

# John Starter Series

*A helpful resource for  
family discipleship*



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# John Starter Series

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## The Purpose

Often, beginning family discipleship efforts in our homes can seem difficult when we are not real sure where to start. This is why the *John Starter Series* from Cornerstone Church was created!

## Our Goal

To provide a simple resource that applies the *Sample Family Devotional* towards the book of John. We provide 8 sessions with the hopes of showing how simple family discipleship can actually be!

## Your Goal

Use these 8 sessions to become comfortable with this discipleship method and strive to continue it after you complete this series.

## How to Use

Remember, this is only a guide. Every family should be able to find methods of discipleship that work best for them, but this does not mean every family will love the same exact guide or method as other families. Commit to using this guide fully for 8 sessions, then feel free to allow the Holy Spirit to guide your family in how this works best for you. Let us know how we can help!

## Set a Plan & Family Goals

Set some realistic goals and expectations for your family that you would like to see. *How often will we use it? How do we want God to move or work in us as a family? Etc...*

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# Sample Family Devotional

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*This guide is provided in Cornerstone's Simple Guide to Family Discipleship that can be found on our website.*

*(Click [here](#) to access now)*

One of the best ways to combine many aspects of family discipleship is to set aside a time(s) weekly to gather together for a family devotional. The length of these will vary based on ages and other factors.

## **Prayer**

Ask God to bless this time and grow you as a family

## **Bible Study**

Read Scripture from the Bible and then discuss answers to questions like:

- » What does this teach us about God?
- » What does this teach us about ourselves or others?
- » How does this call us to respond or obey?
- » How does this lead us to pray for ourselves or others?

## **Sing**

Yes, it says sing! Do not let this feel awkward. It is beautiful when families sing praises to God together.

## **Prayer**

- » Praise God based off what you learned and studied
- » Repent of any areas of sin that was exposed
- » Ask for help to obey and apply what you have learned
- » Spend time praying for others or needs

*When comfortable, consider adding in things like Scripture memorization and praying for missionary partners!*

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# Bible Study Breakdown

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Often, the *Bible Study* portion of a family devotional is where parents can feel intimidated or hesitant for many reasons. We wanted to include a more detailed breakdown of this section in order to help you become comfortable with how to practically do this as a family. Use these tips to help you get started using this series!

## **Bible Study**

(Read the passage and then ask these questions to your family)

### **What does this teach us about God?**

1. Find truths that stick out about God (*This includes the Father, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit*)
2. Find ways to illustrate or explain these truths to make sure everyone in the family understands what is being discussed
3. Discuss the truths together and their meanings or implications

### **What does this teach us about ourselves or others?**

1. Look for lessons we are being taught about us and others
2. Again, use illustrations or explanations when needed
3. Discuss the truths together and their meanings or implications

### **How does this call us to respond or obey?**

Don't complicate it, simply discuss how to apply the truths from the two sections above that you just discussed together. Helpful tips:

*Be specific with goals or ways to respond. How? When? Where?*

*Think as individuals, then also how to respond as a family*

Helpful starter question:

*God just showed us (insert truth discussed), what are some things God would want us to do now that we know that?*

### **How does this lead us to pray for ourselves or others?**

Prayer should flow naturally as a result from time in the Bible. Identify specific ways to pray based off your study, then spend time in prayer.

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# Session 1

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## Prayer

Ask God to bless this time and grow you as a family

## Bible Study - John 1:1-5

*"<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

## What does this teach us about God?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

- Jesus is God and He offers life (by shining in darkness)
- Jesus created all things
- Jesus is called "the Word"

*(This truth would be a good time for an illustration)*

ASK: As people, why do we use words?

*(to explain to people what we want them to know or understand about something)*

*God does not talk to us like we are talking right now, but He still wanted to tell us some very important things that we need to know. So, one of the reasons that Jesus came to the earth was so that He could be God's words to us. As we learn about Jesus, we learn what God wants us to know about! His words!*

## What does this teach us about ourselves or others?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

- God cares enough about me to explain himself to me, there must be a lot that I need to learn about God
- Jesus created me just like he wants me to be
- Jesus created others just like he wants them to be
- If people do not know Jesus, they live in darkness (*explain*)

## **How does this call us to respond or obey?**

*Don't complicate it, simply apply each truth. Possible examples:*

-Since God chose to speak to me through Jesus and the Bible, we need to spend more time studying the Bible and obeying it

*How? When? Where?*

-Since Jesus created me, I need to learn to see myself as one of his beautiful creations and stop being so hard on myself.

*What specifically do you need to let go of? Pray.*

-Since Jesus created all people, he loves all people. I must love all people and seek to do good for all people. Especially those who cannot care for themselves.

*How can we love or serve others in our neighborhood this week or the needy locally around us as a family?*

-Since people are in darkness without Jesus, we must share about how they can know and love Jesus.

*How can we tell people about Jesus together? Families in our neighborhood? Families from sports teams or school? Short mission trips together? Who has God placed right around us that needs to know about Jesus?*

## **How does this lead us to pray for ourselves or others?**

*Identify, then pray now or save for ending prayer time.*

## **Sing**

Sing a worship song(s) together as a family to glorify God

## **Prayer**

- » Praise God based off what you learned and studied
- » Repent of any areas of sin that was exposed
- » Ask for help to obey and apply what you have learned
- » Spend time praying for others or needs

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# Session 2

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## Prayer

Ask God to bless this time and grow you as a family

## Bible Study

John 1:6-8 (ESV) - *Ask someone in the family to read*

### What does this teach us about God?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- God sent John the Baptist into the world to do something important
- God sent someone to tell the story about Jesus, who is the Light
- God wants people to know and believe specific things about Jesus

### What does this teach us about ourselves or others?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- Christians have an important job, which is to tell the story of Jesus
- If people don't know & trust in Jesus, they are in darkness
- People have to know and trust in a certain message about Jesus in order to be saved (the gospel)

### How does this call us to respond or obey?

*Don't complicate it, simply apply each truth in conversation together!*

### How does this lead us to pray for ourselves or others?

*Identify, then pray now or save for ending prayer time.*

## Sing

Sing a worship song(s) together as a family to glorify God

## Prayer

- » Praise God based off what you learned and studied
- » Repent of any areas of sin that was exposed
- » Ask for help to obey and apply what you have learned
- » Spend time praying for others or needs

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# Session 3

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## Prayer

Ask God to bless this time and grow you as a family

## Bible Study

John 1:9-13 (ESV) - *Ask someone in the family to read*

### What does this teach us about God?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- Jesus created the world
- Jesus shines the light of salvation on those who believe
- Jesus shines the light on sin and coming judgment to the others
- Believing and trusting in Jesus makes us children of God

### What does this teach us about ourselves or others?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- People of the world do not know Jesus without hearing the gospel
- Some people will reject the message and story of Jesus
- Some will believe in Jesus and receive life and salvation

### How does this call us to respond or obey?

*Don't complicate it, simply apply each truth in conversation together!*

### How does this lead us to pray for ourselves or others?

*Identify, then pray now or save for ending prayer time.*

## Sing

Sing a worship song(s) together as a family to glorify God

## Prayer

- » Praise God based off what you learned and studied
- » Repent of any areas of sin that was exposed
- » Ask for help to obey and apply what you have learned
- » Spend time praying for others or needs



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# Session 4

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## Prayer

Ask God to bless this time and grow you as a family

## Bible Study

John 1:14-18 (ESV) - *Ask someone in the family to read*

### What does this teach us about God?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- Jesus left heaven to come to earth as a real man
- When Jesus lived on earth, people could see his glory and honor by the way he lived, the way he died, and by his resurrection
- (v16) Christians experience one blessing after another in Jesus

### What does this teach us about ourselves or others?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- All people need Jesus to receive grace and blessing
- When we know and trust Jesus, we receive grace in many ways
- People cannot see God in heaven, but in the life and work of Jesus we can see all we need to know!

### How does this call us to respond or obey?

*Don't complicate it, simply apply each truth in conversation together!*

### How does this lead us to pray for ourselves or others?

*Identify, then pray now or save for ending prayer time.*

## Sing

Sing a worship song(s) together as a family to glorify God

## Prayer

- » Praise God based off what you learned and studied
- » Repent of any areas of sin that was exposed
- » Ask for help to obey and apply what you have learned
- » Spend time praying for others or needs

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# Session 5

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## Prayer

Ask God to bless this time and grow you as a family

## Bible Study

John 1:19-28 (ESV) - *Ask someone in the family to read*

## What does this teach us about God?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- God kept his word and sent John the Baptist to help tell people about Jesus, just like he told the prophet Isaiah that he would
- God wants us to be baptized when we become Christians
- Jesus is so great that we do not even deserve to untie his shoes

## What does this teach us about ourselves or others?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- God keeps his promises to his people (like what he told Isaiah)
- Jesus is the Word, but we are the voice that tells about him
- No one deserves to be around Jesus or be in relationship with him

## How does this call us to respond or obey?

*Don't complicate it, simply apply each truth in conversation together!*

## How does this lead us to pray for ourselves or others?

*Identify, then pray now or save for ending prayer time.*

## Sing

Sing a worship song(s) together as a family to glorify God

## Prayer

- » Praise God based off what you learned and studied
- » Repent of any areas of sin that was exposed
- » Ask for help to obey and apply what you have learned
- » Spend time praying for others or needs

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# Session 6

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## Prayer

Ask God to bless this time and grow you as a family

## Bible Study

John 1:29-34 (ESV) - *Ask someone in the family to read*

## What does this teach us about God?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- Jesus is the Lamb of God who would be sacrificed to pay for sin
- Belief and trust in Jesus takes away the punishment of sin
- Baptism shows other people what God has done inside of us
- God sent the Holy Spirit to be with and live in Jesus
- When Jesus saves us, he cleanses us by the power of God

## What does this teach us about ourselves or others?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- All of our sin deserves punishment and Jesus wanted to pay the penalty for our sin
- We can know God and hear from him, even if we cannot see him

## How does this call us to respond or obey?

*Don't complicate it, simply apply each truth in conversation together!*

## How does this lead us to pray for ourselves or others?

*Identify, then pray now or save for ending prayer time.*

## Sing

Sing a worship song(s) together as a family to glorify God

## Prayer

- » Praise God based off what you learned and studied
- » Repent of any areas of sin that was exposed
- » Ask for help to obey and apply what you have learned
- » Spend time praying for others or needs

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# Session 7

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## **Prayer**

Ask God to bless this time and grow you as a family

## **Bible Study**

John 1:35-42 (ESV) - *Ask someone in the family to read*

## **What does this teach us about God?**

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- Jesus is someone we should want to follow and know about because he is the Messiah (our anointed Savior)
- God wants us to live life with him, not just know about him
- God knows everything about us before we meet him

## **What does this teach us about ourselves or others?**

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- Jesus invites people to come and see him
- All people are seeking/looking for something in life
- When Jesus calls us, we must respond to see and live with him

## **How does this call us to respond or obey?**

*Don't complicate it, simply apply each truth in conversation together!*

## **How does this lead us to pray for ourselves or others?**

*Identify, then pray now or save for ending prayer time.*

## **Sing**

Sing a worship song(s) together as a family to glorify God

## **Prayer**

- » Praise God based off what you learned and studied
- » Repent of any areas of sin that was exposed
- » Ask for help to obey and apply what you have learned
- » Spend time praying for others or needs

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# Session 8

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## Prayer

Ask God to bless this time and grow you as a family

## Bible Study

John 1:43-51 (ESV) - *Ask someone in the family to read*

## What does this teach us about God?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- Jesus sees us, finds us and calls us to follow him
- God had been telling people for a long time that Jesus was coming and he was finally here to do amazing things
- Jesus always sees us and then allows us to see amazing things

## What does this teach us about ourselves or others?

*Identify truths, explain or illustrate, discuss meanings or implications*

Starter examples:

- People must leave their old lives and follow Jesus by living new life
- Being saved by Jesus made people want to tell other people about how they can also follow Jesus

## How does this call us to respond or obey?

*Don't complicate it, simply apply each truth in conversation together!*

## How does this lead us to pray for ourselves or others?

*Identify, then pray now or save for ending prayer time.*

## Sing

Sing a worship song(s) together as a family to glorify God

## Prayer

- » Praise God based off what you learned and studied
- » Repent of any areas of sin that was exposed
- » Ask for help to obey and apply what you have learned
- » Spend time praying for others or needs

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# Gospel Help with Kids

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Our children must understand important truths in order to really grasp the gospel of Jesus Christ. The following questions and answers are just a few samples from the *Truth & Grace Memory Book* and it shows just one way we can prepare the hearts of our children to respond to Jesus rightly. Parents, ask the question and help your children learn how to answer them.

## **Who made you?**

God made me.

## **What else did God make?**

God made all things.

## **Why did God make you and all things?**

For His own glory.

## **What is sin?**

Sin is any transgression of the law of God.

## **What is meant by transgression?**

Doing what God forbids.

## **What does every sin deserve?**

The anger and judgment of God.

## **Who will be saved?**

Only those who repent of sin and believe in Christ.

## **What is it to repent?**

To be sorry for sin, and to hate and forsake it because it is displeasing to God.

## **What is it to believe in Christ?**

To trust in Christ alone for salvation.

[Truth and Grace \(TAG\) Memory Books \(Print version\)](#)

[Truth and Grace \(TAG\) Memory Books \(Digital editions\)](#)

*Click the link above if you are interested in purchasing the full resource!*

