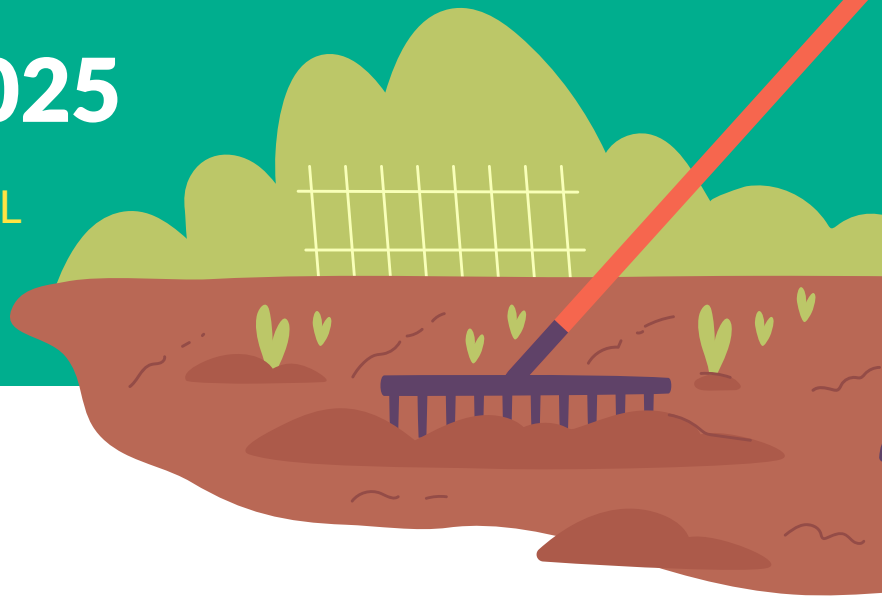


SEPTEMBER 2025

“TILLING THE SOIL OF OUR FAMILY GARDEN”



Spiritual Practice:
Prayer



Bible Story:
Creation



Memory Verse:
Luke 8:15

“But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”



INTRO TO THIS MONTH’S THEME

from Laura Hunter, GF Program Director

This month, our theme is “Tilling the soil of our family garden.” Parents, you are tilling the soil of your children’s hearts. A gardener tills the soil to prepare it for planting seeds to germinate, encouraging root growth, controlling weeds, and breaking up hardened ground. This month, we are thinking about how a parent prepares the soil of a child’s heart to receive the seeds of faith. As you pray over your child/children, ask God to give you wisdom to garden well.

- Your spiritual conversations will center around what a Christian believes.
- Your spiritual practice is prayer, and you will talk and listen to God in multiple ways this month.
- After watching the God’s Story video, you can practice telling the story together with your Creation cards.
- Your family has the opportunity to serve together this month on Saturday, September 20th. If you have time in your schedule, join other families in creation care.

John Westerhoff, a well-known theologian, professor, and author, said, **“What our children are really asking is for us to reveal and share ourselves and our faith, not to provide dogmatic answers.”**

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN: **WEEK 1**

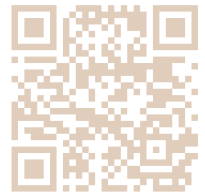
Gentle reminder that this is not a to-do list. Feel free to pick and choose what works for your family. The goal is connection over perfection.

September 1 - 6

FORMATION

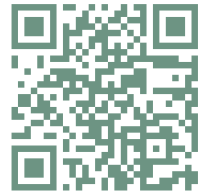
- Parents: read through the Family Engagement Plan and consider your family's schedule this month. Make a plan
- Watch the Formation introduction video (6 minutes)
- Open the September Resource Bag with your family

Scan these to watch videos on the website



TELLING GOD'S STORY

- Parents: open the 'Telling God's Story' script and read the introduction
- Watch the God's Story video for September (6 minutes)
- Eat the Creation snack or save it until next week



MARRIAGE & FAMILY

- Watch the video with Dr. Steve Stratton about Communication (17 minutes)



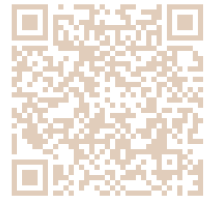
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN: WEEK 2

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

September 7 - 13

- ☐ Use your 'What do we believe as Christians?' curriculum page for a family discussion about Christian beliefs
- ☐ Listen to the songs by the Newsboys and Rich Mullins found on the Curriculum page



TELLING GOD'S STORY

- ☐ Interact with the story of Creation in some way this week

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

- ☐ Go over the worksheet connected to the Communication video
- ☐ Use the Speaker-Listener Technique with the floor in your resource bag (minute 9:50 in Dr. Stratton's video)



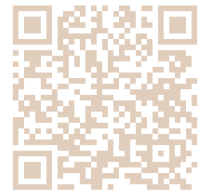
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN: WEEK 3

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.

September 14 - 20

FORMATION

- ☐ Parents, tell your children an example from your life when your Christian beliefs helped you walk through something difficult
- ☐ Watch one or more of Dr. Chris Kiesling's videos about Prayer Postures and practice them as a family



TELLING GOD'S STORY

- ☐ Serve together as a family this week: an optional choice is Creation Care on September 20th at the Community Garden on Kinghorn Dr. at 9:00 a.m. (with breakfast served!)

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

- ☐ Talk about your takeaways from the video and practice the Speaker-Listener technique
- ☐ Try TANGO as a way to speak and listen as partners (minute 12:36 in Dr. Stratton's video)



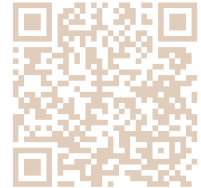
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN: WEEK 4

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.

September 21 - 27

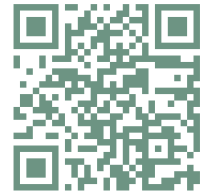
FORMATION

- ☐ Practice prayer postures taught by Dr. Chris Kiesling
- ☐ Read from the book(s) provided in your activity bag



TELLING GOD'S STORY

- ☐ Practice telling the story together using the creation cards or rewatch the video (6 minutes)



MARRIAGE & FAMILY

- ☐ Try using the Speaker-Listener technique while listening to your children (use your active listening skills)
- ☐ Write in your journal the key ideas you want to work on as a family

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

- ☐ [A Book of Prayers for Kids: Ways to Talk to God Every Day](#) by Mel Lawrenz
- ☐ Article: [Prayer Activities for Students](#)
- ☐ [Praying the Scriptures for Your Teens](#) by Jodie Berndt
- ☐ [Blog post](#): Creative Ways to Pray with Your Kids by 24-7 Prayer

WATCH/DO

- ☐ [Online Sacred Prayer Space](#)
- ☐ [God's Story: Prayer](#)
- ☐ [24-7 Prayer Youth](#)
- ☐ [Flame: Creative Prayer \(Activities\)](#)

LISTEN

- ☐ [The Lord's Prayer](#)
- ☐ [Five Finger Prayer](#)
- ☐ [Your Kingdom Come](#)
- ☐ [In Jesus' Name](#)