

July 2018 Edition



# Family Ministry

Looking to Jesus as the centre of everyday life

Welcome to our brand New Family Ministry Newsletter! As with all new ventures there is a mixture of excitement and trepidation, but we are so looking forward to starting this journey with you. We hope that it will be helpful and a blessing to you and all the family. This time the focus is 'Listening To Our Children' with so many distractions around it can be tricky, but hope you will be equipped and encouraged. Enjoy reading and have a great summer!

## A Word From The Word

By Ian Phillips

*When I was a teacher I would sometimes say to the children in my class: "you have two ears and one mouth so you should do twice as much listening as talking!" Maybe we are made to listen to God more than we talk to him, or about him. God wanted to speak and Samuel had to learn to listen. Maybe we do too, because God still speaks. And maybe he wants to speak to you!*

## Scrumptious Recipes

What better way to spend time with our children whilst teaching them life skills at the same time is cooking and baking.

This month we have found an easy Lasagne receipe by Jamie Oliver for you to try on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=SalyS66njMY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SalyS66njMY)

## Deuteronomy 6 verses 4 - 9

Listen, people of Israel! The Lord is our God. He is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength. Always remember these commands I give you today. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and walk along the road. Talk about them when you lie down and when you get up. Write them down and tie them to your hands as a sign. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your fore-heads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

## The Wonders Of Parenting ?

Parenting is hard; it's the most important and difficult job in the world without any training and often without having had any role models to follow! People are not allowed to drive a car without being taught how, nor do they start a job without training, and yet we are supposed to know how to parent.

We often strive to be the perfect parent and yet we live in a world of imperfection. Maybe working towards being "a good enough" parent is more achievable. In the next year we will be exploring what being a good enough parent looks like with this month exploring the concept of listening to our children. Figures show that parents have 4000 hours with their children every year, that's a lot of listening!



## Faith At Home

Here at Family Ministry we recognise the importance of supporting and partnering with families as they share their faith and values to their children at home. But often we are asked by parents and grandparents, where do we start?

There are a number of resources available online that are great to use in the home, here a few recommendations for this month to get you started:

Premier – Faith At Home

<https://www.youthandchildrens.work/Faith-at-Home/2018/June-2018>

Care For The Family – Kitchen Table Project

Ten Things You Can Do At Home - <https://kitchentable.org.uk/10things>

God Venture – The Life Of Jesus

<http://godventure.co.uk/product/godventure>

## Young People

Listening To God by Marielle Henning

"Who am I?", "Then what?", "Why me?". This is Moses, but it is often us too. Listening to God can be, in fact often is, terrifying. However, the most difficult step is the first one. After that it gets easier and is accompanied by 'peace that passes understanding'. And remember, you only have to take the first step once.

## Words Of Encouragement

So often we tell our children that they must 'be quiet' and 'listen' to their adults but, how often do we actually sit down and listen to our children?

We are living in a fast paced world. We have so many expectations on our shoulders. Being a spouse, a partner, a parent, a grandparent, a friend, a volunteer, a colleague, a church member, the list could go on and on and on. And whilst stuck in the midst of our crazy, busy lives, our children are there, silently growing up in the background. Sometimes we don't even realise until we put them in their clothes and realise that all of the legs on every pair of trousers are three inches too short an hour before needing to leave the house.

Catherine Wallace once said "Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you no matter what. If you don't listen to the little things while they are little, they won't tell you the big things when they are big. Because to them, all of it has always been big stuff".

Sometimes we can be sucked in by the trap of thinking we need to spend money to spend time with our children. But do you want to know a secret? Our Heavenly Father has created this great, big, wonderful world out there for us to enjoy, luckily for us lots of our surrounding areas are free.

Sometimes just going for a walk and sitting beside a lake is as simple as it needs to be. By investing time in our children, listening to them, being patient with them, knowing them, accepting them and learning from them. We are instilling a lifetime sense of worthiness. Listen. Talk. Be present. Enjoy. And one more thing; you are doing a great job!



### Family Ministry Events

4th August  
Community Picnic

29th September  
Southwater Country Park

28th October  
Light Party

8th December  
Community Christmas  
Craft Morning

For support with your family, marriage, relationship or for yourself, please contact our Family Support Network Team on 01293 546177.