some still today, Jewish children memorized the first five books of the Bible, or the Torah. This memorization includes the mandate we explored in Deuteronomy 6. These words are forever imprinted on their minds and hopefully their hearts. Today, we can encourage the same types of habits in our children. Did you know that each week your child attends church and goes to Sunday School, they are learning Bible verses and stories from Scripture? Help them practice their Bible verses from Sunday School. Ask them about the lesson they heard. Discuss the sermons heard at church on Sunday and the songs from the service. Help put meaning behind the physical act of going to church. Help them realize the importance of what is done each week.

Think about a woman that has made an impact on you personally. She may be a mom, grandmother, friend, or maybe a Sunday School teacher. We see the impact women have made over the years, and it is our mission to continue. May you feel encouraged, challenged, and pushed forward to serve more faithfully.



# Myers-Mallory

## State Missions Offering

**WEEK OF PRAYER**

FOR STATE MISSIONS

SEPTEMBER 11 - 18, 2022

Goal: \$20,000





# 64 & B4 Luncheon

64&B4 began three years ago as an opportunity to engage those born in 1964 and before in community. Whether it be the 64&B4 Christmas banquet, summer luncheon or other activity, Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation enjoy fellowship and ministry opportunities together.

I see 64&B4 as a wonderful blend of our current senior adults with those who will one day be our older leadership. Even though interests may sometimes be different, their connected commitment to Christ can offer great strength and stability in the life of a church. I encourage our 64&B4'ers to worship, connect, serve and multiply through fellowship with one another.

- Edd Brashier







# Livin' the Dream He Kept Hid

Dr. Ben Bowden, *Senior Pastor*

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Years ago, Jim Croce wrote the lyrics, "I carry [my name] with me like my daddy did, but I'm livin' the dream that he kept hid."

I've always been a little intrigued by those lyrics and why Croce's father never pursued his dreams. Was it out of fear of failure or was his father sacrificing the pursuit of his dreams so that his son could be well-positioned to flourish at a level his father never did? I tend to lean more toward the latter explanation, though we really don't know because like much poetry, ambiguity is what makes it art.

Regardless, it's common for parents to want better for their children than what they had. When I think about my own children, I would do anything to bless them so that they may live a better life than me. But what does a "better life" actually look like? While material blessings are great, the Bible says the best gifts are not material. If you want to bless your children you must disciple your children.

Though God's people are now under the new covenant, Deuteronomy 6:4-9 provides an excellent paradigm for family discipleship. Voddie Baucham explains, "While acknowledging these Old Testament precepts, the New Testament makes no effort to introduce a new pattern." Robert Plummer also points out that the New Testament writers viewed passages in the Old Testament about the importance of parents passing on spiritual truth to their children as *authoritative divine instruction*. The "newness" of the new covenant was found in the Messiah's consummated work of salvation and in the regenerative work in the Spirit—not in any radical alterations in parent-child relationships. Therefore, this rich text is both relevant and enlightening in what God expects from parents.

Moses wrote Deuteronomy as the Lord renewed his covenant with Israel, preparing them to enter the Promised Land. As they entered this land, they would be exposed to pronounced violence and temptation. They would feel the enticement to abandon the Lord's covenant and worship the idols of the surrounding nations. So what was God's blueprint to ensure covenant loyalty? Establish kings? Raise up mighty warriors? Interestingly, the burden for Israel's faithfulness, and thereby Israel's prosperity, was laid upon the fathers. As Moses delivered a series of sermons, individual fathers of individual families were singled out to faithfully and consistently pass on the teachings of God to the next generation. This is not to say, however, that mothers bear no responsibility. While a father is held ultimately

accountable before God for the overall direction of his home, mothers also possess an irreplaceable role of spiritual leadership in the home. Therefore, the principles in this text apply to both parents in the home.

## Facet 1: Own It

*4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)*

A parent's personal devotion effects the family's devotion—parents should not expect hearts to burn in their home if the fire has not been lit in their hearts. This is the supreme calling on God's people; the highest pursuit of one's being. In fact, Jesus called this "the great and first commandment" (Matthew 22:38). Of course, no one has ever obeyed this commandment with perfection. But Jesus came and fulfilled this commandment on our behalf and empowers us to increasingly apply it to our hearts.

The parent's great responsibility is to press into the next generation a heart-felt reverence for God's majesty and splendor. Therefore, the essential component for parenting is for you to have an authentic personal spiritual life with God. It all starts here. God and His Word should consume your mind and life. If you teach God's ways to your children and yet neglect God's ways in your life, your hypocrisy will sow destruction for subsequent generations. Children can see through counterfeits. So parents, take pains to apply the gospel to your own life. One of the greatest gifts you can give to your children is a life of genuine love for God.

## Facet 2: Teach It

*7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:7-9)*

To be a parent is to be a teacher. If you're a Christian parent, then you must teach the Word of Christ, which is the whole Bible (Colossians 3:17). This doesn't mean you have to be a scholar, but it does mean that you must immerse yourself in Scripture. You are to have God's Word on your heart, bind it as a sign on your hand, keep it as frontlets between your eyes, write it on the doorposts of your house and your gates (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). There have been some who took this literally and tied phylacteries (little boxes that contained brief sections of the Mosaic law) on their forearms and foreheads. When they prayed, the position of their left forearm would press the little box against their heart. Hence, they literally had it pressing in their mind and heart. It is quite unwise to inject such a literal notion to an obvious meaning. This passage is simply suggesting that parents must be students of God's Word. You will do well to give yourself to the Bible. God's Word ought to flavor your life and color the way you view the world.

To "teach them diligently" indicates there is at least some measure of planning the time, content, frequency, place, etc., for teaching God's Word to your children. This means that you must not be haphazard in your approach to teaching. There is no room for carelessness. The stakes are too high and the causalities are too real. The serpent of old is willing and ready to whisper the same venomous lies to your children that he did with our first parents, Adam and Eve. If he can keep them ignorant of God's Word, he will. If he can malign God's Word in the minds of children, he will. You must be diligent in strategizing how you will accomplish this important task. Eugene Merrill likens Deuteronomy 6: 7 to a man who inscribes a Bible verse into a slab of granite with a mere chisel. The work is gruesome, exhausting, and long, but when the painstaking work is done, it will never be undone. Writing words in sand is much easier, but they are gone as soon as a wave washes to shore; it is as if nothing had ever been written. So might it be for your children if they lack instruction. You have no higher priority than diligently teaching God's Word to your children.

Lessons are more often caught than taught. Therefore, a portion of your teaching in the home requires informal or spontaneous teaching moments. Deuteronomy 6:7b instructs parents to, "talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." This means that you need to frequently talk about the Bible in your home. You are helping shape your children's worldview so that they interpret the world around them through a God-centered lens. You are to show your children how biblical precepts ought to filter their cultural intake. For instance, when your son asks you to what degree of friendship should he have with a schoolmate who has two moms and no dad, *biblical wisdom* must be applied—mere *biblical knowledge* will not suffice. Godly parenting requires a great deal of thinking and contemplating, which is why Scripture must be on the minds and hearts of parents at all times.

### Facet 3: Celebrate It

Anything worth doing is worth doing well. Anything done well is worth celebrating. That's what milestones are all about—celebration. In the Old Testament, the people of God were not only encouraged, but commanded to celebrate. Celebration was a way of life for the people of God, and it still is today.

First Baptist Enterprise commits to celebrate alongside parents with three intentional milestones: baby dedication, baptism, and high school graduation. These milestones are already built into our church's rhythm of celebration. Baptism is different than the other two because it is an ordinance that Jesus Himself commanded. The other two milestones have more to do with our given tradition and culture, but we choose to redeem them in order to reinforce Christ-centered truths as we call our people to be on mission with God.

## But What If I'm Single?



### Rev. Zach Clark Assistant Minister to Students

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*  
Matthew 6:33-34

If you're single, you may wonder, "Why should I care about family discipleship when I do not have a family of my own?" The answer is simple, you are still called to participate in family discipleship. There are two different types of families, the physical family and the spiritual family. During this stage in your life, you can benefit yourself for your future family and your current spiritual family. Whether you are single by choice or not, you may long for a family of your own one day. What you do now with your relationship with God can dictate the husband/wife you will become. From the moment you are saved to the moment you pass from this world, your relationship with God is the most important thing on earth.

#### Physical Family

What can you do now to prepare yourself for your physical family? Be devoted to prayer and God's Word. One of the best things you can do today is to pray for your future spouse. The more you pray for them now, the more natural it will be to pray for them once you meet them. Pray that God's will be done in your life and theirs. Pray for their walk with God because, one day, you two will become one and walk together in Christ. Pray that this walk is not a chore for them, but that they will hunger for Christ.

Secondly, get connected with an older man/woman. As you watch someone else engage in family discipleship, you will learn to model the process when married. Family discipleship is not an easy task, full of trials and errors, but realizing this will aid you in the future. Also, having an older adult pour into your life will help your relationship with Christ grow.

#### Spiritual Family

What can you do now within your spiritual family? Be plugged in to a local church, whether at FBC Enterprise, or if you move off and become members of another church. The mission at FBCE is to Worship, Connect, Serve, and Multiply. We are called to partake in these four things as a physical family and a spiritual family. This means worshipping with your faith family each Sunday morning, connecting with older adults, interacting with people younger than you, serving the church and community faithfully, and multiplying by making disciples of all nations. These four things do not come naturally to us all the time. However, one day, Lord willing, you will have a spouse and kids. What a blessing it will be for you all if you can be faithful members of a church with your physical and spiritual family.



# Vaca





# tion Bible School

At the end of VBS,  
14 children said they were  
"Ready Now to Accept Jesus."

As I kid, one of my favorite parts of the summer was Vacation Bible School. In Dixon Mills, Alabama, on the front steps of Central Baptist Church, we'd wait for the doors to open. If you were really blessed and highly favored, you'd be asked to do a coveted task - hold one of the flags or the Bible. We'd march in (yes, literally march), by age, and it started: the best week of the summer. From the puppets and felt story boards, to the cheap butter cookies and Koolaid, I loved it all - well, except crafts.

My favorite part though, was the opening and closing rally. Brother Nathan was the epitome of a hype man. He sang loud and we followed suit. We had no idea the truth we were singing when we sang (really screamed), "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path," or "the B-I-B-L-E, yes, that's the book for me. I stand alone on the Word of God." As an adult, I still love the opening and closing rally for the same reason. This year, we had a theme song for VBS, but the crowd favorite was clear: *Glorious Day*. Here are some of the lyrics:

*I was buried beneath my shame.  
Who could carry that kind of weight?  
It was my tomb 'til I met You*

*I was breathing, but not alive  
All my failures I tried to hide  
It was my tomb 'til I met You*

*You called my name  
**Then I ran out of that grave**  
Out of the darkness  
Into Your glorious day.*

These kids sang this song as loud as they could. The loudest phrase, without a doubt, was "I ran out

of that grave." I couldn't help but laugh and cry. They haven't come close to scratching the surface to how true those words are. I didn't either when I was their age, but many people planted and watered seeds that have grown into something so precious.

Looking back, I remember those people, people I could never appropriately thank for the impact they have had on my life. I wish I had the opportunity to thank them now. I had no idea how much their love for Jesus would change the course of my life.

I see people like them within this church. You know who you are. When these kids are in their twenties, they'll think of you. They'll be grateful for your faithfulness and dedication to the Gospel. How precious is it to serve those who don't yet truly understand? How sweet it is to do something for the Lord when only He knows how the plant will grow.

We have that same opportunity now. We get to pray for these children who heard the Gospel, especially for the 14 who said they were "ready to accept Jesus." One day some of these kids will talk about the day they accepted Christ at VBS, and I'm so thankful we get to play a role in that.

-Nicole Parten







Photo by Abby Jones



Photo by Mo Sessions



Photo by Mo Sessions

