

# Key Discipleship Elements



*Homeschooling is not the Answer; We need Authentic Discipleship*

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The video highlighted the following key discipleship elements. We are currently working on a discipleship handbook that will future unpack and describe how to cultivate these elements.

## 1. Gospel Centered

The Gospel is the foundation for all discipleship. Without the Gospel we are just practicing religion. Gospel living includes humility, earnest repentance and confession, continually turning from sin, and expressing gratitude for what Christ had done for us on the cross ; always pointing to our Abba Father through Jesus Christ. Embracing the Gospel is not an event in the past but a lifestyle that should be obvious to others. (Eph. 2:8)

## 2. Right Priorities

Maintaining BIBLICAL priorities is difficult because in order to say “yes” to the best things, we first need to say “no” to many good things. It requires a resolve to be willing to sacrifice whatever it takes in order to keep the main things the main things. We often say ‘just do the next right thing’. (Mark 12:30)

## 3. Modelling

More is caught than is taught. If we don’t lead by example, we’re hypocrites and our words ring hollow. We can’t expect our kids to do things that we’re unwilling to do. “Our walk talks, and our talk talks, but our walk talks louder than our talk talks”. (1 Cor. 11:1)

## 4. Belonging

This is a deep seated understanding that we *belong* to our family, a place of truth, peace and security. This gives courage to go out there and try stuff, be bold, be truthful and take risks. If it all fails, they can come home and be loved, encouraged, and celebrated. Family should be a safe place to transparently share our hearts. (John 17:23)

## 5. Teaching

The Bible is God’s primary way He communicates to us and thus demands daily meditation. From daily Bible study to audio Bible playing at bedtime, serious exposure to the Bible is a must. Good teaching must include questions to test our kid’s understanding and comprehension. Just because someone may know the answer does not necessarily mean they believe or will live it. (Duet. 11:19)

## 6. Heart-Level Communication

Heart level communication requires time, patience, motive revealing questions, and discernment. Authenticity and transparency are earned with trust and shared only when there is a feeling of safety. Our kids will only be as open and vulnerable as we are (appropriately) with them. Take time to listen, and let the silence be the leverage. Until they are openly sharing from their heart (e.g. fears, doubts, hopes etc.) you really don’t know where they will land. (Prov. 20:5)

## 7. Worship

Worship is a lifestyle. We cultivate this lifestyle within our family various ways. An environment of worship has the power to change the atmosphere as we take our eyes off of ourselves acknowledge the greatness of God. Music is one primary way we choose to worship because it is language of the heart. (John 4:23)

## 8) Observing

Watch from a distance. How do they spend their disposable time? Do they pick up their Bible when they are not expected to? Do they serve their siblings? Are they doers of the Word when parents aren’t around? (1Tim 4:6)

## 9) Correcting

We cannot avoid confrontation or avoid uncomfortable conversations. Silence is a killer. “Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”— Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We cannot rename or make excuses for sin, or evil will eventually prevail. (2 Tim 4:2)

## 10) Landing

Discover and talk through deeper questions, doubts and temptations. Kids need help to grasp the truth, walk in faith and resolve to plant their lives securely on the rock of Jesus Christ. (1Cor 15:58)

## 11) Testing

This can be more challenging for home schooled kids. We intentionally place them in strategically chosen- and yet uncompromising-settings, where their faith will be tested. For example, project topics they will present at Co-Op, playing in our city’s Battle of the Bands, facebook, what they choose to do with their friends during free time, asking others for their candid observations during events when parents are not present. Do they boldly stand on, and courageously present truth in love when there is negative pressure or opposition? (James 1:22)

*“...turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers...” Malachi 4:6*

**12) Illustrating:**

It is important to regularly relate God's Word to every day life, situations, and people's lives. We make the most of every opportunity, or else it is lost and another message will have prominence. Jesus was continually speaking about, illustrating and comparing His Kingdom to everyday situations and things. (Deut. 6:7, Matt 13:44)

**13) Prayer**

Privately and corporately expressing our complete dependence on God through prayer is necessary. A good way to physically demonstrate this is on my knees. If I act as though I can do things on my own strength, I shouldn't expect my kids to need Jesus. Praying Scripture is also a great practice. (1Thess. 5:17)

**14) Bible Meditation**

Bible Meditation is more than having it memorised and being able to recite it. It is thinking deeply, inviting God's truth to reveal and replace lies in my heart; allowing it to change my thinking and follow through with obedience. God's Word must be the absolute and final authority above all my ideas, experiences, feelings or preferences. God says: "These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word." –Isaiah 66:2 (Psalms 199:97)

**15) Missional Living**

Part of being a Gospel living family team is to live on mission together. Some of our most exciting times have been ministering to others as a family; better than a vacation! Working towards a common goal of sharing Jesus builds comradery, gives opportunity to step outside our comfort zone, love others, and brings blessing. Regardless of the age, we must all be ready to give an answer for the hope that is within us. Share and celebrate stories together. (ie: I was at the dentist today and we talked about Jesus....the neighbour is sick we took soup, and talked about our beliefs after death...when we led worship today, I stepped past my fear and...) (Matt. 28:18-20)

**16) Vision Casting**

Holding up eternal things to give their lives for and helping them to grasp it. What is God's specifically calling your kids to? Start young. Missionary, Mom, Doctor, Mechanic, etc. How is each youth working towards that now? Our culture errs on putting off vision, but the Bible says that without a vision the people perish. We are accountable for wasted time. So far each of our kids have embraced a vocational vision for their lives at around 13. Whatever they do, the focus must be on the unseen, living surrendered to advancing God's kingdom and glory. (Acts 20:24)

**17) Perseverance**

Living in the trenches can be tiring and it is easy to lose perspective. It is impossible to preserve on my own strength. I simply do not have what it takes to pull off a God Story. The sooner I grasp this the better. But with God I am More than a conqueror. I can't be satisfied with one attempt or lose heart during opposition or even failure. We dare not hope for an easy, safe life for our kids, but rather one of struggle and victory. (2 Cor. 4:18)

*"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." - Theodore Roosevelt:*

**18) Simplify**

Keep priorities in line. Do the next right thing. When things become complicated and confusing that is a red flag warning that my faith is not childlike. How we live is a witness of how much greater our God is. (Matt. 6:33)

**Resources:**

Tripp, Paul David. *Age of Opportunity: a Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens, with Study Guide*. P & R, 2001.

Baucham, Voddie. *Family Driven Faith: Doing What It Takes To Raise Sons and Daughters Who Walk With God*. Crossway Books, 2011.

Evans, Tony. *Raising Kingdom Kids*. Focus On The Family Pub, 2016.