Activity Booklet for Families

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Authentic FAITH

HOW WE LIVE MATTERS

THE BOOK OF JAMES

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TO OUR WONDERFUL FAMILIES...

Following Jesus as a family happens in all sorts of ordinary moments...around the dinner table, in the car, at bedtime, on the school run, in the questions our kids ask and in the way we learn to love the people around us.

As parents and carers, we have an incredible opportunity to help our children discover what it means to know and follow Jesus. As GWAC, we want you to know that you don't have to do that alone. We want to encourage, equip and support you as you nurture faith at home.

That's why we've created this Family Discipleship Activity Booklet to journey alongside our Authentic Faith: How We Live Matters series through the book of James.

James is wonderfully practical. He reminds us that faith isn't simply something we believe it's something we live. Our words, our kindness, the way we welcome people, how we pray, how we respond when things are difficult: all of these everyday moments can give others a glimpse of God's Kingdom.

Inside you'll find simple questions, activities, dinner-table conversations, creative ideas and prayers that you can use together. You don't need to do everything! Pick what works for your family, adapt it for the ages of your kids, and use it to help faith become part of the ordinary rhythms of life.

Our prayer is that this resource gives you helpful tools, activities and language as, together, we raise children who love Jesus, love their communities and believe God can use them to see the world changed for good.

We're cheering you on, praying for you, and grateful that we get to partner with you in helping the next generation discover a faith that isn't just talked about, but lived.

Together...let's raise a generation whose lives give the world a glimpse of God's Kingdom.

Scan the QR code to share how your family have used this resource

FOR ONE

ONE PERSON. ONE PRAYER. ONE STEP

Throughout James we'll be reminded that authentic faith isn't just something we believe it's something we live out. James says God has given us new life through Jesus so that we might become "a kind of firstfruits of all He created" (James 1:18).

The firstfruits were the first sign of a much bigger harvest to come.
In the same way, our lives are meant to be a glimpse of God's coming Kingdom.

Through our words, generosity, hospitality, forgiveness and love, people should experience something of Jesus.

So here's our invitation for this series:

WHO IS YOUR ONE?

Ask God to place one person, one household or one group of people on your heart.
Someone who doesn't yet know Jesus.
Someone who God may be inviting you to intentionally love over the coming weeks.
This isn't about having all the answers or forcing awkward conversations.
It's about faithfully reflecting Jesus in everyday life.

Pray for them

Care for them

Listen to them

Serve to them

Look for opportunities topointthem to Jesus

We invite you to pray;
Lord, who is my one?
Open my eyes to the people You are already drawing to Yourself.
Help me love them well.
May my words and actions give them a glimpse of Your Kingdom.
Give me courage to take the next step when the time is right.
Amen.

WHO IS YOUR ONE?

WHO: Whohas God placed on your heart?

PRAY: Write a short prayer for your One

LISTEN: What have you learned about them recently?

NOTICE: Where have you seen God opening doors?

ONE STEP: How could you show them God's love?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

JAMES 1

A Taste!

Big Idea

God gives good gifts, and He invites us to share His goodness with others.

Wonder Together

- What's the best gift you've ever received? Why did you love it?
- Imagine someone had never tasted ice cream before. How would you describe it?

Around the Dinner Table

- What are some good gifts God has given us that money can't buy?

- What could our family do this week so someone experiences God's love through us?

ExperienceTogether

Supermarket Samples

Set out tiny samples of different foods around the house.

As everyone tastes them ask: *Does one tiny bite tell you everything about the food?*

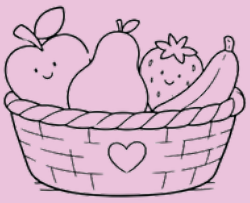
Noooo. But if it tastes good it makes you want more!

James says our lives are like that. We can't show people everything about God, but we can give them a little taste through our kindness and love.

CreateTogether

A Taste of God's Kingdom

Make a fruit bowl.



You'll need:

- A bowl or basket
- Pens
- Cut out paper fruit.

On each fruit write or draw one way your family could help someone experience God's Kingdom this week.

Examples:

- Share a toy.
- Help Mum or Dad.
- Invite someone to play.
- Say sorry.
- Pray for a friend.

Put all the fruit in a basket.

Each family member picks one fruit and tries to do it during the week.

Pray Together

God, thank You for loving us. Help us show Your kindness so others can get a taste of Your Kingdom. Amen.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP
Everyone Matters

JAMES 2

Big Idea

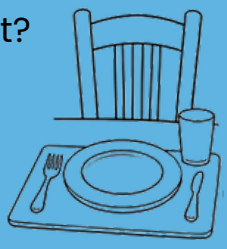
Real faith means loving others and treating everyone with kindness.

Wonder Together

- Imagine someone new came to your school or church what could you do to be a friend?
- Show me your biggest, friendliest welcome smile!

Around the Dinner Table

- The Book of James says we should treat everyone with kindness, not just our friends. Why is that important?
- Who could we invite over to our house or a playground?



Create Together

Welcome Banner

You'll need:

- Paper or card
- Pens, pencils or crayons
- Stickers or decorations
- String or tape

Write a welcome message across your banner.

Decorate it together and hang it somewhere everyone can see.
As you create, talk about:
What helps people feel welcomed, and included?

Experience Together

Open Door Challenge

Throughout the day, every time someone walks through a doorway, they have to welcome the next person through with a smile, a joke, high five or encouraging words.

See how many different welcomes your family can invent.

How can we make people feel this welcome everywhere we go?

Pray Together

God, thank You that Your love is for everyone. Help us to notice people and share Your kindness wherever we go. Amen.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

JAMES 3

Choose Kind Words

Big Idea

Kind words make a big difference. God wants us to use our words to help others and show His love.

Wonder Together

- What's the nicest thing someone has ever said to you?
- How would it feel if someone laughed at you instead of helping you?

Around the Dinner Table

- How can our words help someone have a better day?
- What can we do when we are angry and feel like saying something hurtful?

Create Together

Encouragement Cards

You'll need:

Paper or card

Pens, pencils or crayons

Make a card for someone who could use some encouragement. Draw a picture and write one kind sentence inside.

Ideas:

- Thanks for helping me.
- You're a great friend.
- God loves you.

Deliver your lovely card to that person this week.

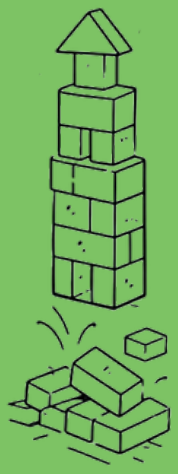
Experience Together

Build Up Challenge

You'll need:

- LEGO, blocks, cups or playing cards.

Work together to build the tallest tower you can...then KNOCK it down!



It takes time to build something, but only a moment to knock it down.

The book of James reminds us that our words are the same.

Kind words help build people up. Unkind words can quickly hurt someone.

Challenge everyone to say three encouraging things to different people before the end of the day.

Pray Together

Dear Jesus, when we're angry or frustrated, help us choose kind words. Help our words show Your love every day. Amen.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

JAMES 4

Trust God

Big Idea

God invites us to stay close to Him and choose His way.

Wonder Together

- If you could spend a whole day with anyone, who would you choose?
- Have you ever needed help but tried to do it yourself?

Around the Dinner Table

- What helps you remember God is always with you?
- How can our family spend time with God this week?

ExperienceTogether

Follow the Leader

Choose one person to be the leader. Everyone else has to copy exactly what they do.

Try:

- walking
- spinning
- balancing
- dancing

Swap leaders.

Then ask:

- Was it easier to lead or follow?
- Why is following sometimes hard?

James reminds us that following Jesus means choosing His way instead of always choosing our own.

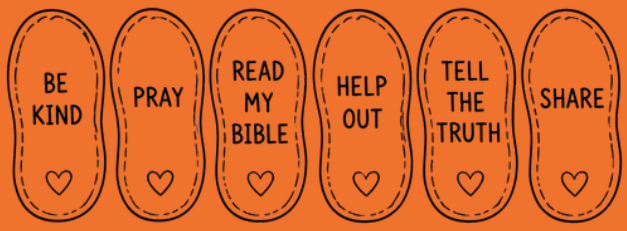
CreateTogether

Walking in Jesus' Footsteps

You'll need:

- Paper or card
- Pencils or crayons
- Scissors

Take turns tracing one of your shoes (or your feet) onto a piece of paper. Cut it out and decorate it to make your very own "Walking with Jesus" shoe! Inside your shoe, write or draw 3 ways you can follow Jesus this week.



When everyone has finished, line all the shoes up across the floor to make a family path.

Walk along the shoes together and let each person share one way they want to follow Jesus this week.

PrayTogether

Dear God, thank You that You are always close to us. Help us follow You and remember that You are with us every day. Amen.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

JAMES 5

KeepPraying

Big Idea

We can talk to God about anything. He hears us and is always with us.

Wonder Together

- Who do you love talking to?
- If you could ask God one question, what would it be?
- Show me your favourite place to be quiet and pray.

Around the Dinner Table

- Is there anything you're worried about that we could pray for together?
- Who could we pray for this week?

ExperienceTogether

Prayer Walk

Go for a walk around your neighbourhood. As you walk, pray for different things you see.

- Houses → Pray for the families who live there.
- Schools → Pray for teachers and students.
- Parks → Thank God for His creation.
- Cars → Pray for people to be safe.
- People you meet → Ask God to bless them.

Create Together

Prayer Paper Chain

You'll need:

- Coloured paper
- Scissors
- Glue or sticky tape
- Pens

Cut strips of paper.

On each strip, write or draw:

- someone to pray for
- something you're thankful for
- something you need God's help with

Link the strips together to make a prayer chain.

Hang it somewhere you'll see it during the week. Each day, choose one link and pray for what's written on it.

Pray Together

Dear God, thank You that we can talk to You anytime. Thank You for listening when we're happy, sad, excited or worried. Help us remember to pray every day. Amen.

GWAC
Glen Waverley Anglican Church