

Disciples of God Ministry - Explanation of the Four Keys

By Pastor Deb Grismer

Why do we do what we do?

Faith is first passed on in the home. As a community of faith, it is our responsibility to partner with the home (whatever that looks like) in helping to pass on the faith to our children. Through my education and experience, I have come to believe very deeply there are four keys to nurturing faith in individuals, families and communities of faith.

The four keys to nurturing faith are:

🔑 **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Scriptural Basis: Colossians 4:5-6; Mark 10:35-45

Caring conversations are the floor under all of our close relationships and are the way we model and transmit Christian values and faith to the next generation. Caring conversations requires time to be available to listen and to speak. Listening deeply, respectfully, with great care and genuine interest while speaking with love and gentleness helps children experience the love of God. Responding to the daily concerns of our children give us their trust and the credibility to invite them to express God's love to others.

🔑 **DEVOTIONS (OR, FINDING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE)**

Scriptural Basis: Acts 2:42; 12:12; 16:40; Ephesians 5:15-20; Colossians 3:12-17

Devotions are a way to practice the presence of God through the word of God. It is a conscious effort of reading scripture and praying.

Turn up the "God language" under our caring conversations and you have family devotions. Adults learning the Christian message, Biblical story, finding themselves in God's story and God in their story, are enabled to pass on faith to their children and other adults. Sometimes, devotions use scripture, a devotional text and prayer at a set time and place each day. Sometimes, it grows out of spontaneous conversation and wondering aloud how God might be present in the sunset or current events or a family celebration and what God might be calling us to do in response. Our Christian faith shapes the whole of our lives and involves a lifetime of study, reflection and prayer.

🔑 **SERVICE**

Scriptural Basis: Acts 2:43-47; Isaiah 58:6-8; Micah 6:6-12

Service is the calling we all have been given through the life and message of Jesus. Why would we do service as a family or a community of faith? Isn't it enough to do it individually? Learning that "faith is caught more than it is taught," we understand we need to be together, linking the generations, to serve as a loving response to what God has already done for us. Together, we have a chance to talk about what we have done, why we did it, and what we have learned. This is the way to make service a joyous opportunity to love God back, to say "thank you," to be the light of Christ for others. Serving with children makes it a habit, a spiritual practice, a faithful way of life.

🔑 **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Scriptural Basis: Joshua 4:4-7; Luke 2:41-52

Rituals and traditions are those patterns of behavior that can be expected to occur on a routine basis. The way people greet one another each day, a table grace, bedtime prayers, a birthday or baptismal anniversary celebration are all examples of rituals and traditions that can effectively communicate the good news of Jesus Christ. Find God amid these daily or seasonally repeated experiences and we will saturate daily life with God's presence. This makes it very clear what our family and community of faith values, believes and promotes and how faith shapes us individually, as a family and as a community of faith.