



WEEK FOUR

ACTS 16:16-34

Paul and Silas tell the jailer about Jesus while they are prisoners.

SAY
THIS

WHO CAN TELL OTHERS
ABOUT JESUS?
I CAN TELL OTHERS
ABOUT JESUS.



DO
THIS

BATH TIME

Add one of your child's favorite water-safe toys to bath time. Encourage your child to pretend with the toy to go to different places (park, store, school, vacation spot, etc.) and tell people the big news that Jesus is alive.

REMEMBER THIS

"Go and make disciples of all nations."
Matthew 28:19, NIV

BASIC
TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

SHARE YOUR KIDS

by Melissa Thorson

I'm learning that friendship, as a parent, is even more life-giving (life-saving?) now than ever before. The trouble is, how do you find time and energy to invest in friendships when your time as a parent is so monopolized by caring for your kids.

Along with the constant advice to prioritize our marriages, be present with our babies, and lean into our careers, little attention is given to focusing on our friendships. And truthfully, there's something about trying to make new friends, as a parent, that seems even more intimidating. Now we aren't only putting ourselves on the line of potential rejection, we risk being sized-up for our parenting style or children's behavior.

It's easier to settle for a second-rate sense of "community." We can read a blog or join a secret Facebook group where we can post our most embarrassing questions about toddler bowel habits while we unload the dishwasher in our sweats, ne'er to be seen by a non-family human that day. These connections are a great way to be reminded we aren't alone, but they can't replace authentic, face-to-face friendship—the kind that is built on a couch over coffee.

It can feel risky to introduce yourself to the parent wrangling a child into a puddle-jumper at the pool or cheering on the sideline of the soccer field. It

can feel burdensome to come up with a menu and hide the clutter in order to invite people over for dinner.

But these initial steps are what build acquaintances who become friends who become family. I've never met someone who didn't want to be noticed and pursued. We are all busy, but someone has to take the first step to build adult friendship and family community.

So, invite some neighbors over for a clean-out-the-fridge potluck before going on vacation. Shake some hands at church and invite them to a bring-your-own-picnic in the park. No fancy prep needed—sometimes the more spontaneous and low-key the gathering, the more comfortable it is for guests.

Whether we reinvest in old friends or make new ones, inviting others into our lives opens the doors for powerful influence on our children. The people you invite over for s'mores today might end up being the sounding board for your angsty teen tomorrow. So, go ahead and text that person you've been hoping to get to know.

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