

5 Ways to Start Partnering With Parents

We believe that the most impactful use of our time (to disciple children) is to invest relationally in equipping parents and volunteers who are on the front lines of discipling children. But what does that practically look like? Here are a few ideas to consider:

- 1 You can't serve a community you don't know.**

Start by getting to know your parents. Ask them what they need and how you can serve them by starting a conversation or sending a survey. Identify gaps and help them where they need it the most.
- 2 Disciple the disciplemaker.**

Many of the parents in your church may have no idea what it means to be disciplined. When you help a parent belong, believe and become you are setting them up to successfully help their children do the same! You won't have time to disciple every parent in your ministry, but you can encourage them to join a community group or Bible study, or help them find a spiritual mentor.
- 3 Start building a team.**

We know every child in our ministry will benefit from a team of believers pouring into them. This team will consist of both leaders in the church and loving, caring adults the parents intentionally place in their child's life. To help identify the leaders influencing the child on your team, check out the "*Building Your Dream Team*" PDF, part of *The Faith of Our Children* course on [ChildDiscipleship.com](https://www.childdiscipleship.com).
- 4 Provide biblically rich and easy-to-use resources.**

Remember, every parent is coming to you from a different place. It may be tempting to overwhelm them with resources. Be specific and intentional with what you share, and curate resources for the families you serve.
- 5 Help parents talk about tough topics.**

Did you know 75% of churched parents want your help discussing current events, social topics, mental health and other potentially difficult subjects? According to *Children's Ministry in a New Reality*, parents are especially concerned about bullying, loneliness and social media, and are eager for your help addressing those topics.

But How?

Host a Family Faith Night.

How do you get to know your parents and meet them where they are? Host a Family Faith Night to talk about tough topics, introduce resources and figure out what your parents need most. Whether you meet once a month, once a quarter or once a year, in-person or online, find ways to partner with parents and build a team around every child in your ministry.