

# How to use the Family Shepherd's Guide

The Family Shepherd's Guide is a tool provided weekly by FBC to equip the family shepherd for doing family discipleship. This tool aligns with the four components of family ministry at FBC: the centrality of the family, the Big God Story, the teaching of sound doctrine, and the "life milestones" journey.

The Family Shepherd's Guide will be sent home each week. Since the family is the primary place for discipling children, we want to provide as much support as we can to help dads and moms as the Family Shepherds. This guide will assist the Family Shepherd in teaching your children the faith.

The front page of the Guide provides Scripture readings for various age levels. The readings correspond to what part of The Big God Story they will cover in the upcoming Sunday. Again, this reinforces the **centrality of the family** as the Scripture is first read in a family setting before being taught in a church setting. Each Scripture reading has suggestions for making the time more "kid-friendly." Feel free to use these suggestions as you wish. As you read the Scripture with your children, use your knowledge of **The Big God Story** to provide context for the Scripture. (Copies of The Big God Story are available for you to use for this purpose.) Always portray God as the hero, since it is His story! Finally, you will notice that you are to remind your children that the Scripture you just read is a part of The Big God Story and that they will hear the Scripture again on Sunday.

The Guide also contains "Family Discipleship Q&A Time." Using these questions, you will begin to teach your children **sound biblical doctrine**. Ask your child(ren) the questions and help them learn the answer. Meal times and car rides are great times to use these questions.

At the end of Guide there will be a reminder that your children are on a journey in which they will pass many "**life milestones**." FBC is committed to helping parents shepherd their children through these milestones. This section of the Guide is designed to help you be vigilant about preparing your children as they experience these life milestones.

Other components to the Guide will include some suggested prayer items, midweek ministry encouragement, a blessing, and an emphasis on a spiritual formation environment, which is an area of life God uses to form His people spiritually. Explanations for how you can create this environment in the family will also be provided. Many of these environments occur naturally in the flow of life. The weekly emphasis on these environments will remind you to capture opportunities as you encounter them in the flow of life and help your child(ren) learn to follow God's will for their life.

The Family Shepherd Guide is designed to put tools in your hand, not to dictate how and when to use them. We trust that God will guide how and when you use the tools at your disposal. May God bless you richly as you follow His plan for family discipleship.