

Six Practices that Grow Faith at Home



Talk together. Have conversations about things that matter. Talk about things related to faith as they come up in daily life. Talk about God and what God is like. Talk about church and why it's important. Eat meals together. Take walks together.



Serve others together. When families serve others together, they build their shared experience and faith grows in everyone. Join a service project organized by your church. Take food to someone and make it a family activity. Opportunities will arise if you are watching for them.



Pray together. Pray in ways that fit your life, starting with meals and bedtime. Say a prayer or blessing as the children leave the house. Pray together about concerns and celebrations. Pray when your child is upset, impatient, excited, or celebrating.



Learn the Bible together. The Bible is the story of God's people. Sing 'books of the Bible' songs. Memorize key Bible verses together. Learn to look up verses by book and chapter. Read a good story Bible like *The Peace Table* then talk about the story, wonder and pray together.



Celebrate together. Create traditions and rituals for milestones and holidays—children love them! Celebrating Christian holidays at home nurtures Christian identity. Think of rituals to mark milestones, to express shared grief, and to celebrate big achievements.



Worship together at church. Families that go to church together are the most successful at growing faith in their children. The church provides support, friendship, and inspiration. Parents and children alike are encouraged and challenged to grow in Christian maturity.

Equipping Families to Do the Six Practices

How church leaders can help parents understand and do
the Six Practices that Grow Faith at Home:

Give each family a bookmark with the six practices. Email or text Shana to learn how to get them: ShanaPB@MennoMedia.org or 319-936-5905.

Buy each family a copy of *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible*. This book retells each story in a way that is faithful to the biblical text and meets children where they are developmentally. It gives parents a way to talk about faith with their children. In addition to the story, each spread has prompts to help caregivers engage with children through prayers, ideas for further learning, creative response, action ideas, and wondering questions.

Provide each family with a “Follow the Peace Path” card deck. Our card decks based on Bible stories in *The Peace Table* provide many opportunities for families to talk together about God, the Bible and faith. Find three activity cards per story plus six additional cards with ideas for prayer and play.

Create a sense of community and accountability by introducing an at-home activity, such as the storybook or card deck, at church. Then invite families to share their stories, artwork, and other activities at church a few weeks later. Provide many reminders and invite families to create their activities when they are at church. Do everything you can to help them participate and have a positive experience. Celebrate small victories, affirm even the most modest efforts, and encourage attitudes of grace and abundance.

Listen to parents and caregivers. Many parents and caregivers today are expressing a desire to be understood and supported by their congregations in their parenting challenges. Pastors and congregations can make a priority of listening to understand them. Why do they bring their children to church? What are their worries, hang-ups, and hopes regarding their own faith journeys? Church leaders can listen for ways to accompany and encourage parents in their Christian identity. To learn more about this kind of listening and to receive some guidance to do it, sign up to be a “Listening Leader” at ShineEverywhere.com.

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Shine Everywhere is Shine Curriculum listening to churches and families and, in response, creating products for use at home. Churches will tell families about the at-home product. Families will use it and tell us how it worked. Along the way, Shine Everywhere will become . . .

**A community of churches and families who discover
and practice the everyday habits that grow faith**



Visit us at ShineEverywhere.com

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