



Resources for Aslan Academy *Keeping the Faith* Program

I. Core Resources

A. Guidebook: *Keeping the Faith: Equipping Families for Effective Home Discipleship*, C.S. Lewis Institute

B. Bible (preferably a study Bible; see *Recommended Resources* below for recommendations)

C. Books by Theme

- ***The Mission: Faith Begins at Home: The Family Makeover with Christ at the Center***, by Mark Holmen

This book shows how to become a vibrant, healthy family through the concept of a “makeover” in family relationships. The focus on heart change is essential in order to avoid simple moralism. The author shares practical ideas for activities to do as a family and suggested discussion questions for parents to engage children at key moments in their day.

- ***Biblical Parenting: Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family***, by Paul David Tripp

What is your calling as a parent? In the midst of folding laundry, coordinating carpool schedules, and breaking up fights, many parents get lost. Feeling pressure to do everything “right” and raise up “good” children, it’s easy to lose sight of our ultimate purpose as parents in the quest for practical tips and guaranteed formulas. In this life-giving book, Paul Tripp offers parents much more than a to-do list. Instead, he presents us with a big-picture view of God’s plan for us as parents. Outlining fourteen foundational principles centered on the gospel, he shows that we need more than the latest parenting strategy or list of techniques. Rather, we need the rescuing grace of God—grace that has the power to shape how we view everything we do as parents. Freed from the burden of trying to manufacture life-change in our children’s hearts, we can embrace a grand perspective of parenting overflowing with vision, purpose, and joy.

- ***Back to the Basics: The Big Story: How the Bible Makes Sense out of Life***, by Justin Buzzard

The author explains the big story of creation, man’s rebellion, God’s plan to rescue us, and our eternal home God has prepared for us. By starting off answering the question of who God is, and who Jesus is, the author lays a solid foundation for understanding the big story. This book is written in a conversational style with lots of stories to highlight each section.

- ***Practical Application of Biblical Truths: Gospel-Centered Family: Becoming the Parents***



God Wants You to Be, by Tim Chester and Ed Moll

The authors explain how God is rightfully in charge and His teachings are good, laying a foundation for respect for God's authority. By respecting God and a child's parents, a basis is formed for a heart change, which the authors describe as much more important than "succeeding" in life. The authors describe how parents need God's grace and His discipline as they seek to discipline their children. Practical advice on administering appropriate discipline is described. The book offers practical guidance on how parents can develop a loving and durable relationship with their children.

- **Heart Change:** *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*, by Timothy Keller

In *The Prodigal God*, Tim Keller takes his trademark intellectual approach to understanding Christianity and uses the parable of the prodigal son to reveal an unexpected message of hope and salvation. Within that parable Jesus reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This book will challenge both the devout and skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way.

- **Developing Character That Lasts:** *Character Matters: Raising Kids with Values That Last*, by John Yates and Susan Alexander Yates. (Note: This book has also been published under the name *Raising Kids with Character That Lasts*.)

This book helps families learn eight essential character traits that matter: integrity, faith, a teachable spirit, a servant's heart, self-discipline, joy, compassion and courage. Parents and children together can learn how to develop these essential character traits through reading and discussion, then implementing them through normal, daily events in life. Includes focus questions and a leader's guide for use in group study as well.

- **Introducing Spiritual Disciplines to Your Children:** *Habits of a Child's Heart: Raising Your Kids with the Spiritual Disciplines*, by Valerie Hess and Marti Watson Garlett

This book is inspired by Richard Foster's classic, *Celebration of Discipline*, but is designed for parents to use in teaching their children. The authors provide helpful hints on how to teach the disciplines to children in three age groups – early childhood (4-7), middle childhood (8-11) and adolescence (12-15). The book describes each of the 12 disciplines, how to practice them and how to teach them using age-appropriate ideas and exercises. Disciplines include meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance and celebration.

- **Teaching Your Children How to Explain Their Faith:** *The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family: Over 100 Practical and Tested Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Kids*, by Kara E. Powell



The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family addresses one of the top current concerns about youth and the church: the reality that nearly half of all young people raised in Christian families walk away from their faith when they graduate from high school. That's the bad news. But here's the good news: research also shows that parents are one of the primary influences on their child's faith. This book arises from the innovative, research-based, and extensively field-tested project known as "Sticky Faith," designed to equip parents with insights and ideas for nurturing long-term faith in children and young people. With more than 100 ideas from other parents that you can try today, this positive and practical book will empower you and give you hope, with the proven tools and inspiration you need to build a faith that sticks in your children and teenagers.

II. Recommended Resources

A. Bibles

1. For adults:

If you don't have a study Bible, two excellent ones to consider are:

ESV Study Bible (Crossway)

NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible (Zondervan)

2. For children and youth:

Some recommendations are:

Nursery and Preschool

The Big Picture Story Bible, by David Helm, Crossway

The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible, Harvest House Publishers

My First Hands-On Bible, Tyndale House

Shine On: A Story Bible, Herald Press

The Word & Song Bible, by Stephen Elkins, B & H Pub Group

K–1st grade

Shine On: A Story Bible, Herald Press

The Jesus Storybook Bible, by Sally Lloyd-Jones, Zonderkidz

ESV Big Picture Bible, Crossway

The Word & Song Bible, by Stephen Elkins, B & H Pub Group

2nd–5th Grade



The Jesus Storybook Bible, by Sally Lloyd-Jones, Zonderkidz
ESV Big Picture Bible, Crossway
The Kids' Devotional Bible, Zonderkidz (for more independent reading)
ESV Following Jesus Bible, Crossway (children ages 8-12)

Middle and High School

ESV Following Jesus Bible, Crossway (children ages 8-12)
ESV Student Study Bible, Crossway
Apologetics Study Bible for Students, Sean McDowell, editor, Holman
The Beautiful Word Bible, Zondervan
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) (offers a number of Bibles)

B. Family Read-Alouds

The Chronicles of Narnia – C.S. Lewis

The world of Narnia comes alive through seven books from C.S. Lewis. Lewis wondered how God's story might play out in another world, and he set out to create that world of Narnia with powerful and memorable characters, chief among them the mighty Aslan who represents Jesus. Good, evil, betrayal, rescue, tremendous friendships, and exciting adventures all await the readers of this series.

Aslan in Our World Study Guide Series – Cate McDermott

The *Aslan in Our World Study Guide Series* is designed to lead readers into discovering the connections between the principles of Narnian adventure and the truths of Christian theology. The books include thought-provoking questions, Scripture references, and discussion topics that study groups, families, or individuals may use. Available titles include: *Aslan in Our World: A Companion to The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Volume 1), *Aslan in Our World: A Guide to the Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* (Volume 2), *Aslan in Our World: A Guide to the Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (Volume 3), and *Aslan in Our World: A Guide to the Chronicles of Narnia: The Horse and His Boy* (Volume 4).

Christian Heroes Then and Now – Janet and Geoff Benge

Through this series of stories, written in an adventure style, the family will be inspired by the powerful lives of people such as Eric Liddell, Corrie ten Boom, David Livingstone, C.S. Lewis, George Müller, Jim Elliott and many others. By learning about the struggles and triumphs, children will learn how God has worked so powerfully in others' lives. Published by YWAM (Youth with a Mission), these stories provide excellent opportunities for family discussions.



The Trailblazer Series

Children learn about real life Christian heroes through fictional lives of children whose stories become intertwined with people such as Martin Luther, William Tyndale, Frederick Douglas, Jonathan Edwards and more. Written in an engaging style, children will learn about some of the heroes of the faith, and parents can use this material for deeper discussion.

C. Children's Music and Audio Books

The Chronicles of Narnia Radio Theatre – from writings of C.S. Lewis

Produced by Focus on the Family, these classic stories from C.S. Lewis are beautifully dramatized by talented actors and compelling music and sound effects. Your child will be enthralled by these recordings, which run more than 22 hours (on 19 CD's) in total. Ideal for long car trips, or for children to listen on their own. All seven of the *Narnia Chronicles* are included.

G.T. and the Halo Express

G.T. and the Halo Express is a useful tool for building scripture memory by encouraging children to sing along. Children can repeat along with G.T.

Sir Bernard the Good Knight

In *Sir Bernard the Good Knight*, children can listen to lively music learning about friendship and adventure and twelve chivalric virtues: friendliness, obedience, thrift, courtesy, trustworthiness, kindness, helpfulness, cheerfulness, bravery, loyalty, cleanliness, and reverence. The character of Sir Bernard is based off of Bernard of Clairvaux, an eleventh century, God-fearing monk.

Adventures in Odyssey

Adventures in Odyssey is the classic Focus on the Family children's production that teaches values and faith through adventure and lovable characters.

Hide 'Em In Your Heart – Steve Green (preschool and early elementary)

To help your children memorize Bible verses, these CD's are excellent. Children sing along with musical artist Steve Green, who first introduces each verse, then sings the verses set to catchy music. Excellent for car rides or listening at home.

Seeds Family Worship CD's (older elementary through middle school)

Seeds Family Worship CD's are another great way to help your children learn and memorize Bible verses. The CD's set Bible verses to catchy music which children (and parents) can sing along to. Titles include Seeds of Courage, Seeds of Faith, Seeds of Character, and many more.

D. Understanding the Bible—Resources for Children and Youth



Jesus Storybook Bible – Sally Lloyd-Jones (preschool through early middle school)
This is our favorite children’s Bible. The author explains in a loving and compelling way how “every page whispers Jesus’ name.” It gives an amazing overview of Scripture, connecting the dots between the Old and New Testaments, between prophecies and their fulfillment in Christ. Beautifully illustrated, and written in an engaging, almost poetic prose, this book will give every child a deep understanding of God’s love, His plan to rescue us, and His desire to have a relationship with us. What’s more, adults will be drawn in by the beautiful writing as they share it with their children.

The Word & Song Bible – Stephen Elkins (preschool and early elementary)
This Bible presents Scripture through recorded songs and sounds that children under 10 will love learning as they follow along with the illustrated book. It has a chapter for every book of the Bible, including a song on an accompanying CD. It is great for children to use during a quiet time each day or while riding in a car. By covering each book of the Bible, this book goes well beyond the typical children’s Bible, which tends to focus on only a few stories.

What the Bible is All About Bible Handbook for Kids – Henrietta Mears (through middle school)
This book is adapted for children from the classic, best-selling work by Henrietta Mears. There are separate chapters for each book of the Bible, laid out in easy-to-read form and illustrated for children. For each book of the Bible, this handbook explains who wrote it, the focus of the book, an outline, the main characters, and how the book connects to Jesus. Maps, diagrams and cartoon style dialogue make it an easy, fun read for children and a helpful companion to their Bible. The handbook also has a useful dictionary of key terms in an appendix. This book can be particularly helpful when read along with the Bible, whether in family reading time or when the child is reading alone. Understanding how the Bible fits together can be difficult for children, but this book explains it in a clear, compelling fashion.

30 Days to Understanding the Bible: Unlock the Scriptures in 15 minutes a day (30th Anniversary expanded edition) – Max Anders (high school and beyond)
In just fifteen minutes a day, you’ll learn the Bible’s key people, events, and doctrines to get more out of God’s Word. This simple-to-use, straightforward guide has been recommended by Bible teachers and pastors for thirty years, and now it’s available in an expanded thirtieth anniversary edition—with the most requested topics from the original edition restored and updated for today’s readers.

E. Apologetics Resources for Children and Youth (resources that will help children and youth understand and explain their faith)

Big Truths for Little Kids – Susan Hunt and Richie Hunt (for preschoolers)



The authors use catechism to pose questions and provide answers to teach the essentials of biblical knowledge. The overall goal of the book, in the words of the authors, is to, 1) Teach children that they are created for God's Glory, 2) Show the practical implications of this life purpose, and 3) Repeatedly emphasize to children their need for God's grace to glorify Him. The book has stories that go along with each section of the catechism. Children are expected to regularly memorize sections of the catechism with the long-term goal of memorizing them all. They will then be a guide for that child throughout life. The catechism covers the nature and character of God, the fall, the promise to Abraham, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and so forth.

The Awesome Book of Bible Answers for Kids – Josh McDowell and Kevin Johnson (for elementary grades)

Ideal for children through sixth grade, this book provides simple but clear answers to the questions most elementary schoolchildren have about the Bible. Broken down into helpful sections, the authors tackle questions about God, sin, forgiveness, God's love, prayer, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the devil, the Bible, different religions, right and wrong, the future, the church, death and heaven. The authors also include a short conversation guide for parents as they discuss each of these questions.

If I Could Ask God Anything: Awesome Bible Answers for Curious Kids – Kathryn Slattery (for middle schoolers)

This book is organized into sections on God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, Christianity, prayer, the Church, Christian holidays, being a Christian and "big questions." Focusing mostly on the core truths of the Bible, this guide provides an excellent foundation to help middle-schoolers understand truth and to grow in their faith.

The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask – Mark Mittenberg (for teens)

This book by Mark Mittenberg (co-author with Lee Strobel of the *Case for Christ* series) takes on the major obstacles to belief, helping the reader properly prepare to discuss these issues. Key topics include the nature and existence of God, evolution, can the Bible be trusted, was Jesus just a man or God, evil and suffering, abortion, homosexuality, hypocritical Christians, and heaven and hell. The author provides solid answers and clear context for the answers, done in a loving and winsome manner to prepare teens to effectively engage their friends and others on difficult issues.

Apologetics Study Bible for Students – Sean McDowell, editor (for teenagers, college students and young adults)

Studying the Bible can be difficult for anyone, particularly young people. The *Apologetics Study Bible for Students* provides helpful introductions to each book, extensive commentaries on key biblical passages and thoughtful answers to the tough questions young people are asking today. Additional features include "challenges and tactics" for addressing challenging questions,



archeological facts to buttress the historicity of the Bible, and inspiring personal stories of individuals defending and living out their faith. A wide range of effective and credible writers have been gathered to write the extensive features accompanying the Scripture.

How to Stay Christian in College – J. Budziszewski (for high school students anticipating going to college, college students, and parents of high school/college students)

The author, a professor of government and philosophy at the University of Texas, understands from experience that from the moment students set foot on the contemporary college campus, their Christian convictions and discipline are assaulted. The goal of the book is to prepare, equip, and encourage Christian students planning to go to college, and ones already there, to meet the spiritual challenges of college, and to help parents understand what their children are going through so they can offer more effective spiritual support. The book guides readers through the maze of campus realities, discusses the foundations of the Christian faith, and directly addresses the different worldviews and myths that students encounter at college.

F. Bible Games

Big Book of Bible Games for Elementary Kids (David C Cooke)

Over 100 Games Make Bible Learning Fun!

This reproducible resource features:

- Bible learning, Bible story review, Bible memory verse, and life-application games
- Indoor and outdoor games, water games, and large-group games
- Step-by-step instructions
- Discussion questions, game tips, and options

G. Catechism (for all ages)

The New City Catechism Devotional: God's Truth for Our Hearts and Minds (Crossway)

In centuries past, the church used catechisms to teach foundational Christian doctrines. In today's world of shifting beliefs, this communal practice of learning biblical truth via questions and answers is more needed than ever before. Seeking to restore this ancient method of teaching to the regular life of the church, *The New City Catechism Devotional* is a gospel-centered, modern-day resource that not only summarizes important Christian beliefs through fifty-two questions and answers but also helps readers be transformed by those doctrines. Each question features a relevant Scripture reading, a short prayer, and a devotional commentary written by contemporary pastors (including John Piper, Timothy Keller, and Kevin DeYoung) and historical figures (such as Augustine, John Calvin, Martin Luther, and many others). Designed for use in a variety of contexts, *The New City Catechism Devotional* is a valuable resource for helping believers learn and meditate on the doctrines that stand at the heart of the Christian faith.



H. Other Learning Resources

Small Group Study for Adolescents: Building Character: A Study Guide for Adolescents and Teens – Developed by Mona Lindeman and Susan Ward

This nine-week Study Guide is designed for pre-teens and teenagers to explore what it means to be a person of character. The study is designed to be led by pre-teens or teens in a group on their own, but would work equally well with an adult leading, or to undertake as a family. During the study, participants find out what God has to say about certain character traits and think about how they might build those traits into their own character. The study is based on the book *Character Matters! Raising Kids with Character that Lasts*, by John Yates and Susan Alexander Yates, and explores the following character qualities: integrity, self-discipline, a servant's heart, faith, a teachable spirit, compassion, courage, and joy. The studies use a variety of methods to teach the traits, ranging from children creating artwork to participating in role plays.

This free resource may be downloaded at

http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/webfm_send/3827

I. Information about Popular Movies, Videos, Music, TV, Games and Books

Focus on the Family's *Plugged In* (Pluggedin.com)

From *Plugged In*: *Plugged In* is a Focus on the Family publication designed to shine a light on the world of popular entertainment while giving families the essential tools they need to understand, navigate, and impact the culture in which they live. Through our reviews, articles and discussions, we hope to spark intellectual thought, spiritual growth and a desire to follow the command of Colossians 2:8: "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."

Each month, *Plugged In* is visited more than 1 million times by people looking for detailed information about what's really in popular movies, videos, television episodes, songs and games. Entertainment industry ratings only tell you so much. We go deeper, diving into specific content and the meaning behind it. Our award-winning website also offers news and blogs.

J. Going Deeper: For Further Reading by Theme

- ***Back to the Basics:***

Basic Christianity—by John Stott

This classic Christian book is considered by *Christianity Today* as one of the most important books of the past hundred years. The author carefully explains the basics of the Christian faith through sections on Jesus Christ (his claims, character, and resurrection), man's need (due to sin), Christ's saving work, and man's response to God's call. Stott defends the claims of Christianity, and then helps the reader live out that faith in daily life.

- ***Heart Change:***



Parenting is Heart Work— by Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller

This book explains how most parents seek behavior modification in their children, but the important thing is to mold a child's heart for the future. The Bible mentions the word heart more than 750 times, describing it as the center of our being. Once the heart is changed, parents will see not only behavior change, but the child's motivations and focus will be changed as well. The authors give strategies to address a variety of challenges parents face.

Shepherding a Child's Heart—by Ted Tripp

The author focuses on foundational areas for biblical parenting, beginning with the issues of the heart, including influences on the child, Godward orientation, authority, examining goals, discipline and other areas. With a clear emphasis on parents' recognizing the proper goals of shepherding their child, the author provides practical suggestions for accomplishing those goals. The author concludes with advice on shepherding the child through the various stages of childhood.

Raising Kids to Love Jesus—by H. Norman Wright and Gary J. Oliver

The emphasis on heart change continues in this book. By cultivating understanding and intimacy with children, parents can plant seeds that will grow, shaping their children in a powerful way. The need to know their child is vastly more important than simply shaping their behavior. The purpose of the book is to help parents cultivate a love for the Lord in their children by effectively modeling and communicating their own relationship with Jesus. Parents shouldn't just provide guidelines but be shepherds. The book has a section that focuses on personality types highlighting how each child is unique, and how parents should adjust based on their children's personality traits.

- ***Developing Character That Lasts:***

The Power of Teachable Moments—by Jim Weidmann and Marianne Hering

This Focus on the Family book teaches parents how to use teachable moments to connect their children's life to Godly truth. Teachable moments require three ingredients: 1) A good relationship between parent and child; 2) an event that can serve as a catalyst to conversation; and 3) a biblical truth with which to connect. The key requirement is time – time for parents to spend with their child to allow such moments to happen. The book gives practical advice on how to make such time available and to make the most of the opportunities.

- ***Introducing Spiritual Disciplines to Your Children:***

Spiritual Disciplines for Children—A Guide to a Deeper Spiritual Life for You and Your Children—by Vernie Schorr Love



Inspired by Richard Foster's classic, *Celebration of Discipline*, this book is designed for adults to shepherd their children to an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. By encouraging the "formation of spirit, character and mind towards Christ" a child will begin the walk on the path towards spiritual maturity. The author helps parents and children understand the tools of spiritual disciplines and their practical uses, with suggested activities for each discipline. As with the above book, the disciplines include meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance and celebration.

Revised 2/19