



Family is important to God! It is within the family context that each child can be discipled first and foremost. We recognise that God has given parents the privilege of nurturing faith in the next generation, which is why our team have created the 'Calvary Kids Faith Pathway.'

This resource is for you, as a parent, to be encouraged and equipped to disciple your young ones. Our hope is that this supports you, to help guide your child towards becoming a follower of Jesus.

The Calvary Kids Faith Pathway Strategy is a simple and easy to use workbook that includes ideas to help guide your child through each step of the pathway. The workbook has been created to help you develop a clear plan to intentionally teach your child about faith in Jesus at all ages and stages of their journey. Further, it aims to establish patterns of behaviour in your home that will build strong faith principles for both you and your child.

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You can start at any time, regardless of your child's age or stage. It doesn't matter if you miss a step along the way, or if you start the pathway with one of your older children. You can go back and emphasise steps, or even repeat steps as much as you like in order to develop a deeper understanding.



BUESSING

and praying over them

Teaching your child about how they

positive language through declaring

are a blessing from God by using

11-28M2S

DEDICATION 0=1 YTES

the Lord through prayer.

This is the year we would encourage you to have your new born child dedicated to Jesus by one of our Pastors in a Calvary service, and to continue to uphold them to

THE BERNE 3-7 YES

At this age, we will look deeper into the Bible and expand on the basic stories they have already learned. They will be so excited as we adventure through this stage to learn more about God through His word.

WORSHIP 7-8 YES

The best way for anyone to express their love to God is through worship. During this age, we will focus on how worship is in every part of your child's life and teach them how to express their love to God.

JESUS 8-9 YRS

Jesus is the sole focus of this year in the Pathway. It will highlight
Jesus throughout the Old and New
Testament, who He is and why He
came to us. Most importantly, we will
talk intentionally about the personal
relationship we can have with Him!

FE YES

The focus of this step is to teach our child how to pray, what prayer is and how to develop prayer as a natural part of our lives.

FAMILY TIME 2+3 YRS

Life can be busy and pass us by, therefore it is important to be intentional in setting aside time and space for our family. At this age in the pathway will offer some keys to help you set a clear time for your family across the year.

BBLE STORIES 3=4YTES

The Bible is the greatest book ever written, centered around Jesus Christ. Through this stage, we focus on developing a habit of reading the Bible through its stories. This will set your child up to love reading the Word of God.

GOD IS

At this age, the mind of your child starts to get more curious. The goal for this stage is to teach your child more about who God is, and what that means for them.

CMIND & SERVING

As our child begins to express their faith every day, the pathway focuses on why we give and serve. At this time, we discuss the practical application of giving and serving in their life.

ADDIESCENCE 10=10177785

We believe in setting up your child for adolescence, so they can be convinced of their purpose and the plan God has for them. The Pathway offers biblical wisdom and encouragement in keeping our eyes on God through these years.

HELPO O CHAVE MORE THAN O CHILD...

If you have multiple children then maybe a year looks like being intentional to spend some family time together, praying for each other before bed and taking regular time to read the Bible.

This Pathway will help you as a family in knowing where to start and what to do.

HOW TO DE INTENTIONAL THIS YEAR

- · Pray daily for and with your child.
- · Consistently spend time reading the bible.
- · Add value to your child by speaking life-giving words daily.
- · Attend church regularly.
- · Spend regular time together as a family.

THE FAIR DEPSON

Our prayer is that your child will come to know Jesus. At some point throughout this Faith Pathway, your child will become mature enough to make a clear decision to say YES to Jesus and put their trust in Him as their Saviour.

Another great resource we have is the Calvary Kids Discovering Christianity Course. You will find this on our website. If you have any further questions, you can contact your locations Calvary Kids Director, via the locations page on the website.



O-1 YRS DEDICATION

Congratulations!

If you are reading this, your family has recently been blessed with a new child. As a church, we are excited to partner with you as you begin the journey of laying the foundation of faith with your child.

WHAT IS THE 'BABY DEDICATION' STEP?

A Baby dedication is a parent's decision to dedicate their child to Jesus at the initial stage of their life. It works as a special moment in one of our Calvary services in which you make a formal commitment to raise your child in a Christ centered home. The reason we as a church choose to dedicate a child, rather than christen, is because Jesus was dedicated.

Luke 2v22-23 - And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord").



RESOURCES

- Praying through the Bible for your kids by Tizzie Hall
- Baby Wise by Garry Ezzo
- The Ministry of Motherhood by Sally Clarkson
- Power of a Praying Parent by Stormie Omartian

THE WAY A BABY DEDICATION WORKS IN A SERVICE:

- 1. Our Campus Pastor will invite you and your family to the stage, with your child.
- Our Campus Pastor will then pray for your Child, dedicating them to Jesus, acknowledging they are a gift from God, entrusted to the parents to raise in His ways.
- Our Campus Pastor will also pray for you, the parents, that you may have the strength of the Holy Spirit and be guided in the wisdom as you raise your child.
- 4. A Bible will be gifted to you, to assist you in their faith journey.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

Dedicating your child is your commitment to raise your children in the ways of the Lord.

Proverbs 22v6 – "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it"

The scripture states that if you teach your child the ways of the Lord, this will help them reach a personal decision to accept Jesus into their heart and follow him for themselves. It is important to understand that a baby dedication is not your decision for your child to follow Jesus. By dedicating your child, you are making a commitment to model, teach and fortify the Christian faith in your home.

Romans 10v9-10 says "9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

The bible teaches that the decision to follow Jesus is one that is personal. A person must make this decision for themselves. The age in which a child accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior varies depending on the child.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

As a church, we are committed to walking alongside you through these early stages of parenthood. We do this by providing pastoral care and parent specific connect groups. These groups will connect you with people at the same stage of life that will support you and offer friendship and various parenting courses from time to time.

STEPS TO DEDICATING YOUR CHILD:

- Speak with our pastoral team to book in a baby dedication in one of our celebration services.
- 2. Speak with someone from our pastoral team through Faith Pathways in order to begin the faith journey for your child.

SOME IDEAS TO CELEBRATE DEDICATING YOUR CHILD:

- Invite family members and friends along to church to celebrate the dedication of your child
- 2. Organise a lunch or meal with family and friends after the service.
- 3. Invite family members and friends to share advice, scripture and the opportunity to pray daily for your child.

1-2 YRS



This step is all about teaching your child about blessings.

Psalm 127v3 "Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him."

We believe that children are a gift from God, and we want them to know that. Not only are they a blessing, they are set up to receive blessing throughout their lives. Through these formative years, it is essential to impart how God sees them and wants to bless them. God sees you child as valuable, and so do you!

How am I going to be intentional this year?

- Pray daily for your child.
- · Consistently spend time reading the Bible.
- Add value to your child by speaking lifegiving words daily.
- · Attend church regularly

WHAT IS THE 'BLESSING' STEP?

The word bless or blessing is used in the bible seven hundred times. The Bible gives great indication that our God is a God of blessing!

The bible says we are blessed to be a blessing. When we receive blessings from God, we are then presented with the wonderful opportunity to pass it on!

The word blessing comes from the ancient practice of weighing coins on a scale to determine their value. Therefore blessing, is a powerful tool to communicate acceptance and genuine commitment.

Blessing someone means to 'add value' to their life.

There are many ways to add value to someone through the avenue of blessing. Here are five basic elements of blessing that, when combined, have tremendous impact.

B - Be Committed: The blessing is not a fleeting moment. It includes active, long-term commitment to the wellbeing of the child by accepting responsibility to help them become all God intends.

L-Lovingly Touch: The power of a hug, or placing your hand on your child, while affirming him or her creates an important physical connection and communicates warmth, acceptance and relational wellbeing.

E – Express Value: We add to the life of a child when we use words that attach high value to them as a person. Some examples could be:

- You are a champion
- You are strong
- You are smar
- We love you
- God Ioves you
- I am proud you

S – See Potential: Cheer your child on towards the potential to be all that God has created them to be!

S – Say It: Words are powerful! Proverbs 18:21 says "death and life are in the power of the tongue." Words of affirmation are necessary for the child to know that they are accepted and valuable. They play a major part in their development. Without words of acceptance and affirmation, some children can grow up searching for this support in other areas.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

Over the course of this year the commitment of the parent is to intentionally build a habit into the home of speaking blessing over your child. Everyone needs to experience unconditional love and acceptance from their parents.

There are so many opportunities to share a blessing with your child. These opportunities can be spontaneous and random, or they can be formal and scheduled.

The following phrases could be a helpful start;

- You are great because
- I was so proud of you when I saw you_____
- I think that God is going to use you to
- God has gifted you with a unique ability to
- I am thankful that ____
- I love it when _____



THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

At this age, your child can start to be part of our Calvary Kids program. In our services for this age group, our team create a fun filled loving environment who also nurture your child through a play-based program and hands on learning. It is in this environment that we reinforce these positive words of blessing.



RESOURCES

The 5 Love
 Languages of Children
 by Gary Chapman &
 Ross Campbell - Chapter
 on Words of Affirmation

WHAT IS THE 'FAMILY TIME' STEP?

As your child grows, it is so valuable for them to see the Family Unit so they can start to sense a support network.

Two years old is a great time to establish fun family times in your schedule to encourage communication, laughter and faith in the home.

It is important to have a consistent routine of creating intentional moments that will help your family deepen relationships and have faith discussions. Regularly scheduled family time activities are a great way to make that happen.

For some families, this might be a night of the week after dinner. For another family, it might be after Saturday morning breakfast. Decide what works for your schedule and then protect that time. You might need to say "no" to some good things to make 'family time' a priority. We recommend scheduling this experience weekly, but no less than twice per month.



RESOURCES

- Just Add Family by Kurt and Olivia Bruner
- Big Book of Questions and Answers series by Sinclair B. Ferguson
- Fun Filled Parenting by Silvana Clark





THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

Your child is more likely to embrace your beliefs and values if they enjoy time with you. That's why fun family times provide great opportunity for effective faith formation. Avoid becoming overly serious, rigid or stressed while leading family times. It's okay for your child to be silly, and it's important to fill your home with laughter.

SOME IDEAS FOR YOUR FAMILY TIME:

- Family Scripture Pick a scripture verse that you can memorise and say together. Make up, or play, some fun games to learn the verse.
- 2. Movie night Discuss a movie that is age appropriate for your child. Make some

- popcorn and watch the film together.

 Afterwards have a 'faith talk' about the choices of characters and other aspects of the story that catch your attention.
- Cook a meal together use the time for sharing and talking. Take time to ask each member of the family to share his or her 'highlight' and 'opportunity' of the day.
- **4. Games -** Play simple games with your child, or children, as there can be teaching moments for kids of all ages.
- 5. Day out Look to regularly have days out as a family. Days out could include trips to the park, beach or another favourite place.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

A great way to stay connected through this time is to join a family connect group or be part of family fun Kids Events on a Sunday from time to time

WHAT IS THE 'BIBLE STORIES' STEP?

This year is great place to start developing a habit for your child to read the bible. The recommended resources will not only set a foundation for them to understand the bible, it will also help them to love reading the bible.

Reading the bible isn't a chore, it's a joy! This means as a parent, you will want to make sure that developing this habit is as natural as possible so choose the best time for you.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

Your commitment this year is to help your child love reading the bible!

SOME IDEAS:

- Read before bed-This is a great time to include a bible story in the night time reading.
- Act Out the Story- To help your Child remember the bible story, incorporate some acting out.
- Let Your Child Read to You using some great picture books or bible apps your child can retell the story 'reading' it back to you.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

In our Calvary Kids program, we are committed to using Bible Stories in our weekly program. This is used by focusing on one story each month and highlighting different values in that story each week. Ask your local Kids Director what the Curriculum schedule is so you can work with that in your regular reading.



RESOURCES

- Illustrated Bible
- Bible App for Kids

 Download on Smartphone





WHAT IS THE 'GOD IS' STEP?

Choosing one of the Catechism's from recommended resources and implementing will help build your Child's faith in God. Across this stage of their development the repetition will help and allow great questions to be asked and you to explore together.



RESOURCES

- Westminster Shorter Catechism
- · New City Catechism



THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

Reading the Catechism in recommended resources to your child, will help build their faith in God. Across this stage of their development, you can commitment to going through this and being there to answer any questions they may have, and even more, working them out together.

WHAT IS THE CATECHISM?

The Catechism is a way to systematically teach children biblical truths of Christian doctrine

To help with memorisation, it is composed of 145 questions and answers broken down into categories such as:

- God as Creator
- What Sin is, and the Fall of Man
- Christ the Redeemer and the benefits from our redemption
- The Ten Commandments
- Baptism and Communion
- The Lord's prayer



THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

In this age group of our Calvary Kids program, your child will begin to explore and discover the things of God. HOW? Through this year, you will see your child's faith grow dramatically.

WHAT IS THE 'PRAYER' STEP?

prayer. Prayer is how we communicate with God. This year is about nurturing your child's faith by praying together as a family but also taking time to discuss and teach them about this topic.

SOME IDEAS TO HELP GET STARTED ARE-

Fill in the Blank Prayers - Use consistent starting sentences that your child can fill in the blank at

- God, I love you because.....
- God, please help.....

- I'm sorry for having a bad attitude today

Sentence Prayers - These are where your child will start to pray in sentences and taking turns to

- Please heal 'Uncle Paul'



THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

Over the course of this year the parent is to model prayer and encourage it as much as possible. Having a small whiteboard, or somewhere visible to write out some key things the family is praying for, helps as a daily reminder.

Establishing some routines - Making prayer central to your family will help make it a normal part of your child's life.

Consider incorporating the following in your family routine:

- Mealtime Briefly give thanks before you eat.
- · Bedtime When the first child goes to bed, take time as a family to stop and pray at the end of the day.
- Drive Time As you are driving in the car to school, encourage your child to pray for the day ahead and for those they meet.



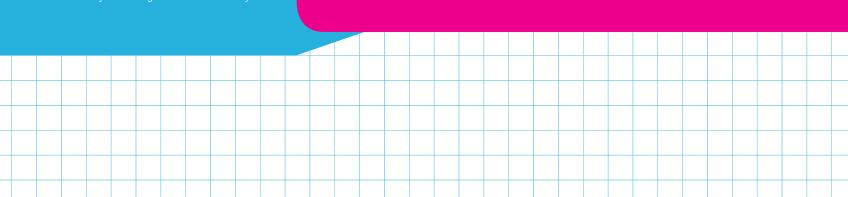
THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

In our Calvary Kids program, we talk about the importance of prayer in each of our services. We also have one month throughout the year where we focus on teaching about prayer and talking to God. Talk to your local Kids Director to find out what month we will be talking about this, to help you at home.



RESOURCES

- Pray Big for your Child by Will Davis Jr
- · Creative Family Prayer Times by Mike and Amy Nappa
- Power of a Praying Kid by Stormie Omartian



WHAT IS THE 'BIBLE' STEP?

This step is all about helping your child have a deeper understanding of the Bible, and how it relates to them personally! One of the greatest joys and responsibilities you have as a parent is to teach your child to love God's Word to build a solid foundation based upon truth.



RESOURCES

- Parenting with Scripture by Kara Durbin
- The Well-Versed Family by Carolyn Boykin
- What the Bible is All About: Bible Handbook for Kids
 by Frances Blankenbaker
- Kids Quest Bible
- Adventure Bible





THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

This year help your child discover the importance of God's Word using these suggestions

- Choose a Bible Find a translation that is easy for your child to read and understand. We recommend the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). We recommend Kids Quest Bible and Adventure Bible.
- Model It Children learn from observation and experience. Try to schedule regular time where you child observes you reading the Biblo
- Use a Guide Show your child how you can use your bible as an everyday guide for life by showing them how to search for scripture.
- Keep it Simple Take time to stick to one common theme and focus on that

 Use a study plan or reading schedule - The Kids Bible App has some great ideas for reading plans that will be a great resource for you.

Some additional bible activities that you ma want to incorporate:

- Have your child memorise the names of the books of the bible in order.
- Write verses on cue cards and stick on the mirror in bathroom or fridge.
- Play memory verse games with your kids.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

In all our weekend services, we place a high emphasis on the Word of God. We have a memory verse each school term along with stories and messages taught in the service that you can revise during the week.

WHAT IS THE 'WORSHIP' STEP?

to him. This can be expressed through how we relate to people, our commitment to the Church, reading the Bible and putting God first in our Scripture says that worship begins in the heart

Worship involves taking the focus off ourselves

It's at this age we can start to teach your child the importance of putting their trust in God through



RESOURCES

- · Calvary Worship
- Teaching Kids Authentic Worship by Kathleen Chapman





THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

This year, we set out to help your child understand worship. Children don't need to be taught how to worship but whom to worship.

Most children, at this age, start to admire sports stars, TV personalities and super heroes. In other words, they 'worship' someone or something. Our commitment as parents is to help your child see the wonder of God and how awesome He is. The best way of teaching your child how to express worship is by doing this yourself.

WAYS TO WORSHIP:

- · Spend a few minutes around a table at dinner or before bed to acknowledge who God is and what he has done.
- Have uplifting worship music accessible to your child.
- Play uplifting worship regularly.
- Put a song on during prayer time at night and worship together as a family.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

There is personal worship and corporate worship. Our commitment as a church is to create an environment of corporate worship as the Body of Christ. Therefore, we run weekly services whereby we worship together through song, prayer and the teaching of God's Word. These things are a part of our Calvary Kids services. Once a year we teach on the topic of worship and encourage your child in this.



WHAT IS THE 'JESUS' STEP?

At this age, your child will be reaching a stage whereby they start making decisions for themselves. Therefore, this year the sole focus is all about Jesus. This is your opportunity as a parent to teach your child about Who Jesus is, how He lived and who He is to us.



RESOURCES

- How to introduce Your Child to Jesus by Jessica Smartt
- The Gospel Story Bible:
 Discovering Jesus in the Old and New Testaments
 by Marty Machowski
- The Jesus Story Book Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones





THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

This year the commitment from the parent is to have a deeper look at who Jesus is. Reading the recommended resources with your child will develop deeper understanding and generate good discussion.

Another way is to focus on reading the Gospels and asking questions like:

- Why do you think Jesus did that?
- How would that person have felt when they encountered Jesus?
- How can we show the same character as Jesus did?



THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

Teaching about Jesus and His life is an integral part of Calvary Kids throughout all age groups. This year however, we put more focus on Jesus so that your child can have a deeper understanding of who He is, and what that means for them!

9-10 YRS GIVING & SERVING

WHAT IS THE 'GIVING & SERVING' STEP?

God blesses and entrusts each person with gifts, talents and resources. This stage of your child's life is the perfect time to start to teach them how to practically outwork their faith by discovering what gifts or talents God has given them.



RESOURCES

- Unwrapping the Servant: Teaching Kids to Serve Jesus and Others by Tina Houser
- Discover Your Kid's Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire by Adam Stadtmiller





THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

GIVING:

generosity at an early age, will set them up for prosperity throughout the rest of their lives.

Bringing the tithe and giving offerings are key biblical principles that we teach in our church. We believe everything belongs to God and he purposes. It also gives us the opportunity to participate in something bigger than ourselves.

This step is about teaching your child to be a

- 1. Model It Start by putting into practice the Corinthians 9:7 it says, "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."
- 2. Teach It If your child receives money from teach them how to divide money wisely. A great place to start is to set aside the tithe as discussed

SERVING:

entrusted us with gifts and talents. Help your child discover their unique gifts and explore how they might use those gifts to glorify Him. Use an Assessing Your Childs Spiritual Gifts test to get started and then find ways to experience serving

- Shared Passion Spend some time talking with your child about the things that
- Good Fit Help your child find areas in which they can serve. It may be baking for a or meeting a need on a regular basis.
- Set Expectations Explain what they want
- Encourage Encourage them on what they are doing well and opportunities to try
- Talk About It Ask questions and keep communication clear with your child.
- Pray Acknowledge the importance of having God central to all things we do.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

they have been purposed for. In our weekly services, there is opportunity for your child to be Chat to your local Calvary Kids Director to

10-11 YRS PREPARING FOR ADOLESCENCE

How will you be intentional this year?

- · Pray daily for and with your child.
- · Consistently spend time reading the Bible.
- · Add value to your child by speaking life-giving words daily.
- Attend church regularly

WHAT IS PREPARING FOR ADOLESCENSE?

As your child approaches a major transition stage of their lives, teaching them good faith principles and their purpose in God will continue to establish a strong foundation of Christian principles.



RESOURCES

- The Chat by Joel Chelliah
- · Girl Stuff by Kaz Cooke



THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARENT

instrumental in how your child faces these years.

Remember, this is a season of changes your child has never encountered before.

their parent, you can lead your child into greater

Here are some ideas for you to impart this value into your child as they venture out of childhood:

- · Read the Bible together.
- Create space and openness for them to ask

- you, are ready to discuss the mechanics of

blessings. Embrace the special and unique

Don't be afraid of the challenges. Address them

The best way to prepare your child for the changes Here is an overview of when, what and how to have

WHEN: Often parents are concerned that they will if they attempt to prepare their adolescence

Typically, children are ready before the parents That is why engaging in one-on-one time is By spending this time with them you're able to get

WHAT: Plan to address all areas of change in

- adulthood. Your child, whether male or
- Decision making: Increasingly, your child will with them, reinforce your Christian values friendships, etc.), drugs and alcohol, sex. and their health. The first nine chapters

- of Proverbs can help guide your child on
- Relationship to you: Consider explaining to your child that over the next decade your role Godly adults who can influence your child's

HOW: Here are a few ideas to get you started.



THE COMMITMENT OF THE CHURCH

child towards their teenage years, and prepare them to be a part of Calvary Youth. The program exists to encourage who they are and bring out the best of who they can be. In these years, we continue to deeper understanding of who they are in Christ.