

NAZARENE ESSENTIALS—WEEK SEVEN PARENT’S GUIDE

Intentional Discipleship

To Parents: Weeks four through ten explore each of seven characteristics in kid-friendly language. These traits depict what should characterize every local Nazarene church. Intentional discipleship is helping people develop obedient intimate relationships with Jesus. In these relationships, Christ’s Spirit transforms their character into Christlikeness – changing new believers’ values into kingdom values, and involving them in His mission of investing in others in their homes, churches, and world.

Ask God to guide you as you explore with your children how to have good “soil,” so they may grow in Christ.

Lesson Objective: Being a follower of Jesus requires intentionality in thinking about Christ, becoming more like Christ, and doing what Christ does. Your child is learning about the different soils, as described in Luke, and to identify which soil they currently are and what is needed to be the healthy soil.

Bible Story with Discussion: The parable of the Sower, Luke 8:4-15

A parable is a story Jesus told in order to teach an important lesson. Jesus loved to tell parables. After telling a parable, He would then tell those listening what He wanted them to learn from the story. Read from Luke 8:4-15. Discuss with your child what type of soil they think they are? What kind of soil are you?

There are many ways to grow spiritually. Below are a few examples of ways to carve out time from your busy life to create space for God:

- Read the Bible.
- Pray daily.
- Listen to Christian music.
- Read Christian literature.
- Find an accountability partner who will pray every day that you will be Christlike.
- Find an accountability partner who loves you so much that they will ask you hard questions.
- Develop the discipline of regularly telling others what God is doing in your life.

Scripture Memory Verse: Mark 12:30

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30).

Personal Challenge:

Consider and discuss as a family what you might choose to do to grow spiritually from the list above.

PRAYER:

Dear Father, thank You for Your Word that teaches how to live in a way that pleases You. Help us grow in our relationship with You and know You better. In Jesus’ name, Amen.