

JANUARY 2026

"COMPANION PLANTING"



Spiritual Practice:

Hospitality



Bible Story:

The life of Christ



Memory Verse:

Hebrews 13:2



INTRO TO THIS MONTH'S THEME

from Laura Hunter, GF Program Director

The Christmas season is over and the season of Epiphany is at hand. The early church fathers recommended extending the gift of hospitality during this season of Epiphany. It reminds us how often God's presence is connected to hospitality in the scripture. This month we pray you will sense his presence as you open your home to others.

In September, you received a handout of the Apostles' Creed and your family talked about what a Christian believes. This month when you invite others into your home (or meet in another setting), plan to steer the conversation to a faith topic with your children present for the conversation. Ask your guests about their faith story and notice if your children are listening. We have real life spiritual heroes among us in our community. One of the gifts of hospitality is the mutual exchange between host and guest as we share our stories. This may be one of your favorite memories from your time in Growing Families.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN: WEEK 1

Gentle reminder that this is not a to-do list. Feel free to pick and choose what works for your family. The goal is connection over perfection.

FORMATION

Scan these to watch videos on the website

- Open your bag and read the weekly schedule for January. Plan to gather as a family at least one day a week to engage in activities together.
- Parents, please watch the Introduction video (5 minutes plus an embedded 3 minute animated video that you don't want to miss), using the QR code to the right. It will guide your month's activities.
- Sunday, January 4, 2026, you have one last Advent wreath Liturgy before you put your Christmas decorations away. Read about the wise men.



TELLING GOD'S STORY

- Watch God's Story video part 1 with your children (7 minutes). Use this QR code here →
- Children and parents can interact with the story pieces while watching the video or use them to retell the story.



MARRIAGE & FAMILY

- Parents, watch the video with Dr. Russell Hall: "Begin with the End in Mind."



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN: WEEK 2

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FORMATION

Moms, choose a time to share your faith story with your children this month. Re-watch the 2-minute video at the end of Laura Hunter's December Formation video for a review on telling your story (2 minutes).



Gather for hot chocolate or tea and read the Hospitality Checklist. Discuss how your family can host another family in your home (or another setting). Schedule it on your calendar.

TELLING GOD'S STORY

Watch God's Story video part 2 with your children (9 minutes). Use this QR code here →



Read aloud the children's book If Jesus Came to My House

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Put this date on your calendar for 12 PM in Cordelia on Thursday, January 22nd with Dr. Russell Hall. Remember to register your children for childcare.



If you haven't watched the parent video yet, you can find it at this QR code -->.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN: WEEK 3

Gentle reminder that this is not a to-do list. Feel free to pick and choose what works for your family. The goal is connection over perfection.

FORMATION

- Make an invitation and plan to practice hospitality before the month is over.
- Mom, tell your faith story to the family this month. Dad, if you have not told your story, it is time. Let the children ask questions about your story (10 - 15 minutes).

TELLING GOD'S STORY

- Discuss some of your favorite stories about Jesus that aren't in this month's story. Why did you choose those stories?
- Toddlers can tell God's Story using the Rhyme Cards. Watch Steph Peterson's video here.



MARRIAGE & FAMILY

- Attend the discussion at 12 PM in Cordelia on Thursday, January 22nd with Dr. Russell Hall. Remember to register your children for childcare.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN: WEEK 4

Gentle reminder that this is not a to-do list. Feel free to pick and choose what works for your family. The goal is connection over perfection.

FORMATION

- If you haven't begun reading [The Spiritually Vibrant Home](#) yet, look at the chapter on hospitality. There are important reasons to make this a regular habit. Start reading on page 155.
- Review the "Age Level of Faith Formation" document in your resources. Every child matures spiritually at different ages. What belief topics have you discussed?

TELLING GOD'S STORY

- Families with youth, have you interacted with the Art Activity? This is a hands-on bonding experience.



MARRIAGE & FAMILY

- Have you implemented any ideas from Dr. Russell Hall's video and discussion time in Cordelia?

BONUS SECTION: DIGGING DEEPER

Browse these activities after you've completed your family engagement plan.



Scan this code to visit this month's Recommended Materials page, which includes links to purchase or watch these resources and many more for this month.

READ

- Teaching children hospitality booklet (located on the website, use QR code above)
- [The Spiritually Vibrant Home](#) (included in your resource bag)
- [If Jesus Came to My House](#) (included in your resource bag)

WATCH/LISTEN

- Video: Who would you wanna have dinner with the most, in the whole world? (on the materials webpage, QR code above)
Parents need to watch this. You will love it!
- Listen to the songs about the Family Table on our Materials Page.
You won't look at your table the same after you do.

ENGAGE

- Spend time digging into the articles, books and songs on the Recommended Materials page for January.
- Use your Hospitality Checklist and your Table Talk Tent for an experience you and your children won't ever forget.