The Value of Being Heard
When Sexuality and Gender Identity Take Center Stage at School

How to Talk With Your Child About GENDER
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BZZZ! BZZZ!
How many BEES can you find as you look through this devotional study guide? They are hiding everywhere!

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How to Use *Fusion Family*

*Fusion Family* is a devotional study guide for adults with children at home. This devotional magazine will help you integrate God’s truth and the Christian faith into your everyday life.

Yes, *Fusion Family* is new! In the D6 EveryDay Curriculum, we continue to emphasize that the church and the home must work together in discipling our families. This quarterly devotional study guide puts those tools at your fingertips.

**Daily Devotions**

Every day, devotional Scripture readings and thoughts focus on the family theme for the week. Since your school-aged children and teens are studying the same passage, you can focus on reinforcing truths throughout the week. The devotions are set up for the breakfast table (or dinner table, if that’s more your style)—where the family gathers, reads the Scripture and the devotion, and then answers **questions for teens** (in a different font color) or **children** (in the box at the end of each devotional). Don’t feel limited to these questions. Maybe they will launch other ideas and discussions for you and your children. Why not start a family prayer list or a praise calendar too?

With the devotions, you’ll find **journal prompts** each week. Use these to stimulate your thinking as you record your ideas—whether you are a “jot down a thought or a key word” journal writer or an “I want to tell you all about it” journal writer.

**Bible Basics** review an important verse, doctrine, or fact to build a foundational understanding of Scripture for your children. Review these often with your family.

**How It Fits** is a way to see the study passage each week in the context of the entire Bible.

**CarSeat Conversations** are aimed at parents of preschoolers. Their big idea, or “HeartPrint,” is included each week so you can capture teachable moments at home.

**TeenTalk** is a feature to help parents launch discussions with older kids still at home. Encourage participation by listening, but also lead your teens to God’s truth as you talk together.

**Family Link** gives you a suggestion for taking Bible truths off the page and into action. Use these as springboards to create memorable discipleship opportunities with your children. These ideas are generally aimed at school-aged children, but you can adjust them for your own kids.

Remember, the D6 EveryDay Curriculum has **daily devotional guides for each age group**, so encourage your children to study each day independently as well.

**Other Features and Columns**

**Gary Thomas** continues his practical, biblical advice for marriage and parenting in his Closer column.

**Dave Ramsey** still continues to give advice about finances in Common Cents.

**Natasha Crain**, from christianmommomthoughts.com, is a new columnist focusing on teaching our children apologetics—or providing a reasonable defense for what we believe about the Bible and Christianity.

Using the visual arts to reinforce truths will be apparent in two pages each quarter. **Infographic** will examine a cultural issue; **Suitable for Framing** will highlight a verse of Scripture.

**Articles** each month will look at truths and issues that matter to Christian parents. Some will be “cross-over” articles, intentionally focused on inviting your children into the discussion. Look for a sidebar with questions and activities for the family.

We’ll also include a **few smiles** tucked in the pages—chances to laugh together about funny things that happen at home and at church. A few surprises will show up each quarter too—to make your family look forward to receiving the magazine.

For those who want to take up the challenge of reading through the Bible in a year, we’ve included a **365-day, chronological Bible reading plan**. You can start in September with a “through-the-Bible-in-a-year” plan and finish the entire Bible by August 31!

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Thanks for joining us on the adventure!

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome. We would love to hear what you think!

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Write to us: FUSION Family, 114 Bush Road, Nashville, TN 37217

Phone us: 800.877.7030
How It All Began

Saturday & Sunday
Read Genesis 1:1 — 2:3

Where did we come from? Written by Moses, the book of Genesis answers this critical question.

1. **God is the Master Designer and Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1–25).**
   The very first page of the Old Testament introduces us to God and reveals His power. He created everything and stamped it with His approval. All of creation was good.

2. **Humans have a special place in creation (Genesis 1:26 — 2:3).** Humans are made in God’s image, an expression used of no other part of the creation. God gave us a perfect environment and meaningful work to do.

Our minds cannot get a grip on the power and extensiveness of God’s creation — it truly is too much for us to consider! But we can know that our great God, who created it all and sustains it all, is still in charge of it all. Our response must be praise!

God is great! You’ve heard that before. Chances are, you’ve said that before. But, have you ever really just sat and thought about what that means? We are more likely to go and do than we are to sit and think. While going and doing is good, sitting and thinking is also good because it often changes where we go and what we do.

14 WEEK 1: How It All Began
**Monday**
Read Genesis 9:1–17

A covenant is similar to a contract, but more binding. In a covenant, one party perpetually promises to do something for another party, to benefit or serve in a specific way. Throughout the Bible, God made covenants with humanity. In these covenants God, who spoke the world into existence and created human life, made binding promises to do something for the people He created.

We hear plenty of promises in an election year, but God’s promises are not like political promises for two reasons. First, God doesn’t need our vote to be God. Second, God always keeps His promises.

**What covenant did God make in Noah’s day (verse 11)?** What was the sign of this covenant (verses 12–13)? How does the consistency of this promise strengthen our confidence in God’s other promises? Our great God makes great promises to His people.

Quiz the Kids:
Who was God giving instructions to in these verses?

**Tuesday**
Read Exodus 20:8–11

The promise of rest is used often in Scripture to point to our eternal home. But God designed rest into the rhythms of our lives from the very beginning. Though He is never weary, though He never sleeps, God modeled rest for us in the same way He modeled work in the perfect world He created.

**So what does a day of rest look like for you?** Your rest may not be a nap; it may be some change of pace from the normal, some opportunity to do something different. Rest allows us to rejuvenate both physically and mentally, to strengthen our reserve for whatever is ahead. In God’s ultimate wisdom, He designed the rhythm of the sun and moon and stars and tides and seasons, as well as the need for rest and refreshment for human beings. We honor Him in our work, but we also honor Him in our rest.

**In the Ten Commandments, this is commandment number ___.**

**Wednesday**
Read Psalm 8:5–9

One of my favorite songs is “Majesty,” written by Jack Hayford. The song reportedly came about as Pastor Hayford traveled in Great Britain and reflected on many of the symbols of royalty there. After a visit to Blenheim Palace, Hayford thought about the sense of loyalty, love, and devotion we should give to Jesus because He is with us in the good times and the bad times. The one word that seemed to come to the forefront of Hayford’s mind was majesty.

**How did the psalmist describe God’s majesty in Psalm 8?** God’s majesty motivates us to worship Him. Spend some time praising God for His glory, grace, and excellence.

**Name some of the kinds of animals listed in these verses.**

Families who read these devotions together can have older children answer the highlighted questions and younger children respond to the “Quiz the Kids” questions in the boxes.
What kind of pressure do you feel at school or with friends to move away from a belief in Creation? Would you say you defend your belief in God as Creator, you believe it privately, you question it, or you reject it?

SEPT 10
Thursday
Read Psalm 136:3–9

What prompts you to thank someone? Do you say “thank you” often? Is expressing gratitude just a habit, something we’ve learned to say without really meaning it? And do you ever thank God? I mean more than just, “thank God, it’s Friday,” or “thank God, that’s over”? We have more reasons than we can count to thank God! What are some of the reasons the psalmist listed in this passage? God does mind-blowing things no one else can do, like designing the laws of the universe that keep galaxies aligned and keeping us alive on this planet. He sustains life in what seems to us a precarious biosphere. The oxygen level on earth is 21% of the atmosphere. If it were 25%, we would flame up spontaneously. At 15% we would suffocate. God’s astounding design and providential care are big-ticket items that ever prompt us to offer deep thanks.

What words are repeated over and over in these verses?
Friday
Read Ephesians 4:17–32

In a sense, our new birth is a re-creation. Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, human beings have been stained by sin, bearing its mark in our soul, psyche, and body. But when we come to faith in Christ we are made new creations in Him. In today’s Bible reading, Paul called those who were “in Christ” (believers) to live out their new creation status. He pointed out that those who are “in Christ” think differently (verses 17-21) and live differently (verses 22-32) from those who are apart from Christ. What makes the difference?

A great truth: God always empowers us to do whatever He wants us to do. List at least three commands God gave us in today’s Bible reading. In what way does being “in Christ” enable us to obey these commands? Those who are in Christ grow to become like Christ.

Why should we forgive one another? (See verse 32.)

See also:
Your preschooler’s Cuddle Time Bible Storybook has a story to read with your child titled, “God Made Everything.” This makes a great easy-reader for kindergarteners too.

CarSeat CONVERSATION

Heartprint: God Made Everything

When you open the window shade, say, “It’s daylight! Who made that?” Coach your child to respond, “God did.” When you see a beautiful sunset, a flower, or an autumn landscape, ask again, “Who made that?” and say together, “God did.” Repeat this activity often.

Preschoolers learn age-appropriate Bible lessons. Here are some ideas for reinforcing those truths.

“See also” lets you connect with other resources your children are using, keeping the spiritual conversation going.

Journal Prompt

God reflected on all of His creation and said, “It is good.” Why is this important?

How does knowing that people reflect the image of God help you to build relationships with others? How does it help you in dealing with your own inadequacies and imperfections?