

A GUIDE TO GROWING
ZEAL

**FOR THE DISCIPLESHIP
OF THE NEXT GENERATIONS**

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Truth:78

*A Guide to Growing Zeal for the Discipleship
of the Next Generations*

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*Equipping the Next Generations to
Know, Honor, and Treasure God*

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How can we make a vision for the discipleship of the next generations a reality for the children and youth growing up in our homes and churches? This guide offers practical application of the vision and framework presented in the book, *Zealous: 7 Commitments for the Discipleship of the Next Generations*. With a biblical vision for the next generations before us, we want to provide some actionable steps to move us closer to that vision becoming a reality.

I opened *Zealous* by emphasizing that “vision without zeal rarely becomes reality.” Even though we can’t make ourselves authentically zealous, there are things we can do that God can use to awaken zeal in us. A good starting place is to acknowledge our inability and ask God to ignite zeal in us. This can, in turn, awaken zeal in others through “embracing seven essential commitments and acting on them, trusting God not only for the grace to be able to act upon and to fulfill them, but also for the zeal without which your efforts will be unsustainable” (page 15).

In addition to awakening zeal in us and others, these seven commitments help us communicate the biblical responsibility we share as God’s people for the discipleship of all nations (Matthew 28:19) for His glory throughout all generations (Ephesians 3:21). I assume that everyone reading this heartily affirms the priority of this responsibility, but the struggle we face in our churches and homes is a lack of intentionality and scope. This is why we at Truth78 emphasize “comprehensive” discipleship, and it is why we create tools for the church and home that can help us be more intentional and comprehensive. This resource provides next steps for application in the church and home. Church leaders can use the “Application for Home” portion of each section for their own homes and as steps to provide to families in their church

It is our hope that this guide will be an encouragement to continue to act on the priorities we affirm and faithfully fulfill the responsibilities we have embraced.

APPLYING COMMITMENT 1

Embrace a Biblical Vision for the Faith of the Next Generation

Think of the children you care most about—the children growing up in your church or in your family. What would you want them to be like in 20 years? Ask yourself questions like the ones on page 27 of *Zealous*.

In what specific ways do the programs and activities in your church help children or hinder them from becoming what you desire most for them? What adjustments can you make to existing programs, or what intentional strategies can you employ that will encourage growth toward your vision?

Having a vision is crucial for discipleship of children and youth. As a vision-oriented church leader, you consider where you are going—clarifying your goals—and then you carefully develop and implement an intentional plan to pursue those goals. By having a long-term vision, one can more effectively develop a discipleship strategy that evaluates every program, activity, curriculum, and resource in terms of the greater vision.

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH

- With your ministry team, watch “[A Vision for the Discipleship of the Next Generation](#),” and then discuss implications for your ministry.
- Develop a long-term, strategic plan for the faith of the next generations. (See “[Developing a Vision Orientation of Ministry to Children & Youth](#)” for reference and see an example: “[Vision for the Next Generations](#).”)
- Communicate and explain your plan to parents, ministry leaders, volunteers, and the church as a whole.
- Review your current children’s and youth programs, curricula, activities, and events to determine if they reflect a biblical vision for the next generations.
- Listen to a [podcast](#) about this commitment.

APPLICATION FOR HOME

- Develop a vision statement for your family and communicate it to your children.

- Set biblical, God-centered goals for your children. Teach, train, and pray toward those goals, and then commit to a local church that preaches the gospel and can provide the support, training, encouragement, and accountability you need as parents.
- Establish family routines and habits that link to the biblical vision and goals that you set for your children.

RESOURCES

- [“A Vision for the Discipleship of the Next Generation”](#)
- *[Indestructible Joy for the Next Generations](#)*

APPLYING COMMITMENT 2

Foster a Robust Partnership Between Church and Home

Consider the following questions:

- Who bears the responsibility for the discipleship of the next generation?
- To what extent are parents responsible and held accountable?
- To what extent is the church responsible and held accountable?
- What is the relationship between the two?

God has called both the church and home to raise up the next generations to know, honor, and treasure God through Jesus Christ. This is accomplished through a strategic, loving partnership between the church and home. This partnership affirms that parents by proximity, opportunity, and God's design, bear a unique responsibility for instructing children in the faith. (See Deuteronomy 6:4-9.) This partnership also affirms the role and responsibility of church leadership to provide encouragement and training for parents, as well as the formal instruction of children and youth.

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH

- Listen to a [podcast](#) about this commitment.
- [Fostering-partnership-between-church-and-home-e15lmfd](#)
- Work through the following "[Five Ways Your Church Can Foster a Partnership with Parents.](#)"

1. CLARIFY ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS

It is helpful if there are clear, distinct roles for both church and home, and that both work together to pursue one main goal for our children. However, for that partnership to happen, these roles need to be clarified, and the expectations need to be articulated. For example, here are a few basic things that the church could tell parents to expect:

The church will...

- provide a safe, welcoming, structured, age-appropriate environment for the students.

- instruct children with well-prepared, theologically sound, faith-nurturing Bible lessons that are presented in an age-appropriate, interesting, and God-honoring manner.
- design a class structure that is attentive to the needs of the children, while emphasizing and maximizing spiritual instruction.
- provide parents with written communication outlining class procedures and expectations, behavioral guidelines, contact information, curriculum notes, and other relevant information.
- extend to parents an open invitation to sit in and observe the classroom whenever they choose.
- recognize and affirm that parents bear the primary responsibility for nurturing their child’s faith. Teachers and other leaders will not seek to usurp that role.
- speak directly to the parents when an issue arises with their child and seek solutions that properly weigh the needs of the larger class and the specific child.

2. PROVIDE PARENTS WITH TRUTH78 CURRICULA PARENT RESOURCE PAGES

One very strategic way our resources foster a partnership between church and home is through the inclusion of parent resource pages for every lesson in our curricula. (For the Sunday school curricula, they are called Growing in Faith Together or GIFT Pages.) After children have received formal weekly instruction in the classroom, these pages provide parents with a tool that will assist them in taking the biblical truths learned and guiding their children to personal application. Parents have the greatest opportunity for “teachable moments,” situations that arise in everyday life that can be opportunities to apply the truth of God. Real heart application of biblical truth, which changes lives, usually takes place in the context of relationship and everyday life.

Parent resource pages generally include the following:

- Lesson title, main ideas, selected memory verse or key verse, and a list of Scripture presented in the lesson
- A brief summary of the lesson
- Questions to further spiritual discussion and heart application
- Suggestions for acting on biblical truth

Download [GIFT Pages Sample](#) (PDF)

We strongly encourage children’s ministry leaders and Sunday school volunteers to make these pages easily available to parents. Furthermore, it is

important to educate parents regarding the importance of these pages and seek ways to motivate and assist them if necessary.

3. CONNECT PARENTS TO THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

A very tangible and practical way for the church to partner with parents is to encourage parents to become more acquainted and involved in their child's classroom experience. Here are a few ideas for doing this:

- Encourage parents to volunteer with the children's ministry team.
- Host a Parent Orientation and Open House at the beginning of each Sunday school year where students and their parents hear an overview of the curriculum and class structure, as well as meet the teachers and volunteers.
- Send home a monthly class newsletter highlighting what the students have been learning, special announcements, prayer requests, and one or more memorable moments from the class.
- Encourage parents to sign up to bring and help serve a treat.
- Host a Sunday lunch for the families of your class.
- Give a personal invitation for parents to visit the classroom.
- Invite parents to pray together before the class begins.

4. INTRODUCE PARENTS TO VISION CASTING RESOURCES

Another important way for the church to partner with parents is to share with them the church's vision for family, youth, and children's discipleship. Too often—albeit unintentionally—parents are not informed of the bigger picture regarding children's and youth ministry. Truth78 has a variety of video and print resources that communicate the vision, mission, and values that undergird our ministry, curricula, and other resources. Here are some suggestions to share with parents:

- [Foundations for God-Centered Children's Ministry](#) videos
- An explanation of [Our Vision, Mission, and Values](#) (PDF)
- [Curricula Scope and Sequence Explanation](#) (PDF)

5. RECOMMEND DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES FOR THE HOME

The church can serve parents by recommending and making available excellent resources to help parents disciple their children.

TRUTH78 PARENTING RESOURCES

- *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel: An Interactive Family Devotional*
- *Making HIM Known* books series
- *More Than a Story*
- *Parenting Booklets*

TRUTH78 RECOMMENDED PARENTING BOOKS

- *The Disciple-Making Parent: A Comprehensive Guidebook for Raising Your Children to Love and Follow Jesus Christ* by Chap Bettis
- *Gospel-Powered Parenting: How the Gospel Shapes and Transforms Parenting* by William P. Farley
- *Teach Them Diligently: How to Use the Scriptures in Child Training* by Lou Priolo
- *The Faith of a Child: A Step-by-Step Guide to Salvation for Your Child* by Art Murphy
- *Your Child's Profession of Faith* by Dennis Gundersen
- *Instructing a Child's Heart* by Tedd and Margy Tripp
- *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens* by Paul David Tripp
- *Future Men: Raising Boys to Fight Giants* by Douglas Wilson
- Additionally
 - Teach a seminar to new parents, impressing on them their God-given responsibility to be faithful faith nurturers of their children. Resource parents with effective faith-nurturing tools (e.g., stock a resource table with excellent resources for parents to purchase; resolve to purchase solid resources for the discipleship of the next generation for your church library; put a list of recommended resources on your website).
 - Listen to the seminar "[Involving Parents in the Classroom](#)" and put some of the ideas into practice.

APPLICATION FOR HOME

- Work through the following "Seven Ways Parents Can Partner with Their Church" (which are detailed [here](#))
 1. Become familiar with the children's and youth vision and philosophy of your church.
 2. Offer to serve the church in discipling children and youth.
 3. Prioritize family participation in the life of the church.

4. Partner with your children's ministry teams.
5. Use the Truth78 parent resource pages to disciple your children.
6. Encourage, support, and pray for your leadership.
7. Use and recommend discipleship resources for the home.

RESOURCES

- [“Partnering with Your Church”](#)
- [“Partnering with Parents”](#)
- [*Children and the Worship Service*](#)

APPLYING COMMITMENT 3

Teach the Breadth and Depth of the Whole Counsel of God

Consider this: By the time your children reach their 20s, will these statements be true of them?

- They are thoroughly acquainted with the Scriptures.
- They have the necessary tools to properly study the Bible.
- They have a deep understanding of the essential doctrines of the Christian faith.
- They can articulate the essence, means, and goal of the gospel.
- They know what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus.

This generation is to teach the next generation the whole counsel of God—a core knowledge of the breadth and depth of Scripture that is essential for coming to salvation in Christ and living a life of faith. Teaching the whole counsel includes five elements that address specific and essential questions:

- Bible Survey and Book Studies (What’s in the Bible? Who is the Bible about?)
- Biblical Theology (What’s the main message of the Bible?)
- Systematic Theology (What are the essential doctrines of the Christian faith?)
- Gospel Proclamation (What do we need to be saved? How are we saved?)
- Moral and Ethical Instruction (How are we to live?)
- Listen to a [podcast](#) about this commitment.

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH

- Watch “[A Vision for Teaching the Word of God](#),” and then discuss the implications for ministry at home or in the church.
- Carefully evaluate the materials your church uses for the instruction and discipleship of your children (e.g., Sunday school/midweek teaching materials, books in the classroom or library, VBS, clubs, retreat or camp materials, etc.). Taken together, how comprehensive is the instruction your children are receiving?

- Decide which of the essential elements are included and where they fit within your church program. Make a chart that shows where each element is taught and at what grade level. Where are the gaps? Is there a plan for filling those gaps?
- Determine the theological themes or essential doctrines your children should be taught. Where are these being taught now? What's missing? Develop a plan for how and when each theme/doctrine will be emphasized and taught (e.g., Sunday school, midweek, retreats, weekend seminar for teens, etc.).
- Are the children and adults encouraged and equipped for regular and active Bible memorization? Consider an all-church Bible memorization plan. (See FighterVerses.com and [Foundation Verses](http://FoundationVerses.com).)
- Listen to the Truth 78 seminar, “[Teaching the Whole Counsel of God](#).”
- Listen to the following conference plenary talks:
 - “[Declaring the Whole Counsel of God to the Next Generation](#)” by Mark Vroegop
 - “[Exploring the Fullness of the Whole Counsel of God](#)” by Bruce Ware
 - “[Holding Fast to the Whole Counsel of God Under Pressure to Conform](#)” by Albert Mohler
 - “[Believing the Whole Counsel of God: How Our Children Can Know the Bible is True](#)” by John Piper
 - “[Persevering in the Whole Counsel of God](#)” by David Michael
- Listen to a podcast about this commitment: <https://anchor.fm/truth78/episodes/Teaching-the-whole-counsel-of-God-e168i63> <https://anchor.fm/truth78/episodes/Teaching-the-whole-counsel-of-God-e168i63>

APPLICATION FOR HOME

- Watch “[A Vision for Teaching the Word of God](#)” and discuss the implications for discipleship at home.
- Encourage your child to use an appropriate Bible reading program that will expose him/her to the scope of the Bible.
- Read through the Bible as a family. (Your “read through” may be determined by the age of your children.)
- Expose your child to a wide variety of solid biblical materials.
- Teach your child the inductive Bible study method. (See [The Inductive Bible Study Handbook](#).)

- Read a comprehensive (Genesis to Revelation) Bible storybook with your children. *More Than a Story* helps parents explore the breadth and depth of the Bible in an interactive way.
- Teach the catechism to your children. (See *Discipleship through Doctrinal Teaching and Catechism* for rationale, ideas, and resources.)
- Read through the *Making HIM Known* book series.
- Determine which verses you want your child to memorize, and then memorize those verses together as a family. (See FighterVerses.com and [Foundation Verses](#).)

RESOURCE:

- [Curricula Scope and Sequence Explanation](#)

APPLYING COMMITMENT 4

Proclaim the Glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ

Someday our children will be standing in the throne room of heaven before King Jesus who will either welcome them into His everlasting joy or cast them forever into the outer darkness (Matthew 25:30). On that day and in that moment, the only thing that will matter is if they have embraced Christ as their hope and treasure. Surely, there is no greater privilege or responsibility placed upon parents and teachers than to diligently and faithfully point our children to this gospel hope and treasure.

Consider:

- What biblical truths are essential in order to understand the gospel?
- How and when should these be presented?
- How can we guide and implore children to respond in genuine belief?

The gospel is simple yet amazingly profound, freely offered yet extremely costly, and should be communicated as such. While the gospel can be simply conveyed to children, our approach should not be simplistic. In the early stages of life, we can begin laying a solid, deep, gospel foundation. Clearly and patiently, we can introduce and lead our children to understanding the key essential truths of the gospel found throughout the Bible. Through repeating and explaining these with increasing depth, we hope to help children see the splendor, majesty, and holiness of God, the enormity of their sin problem, and the immeasurable love and grace of God in Christ, resulting in true repentance and genuine belief.

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH

- With your ministry team, watch “[A Vision for God-Centered, Gospel-Focused Teaching for the Next Generations](#),” and then discuss implications for your ministry.
- Using *Established in the Faith: A Discipleship Guide for Discerning and Affirming a Young Person’s Faith* as a guide, take one to two hours to help parents discern the faith of a child and, when the time comes, how to prepare a child for baptism.

- Lead families through the 10 Essential Truths from *Helping Children to Understand the Gospel*, or encourage them to walk through the 10 Essential Truths of the Gospel in *The Greatest Treasure*.
- Teach *Jesus, What a Savior!* to your kindergarten/first-grade class and *To Be Like Jesus* to your upper-elementary class.
- Encourage children to be present when you are baptizing new believers. Articulate the gospel at this time or encourage those being baptized to give a robust profession of faith and an explanation of the gospel.
- Preach a series carefully and comprehensively explaining the gospel.
- Listen to the following Truth78 conference plenary talks:
 - “*God is the Gospel*” by John Piper
 - “*Teaching the Richness of the Entire Gospel, Parts 1 and 2*” by Wayne Grudem
- Listen to a [podcast](#) about this commitment.

APPLICATION FOR HOME

- Read *Helping Children to Understand the Gospel*, explaining each of the 10 Essential Truths and/or using the devotional section.
- Read *God’s Gospel* with your children.
- Read *The World Created, Fallen, Redeemed, Restored* with your children.
- Share your testimony with your children or invite someone else to share his/her testimony.
- Read a missionary/Christian biography together as a family.
- Go through *Established in the Faith: A Discipleship Guide for Discerning and Affirming a Young Person’s Faith* with your child.
- Use *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* as a family devotional.

APPLYING COMMITMENT 5

Disciple the Mind, Heart, and Will

We can teach our children and students a lot of biblical information—and so we should. We should acquaint them with as much Scripture as possible; it is the only means of making them wise for salvation in Christ and living in a way that is pleasing to Him (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We want their minds to know, understand, and be able to rightly interpret the Bible. However, as Jesus' words remind us, it is not enough to simply receive knowledge about God.

“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me...” (Matthew 15:8-9) “And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” (Matthew 7:26-27)

For children to personally know, embrace, and apply biblical truth, we need to disciple the mind, the heart, and the will. To that end, we must diligently instruct the mind, providing them with the proper tools and skills needed to rightly read, study, interpret, and apply Scripture.

While fully acknowledging that only God can bring Spirit-wrought, grace-dependent faith in Jesus, and lead us to walk as His faithful disciples, it is our responsibility to engage the heart. Our aim is to guide, inspire, challenge, and exhort children toward a personal and sincere response to God's truth.

True saving faith will be evidenced by a growing desire to walk in obedience to God. While God is at work in us through His Spirit both to will and to work His good pleasure, we as His children work out our salvation (Philippians 2:12-13). Choosing daily to trust Christ, submit to Him, and follow in obedience, we guide, challenge, and encourage students to specific Christ-like thoughts, words, and actions.

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH

- Watch [“A Vision for Encouraging Faith in Christ in the Next Generation,”](#) and then discuss the implications for ministry in the church.
- Encourage your children's workers to read *Teaching to Change Lives: Seven Proven Ways to Make Your Teaching Come Alive* by Howard

Hendricks or *Creative Bible Teaching* by Lawrence O. Richards and Gary J. Bredfeldt.

- Distribute the Truth78 Core Training Series document on “[Leading Small Group Application](#)” to your children’s workers.
- Incorporate an “application time” (a time to engage the heart and influence the will after the Bible lesson) in your Sunday school and/or midweek classes.
- Distribute the Truth78 Core Training Series document, “[Preparing and Teaching a Lesson](#)” to your children’s workers.
- Encourage your teachers to listen to the Truth78 seminar, “[The Importance of Biblical Literacy in the Next Generation.](#)”
- Train your children’s workers how to have application discussions with children.
- Gather your children’s workers together to listen to the small group application and small group leading seminars, “[Reaching the Heart: The Importance of Application](#)” and “[Leading Small Group Application,](#)” and discuss ideas for implementation in each classroom.
- Encourage your teachers to listen to the Truth78 seminar, “[Teaching to Reach the Heart.](#)”
- Make the parenting books listed under the “Application at Home” section below available in your church library or bookstore. Consider gifting new parents with one of these books when their first child is born (or when their first child is born since coming to your church).
- Listen to a [podcast](#) about this commitment.

APPLICATION FOR HOME

- Watch “[A Vision for Encouraging Faith in Christ in the Next Generation,](#)” and discuss the implications for discipleship at home.
- Read one or more of the following books: *Instructing a Child’s Heart* by Tedd and Margy Tripp, *Teach Them Diligently* by Lou Priolo, *The Disciple-Making Parent* by Chap Bettis, *Gospel-Powered Parenting* by William P. Farley
- When you “walk by the way,” make practical application of Bible truths or verses to everyday situations.
- Teach the catechism to your children. (See [Discipleship through Doctrinal Teaching and Catechism](#) for rationale, ideas, and resources.)
- As a couple, make a strategic plan about how you will disciple the mind, heart, and will of your child. Be specific and start with one simple idea.

- Use *The Inductive Bible Study Handbook* in your instruction of upper-elementary children and youth.
- Have a regular [family devotional time](#).

RESOURCES

- [Curricula Scope and Sequence Explanation](#)
- [Discipleship through Doctrinal Teaching and Catechism](#)
- [Mothers: Disciplers of the Next Generations](#)

Recommended Resources for Christian Education Directors

- *Teaching to Change Lives: Seven Proven Ways to Make Your Teaching Come Alive* by Dr. Howard Hendricks
- *Creative Bible Teaching* by Lawrence O. Richards and Gary J. Bredfeldt

Recommended Resources for Parents

- *Gospel-Powered Parenting: How the Gospel Shapes and Transforms Parenting* by William P. Farley
- *The Disciple-Making Parent: A Comprehensive Guidebook for Raising Your Children to Love and Follow Jesus Christ* by Chap Bettis
- *Teach them Diligently: How to Use the Scriptures in Child Training* by Lou Priolo
- *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp
- *Instructing a Child's Heart* by Tedd and Margy Tripp

APPLYING COMMITMENT 6

Pray with Dependence on God's Sovereign Grace

We can faithfully and zealously embrace a biblical vision for the faith of the next generation, foster a robust partnership between church and home, teach the whole counsel of God, proclaim the glorious gospel of Jesus, and disciple the mind, heart, and will and yet fail to see the spiritual transformation we long for in our children. What's missing? What more must we do?

Pray with dependence on God's sovereign grace.

This generation of parents, pastors, and teachers cannot escape the responsibility they have for nurturing the faith of the next generation, and there is no way to escape the reality that the children of the next generation will only be saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Saving faith for any child "is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one [no parent, no pastor, no grandparent, no Sunday school teacher] may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). God's unstoppable purposes for our children and our inescapable responsibility to raise them in the faith come together in prayer.

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH

- Inspire and mobilize parents, grandparents, church workers, and the congregation as a whole to read and apply *Big, Bold, Biblical Prayers for the Next Generation*.
- Listen to the Truth78 seminar, "[Prayer: Utter Dependence on God in Children's Ministry](#)."
- Encourage children's workers to pray regularly for the children in their classrooms.
- Encourage nursery workers to pray for each baby each week.
- Post prayer topics or verses on the walls of your nursery or classrooms and encourage workers to pray weekly for the children.
- Encourage every ministry team working with children and youth to pray together before each class, event, or activity.
- Listen to a [podcast](#) about this commitment.

APPLICATION FOR HOME

- Listen to the Truth78 seminar, “[Praying Steadfastly: A Call to Parents.](#)”
- Decide on a strategy for praying for your children and implement it.
- As you read your Bible each day, use the passages you just read as a springboard for praying for your children.
- Bless your children each night as you put them to bed.
- Pray with your children spontaneously—“at all times,” not just at meal-times and bedtime.
- Keep a prayer journal for each of your children.

RESOURCES:

- *[Big, Bold, Biblical Prayers for the Next Generation](#)*
- *[Praying for the Next Generation](#)*
- *[A Father's Guide to Blessing His Children](#)*
- *[Utter Dependency on God, Through Prayer](#)*

APPLYING COMMITMENT 7

Inspire Worship of God, for the Glory of God

What is the ultimate reason for discipling the next generations? To what end should parents, ministry leaders, teachers, and volunteers devote whole-hearted effort?

Our great hope and destiny as Christians is to behold the glory of Christ (1 John 3:2) which Christ has as the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:4) and to share in that very glory by reflecting it back to God in love and praise.

Thus God's supreme goal in history, in all that he does from beginning to end, is to display his glory and bring honor and praise to his great name.

(John Piper, "The Glory of God as the Goal of History,"
©Desiring God Foundation, desiringgod.org)

If our zeal is conformed to God's zeal, and if our efforts are aligned with God's purpose, then the aim of our discipleship will be the glory of God so that His greatness and His worth will be known throughout the earth and throughout the generations. When we rightly emphasize God's glory when declaring His glorious deeds, the natural response of the heart is worship. The proclamation of God's glorious deeds in a God-glorifying way inspires children to worship God to His glory and their joy in Him.

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH

- Watch "[The God-Centeredness of God](#)" and/or "[God Is the Gospel](#)" by John Piper to better understand the importance of the glory of God in ministering to children and youth.
- Watch "[A Vision for God-Centered, Gospel-Focused Teaching for the Next Generations](#)," and then carefully evaluate your current curriculum resources. (See our curriculum [Values](#).)
- Encourage children to attend the worship service. (See [Children and the Worship Service](#)). Listen to the Truth78 seminars, "[Strategies for Involving Children in the Worship Service](#)" and "[The Generations in the Worship Service](#)." Decide how you can practically train parents and accommodate children in the worship service.

- Incorporate a time of worship in the children’s Sunday school classes.
- Distribute the Truth78 Core Training Series document on “[Leading Children in Worship](#)” to your children’s workers or worship leaders. Encourage them to listen to the accompanying seminar link.
- Consider teaching the Truth78 kindergarten/first-grade Midweek Bible curriculum, *He Has Been Clearly Seen*.
- Listen to a [podcast](#) about this commitment.

APPLICATION FOR HOME

- Establish a family worship time.
- Choose Bible resources that clearly highlight and give honor to the majestic greatness and worth of God (e.g., *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel*, the [Making HIM Known](#) series).
- Learn hymns as a family. Talk about the concepts and theology taught in the hymn. Consider choosing a hymn to learn each month.
- Use [Getty Family Hymn Sing](#) as a resource.
- Explore nature with your children and marvel at the creativity, wisdom, and power of God. Keep a nature notebook, noting how creation reveals the glory of God.

RESOURCES

- [“A Vision for God-Centered, Gospel-Focused Teaching for the Next Generations”](#)

Discipleship That Grows Your Faith

The concluding chapter of *Zealous: 7 Commitments for the Discipleship of the Next Generations* addresses the temptation that almost every parent, church worker, and ministry leader faces—the temptation to give in to discouragement and lose heart.

Alongside the encouragement and hope expressed in that chapter, I can add one more thought. Over the years, hundreds of people have shared that one of the fruits of discipling the next generation is that their own faith has grown. When we tell our children of God's glory and praiseworthy deeds so that they will set their hope in God, our own confidence in God increases. When we help our children to see that the God of the Bible keeps every promise and accomplishes His unstoppable purposes, we also rest secure in the fiercest storms of our circumstances.

As you press on in pursuing the high and holy calling of discipling the next generation, may the Lord equip you with everything you need to do His will.

May the Lord work in you everything that is pleasing in His sight.

May your children be mighty in the land.

Even to the next generation, may your children be blessed.

May they find their wealth and riches in God.

May they endure in righteousness forever.

May they abound in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

May they never be shaken.

And may their names be remembered by the Lord, forever.

(based on Hebrews 13:21; Psalm 112; and Galatians 5:22-23)