

7 Shaping Faith at home

Essential Experiences



Shaping Faith at Home

As you plan to give your children the experiences they need for life-long faith, have a look at the following checklist and tick off how many practices you do. Put a star beside those that you are going to try.

Service and Mission

- Take your children with you as you build friendships with neighbours.
- Provide opportunities and resources for your children to serve others with you – home; neighbourhood; church; world.
- Provide opportunities for your children to respond with compassion and generosity.
- Encourage your children to share their faith story and Sabbath School Bible learning.

Homes Empowered

- Spend personal time to have your own God Encounters and develop a strong faith.
- Invest time and energy into your marriage.
- Have quality family fun times.
- Keep a balance between attending church programs and having family time.
- Celebrate every milestone or life stage of your children.
- Have regular family devotions, faith conversations and other family rituals and traditions.

Authentic Relationships

- Provide your children with positive role models and mentors from all generations.
- Be a good role model and build a trusting relationship.
- Talk to and play with your children.

- Ensure your children have safe environments and say No! to sexual, emotional and physical abuse.

Participation

- Accompany your children to church worship and programs.
- Ensure they can participate, use their gifts and feel that they belong.
- Guide and mentor them to participate in meaningful ways in church programs.
- Allow children to contribute in family worship.

Intergenerational Connections

- Plan for and engage your children in shared experiences with all generations and build authentic relationship with them.
- Worship in a church where there is a mix of all generations.
- Provide opportunities for generations to celebrate faith milestones and spiritual anchors together.
- Provide opportunities for your children to learn and serve alongside other generations.

Noteworthy Memory Events

- Create special daily, weekly and yearly rituals and traditions.
- Support your children as they participate in Conference wide memory events such as Camps.
- Allow your children to respond to God's call on their lives.
- Accompany them to events that allow them to be inspired by people with a vibrant faith.

God Encounters

- Provide experiences that allow children to encounter Jesus intimately, personally and regularly through prayer and reflection.
- Use worship activities that are experiential, multisensory and engaging.
- Tell awesome Bible stories and faith stories that reach the heart and mind.
- Provide opportunities for your children to experience and imagine how their personal story is intertwined with the big picture of the Bible.
- Help your children to enter into the wonder and mystery of the Bible through discussion and questioning and to respond using their individual gifts such as art, music, construction or drama.

**“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”
(2 Peter 3:18, NIV)**