

HER STATE OF GRACE



PREPARING YOUR CHILD'S HEART
FOR SCHOOL

PREP

If you're reading this I want to congratulate you for equipping your children to become little disciples!

Grab your Bible and read over this quick guide before you get started.

The goal is to make it *easy*. It shouldn't be a formal sit down, instead it should feel a lot more like a casual heart moment.

You'll find that each of the four components start with scripture, a way to tie it in either through sharing personal experiences or through application, and ways to apply throughout the year at the end.

I can't wait to see how the Lord will move through you and your family in the coming year!

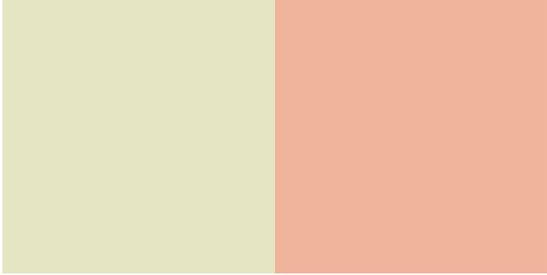
LET'S GET STARTED

Start with your Bible in hand sitting in a comfy spot with your child.

Share with your child that everything in the Bible is true.

Tell them this book holds words of God speaking directly as well as through people and stories to love and teach us.

Tell them there's a truth for every part of life in these words and today, it's going to help prepare our hearts for this school year!



READ JOSHUA 1:9

*"HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU? BE STRONG
AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED,
AND DO NOT BE DISMAYED, FOR THE LORD
YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."*

JOSHUA 1:9

Talk about each part.

What forsake means, how it is commanded of us to be strong and courageous. We are told not to fear or be discouraged and bring it home by emphasizing that the Lord is with us wherever we go.

He is with us in the classroom, on the playground, at lunch, recess, on the school bus, and at home.

Ask your child to get creative and come up with places that the Lord is with them:

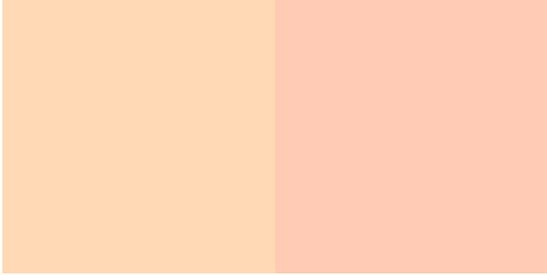
“The Lord is with us when we_____”.

"eat pizza!" "blow bubbles!" "feel scared."

APPLY IT

Build this verse into your routine in some way.

Maybe you say it together every night before bed or on the way to school in the morning. This is one of those verses that is a great tool for your child to have on hand to remind themselves of God's forever presence.



READ DEUTERONOMY 31:8

*"BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT
FEAR OR BE IN DREAD OF THEM, FOR IT IS
THE LORD YOUR GOD WHO GOES WITH YOU.
HE WILL NOT LEAVE OR FORSAKE YOU."*

ANSWERING DEUTERONOMY 31:8

It's important to validate their feelings.

Teach them what this **doesn't** say is that they will never experience fear or discouragement, rather that God has already gone before them and He knows how things will work out, that He will be with them, never leaving them and so they do not have to fear.

I initially heard this verse broken into a series of questions when reading the book Family Discipleship and we've since adopted it.

This looks like:

Parent asking: *"Who goes before you?"*

Child answering: *"The Lord."*

"Who will always be with you?" "The Lord."

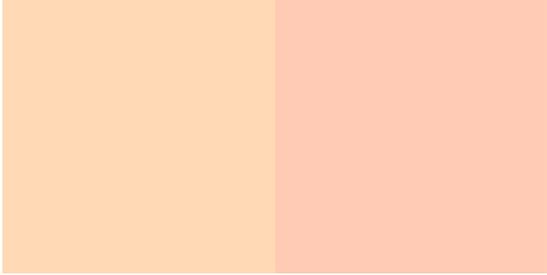
"Who will never leave you?" "The Lord."

"Who will never forsake you?" "The Lord."

APPLY IT

You can ask these questions as you're waiting at the bus stop, in car line, or anytime your kids are feeling nervous or need some encouragement.

For younger children, it's hard for them to understand that someone they can't see is with them always. This is a great transition to talk about the Holy Spirit.



READ ROMANS 5:5

*"...GOD'S LOVE HAS BEEN
POURED INTO OUR HEARTS
THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT
WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN TO
US."*

ROMANS 5:5

*If your child is a little older, read over Jesus's promise to send a Helper in the form of a Spirit in *John 14:16-17* after Romans 5:5.

Tell your child to place their hand over their heart.

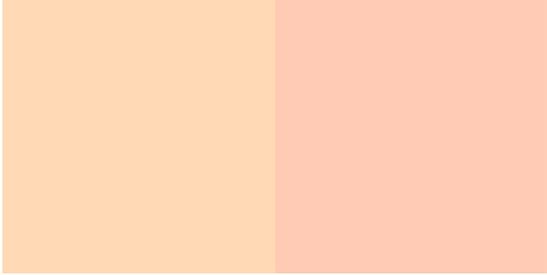
Talk with them about when Jesus died, God sent us the gift of the Holy Spirit in our hearts as a companion until we get to hug Him in heaven.

Remind them that they have Someone who loves them, who can guide and comfort them wherever they are, even when mom and dad aren't around!

Share with your child how you know the Holy Spirit is with you and any personal experience you've had with feeling His presence.

APPLY IT

When your child is feeling nervous, place your hand over your heart and encourage them to do the same. Ask them "Who has been poured into our hearts?"



LASTLY, GALATIANS 5:22

*"BUT THE FRUIT OF THE
SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY,
PEACE, PATIENCE,
KINDNESS, GOODNESS,
FAITHFULNESS,
GENTLENESS, AND SELF-
CONTROL."*

LET'S TALK FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT FOUND IN GALATIANS 5:22

Slowly read over each one.

Recall a specific moment where your child embodied a fruit of the Spirit.

Share with them that each day, we are working to become more like Jesus who perfected these attributes.

Be realistic and let them know that we will fail often but we are works in progress.

This is also great as both a starting and reference point for friendships.

Talk with your child about looking for friends they can see fruits of the Spirit in. Looking for those that are loving, joy-filled, patient, and kind.

APPLY IT

Share with them transparently which fruit of the Spirit you are working or need to work on.

As you see them embodying fruits of the spirit, be sure to let them know.

