

BE DIFFERENT

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As a kid, I wanted everyone to know Jesus. I still do. But my evangelistic journey started out a little rocky. For example, I was the only kid who dressed up as a Christian singer for Halloween. I thought every cracker was meant for the Lord's Supper. I baptized my cats. Though all of these moments were sweet (and worth catching on videotape), my parents were careful to teach me how Jesus shines brightest not through forced conversations, but through the way we live our lives.



We live in a world that tells our kids that they can define for themselves what is true, right, and worthwhile. However, it is our responsibility to help them understand the world's standard is not necessarily God's plan. God calls us to have those hard conversations, not to shy away from them, but to shine light in dark places.

As a family, explore what it means to be God's light in the world day by day through these Biblical truths:

- Jesus came to be Emmanuel, God *with* us. When we let the love of Jesus enter our hearts, we let God work through us. ([Philippians 2:13](#); [Romans 8:28](#))
- Did Jesus say following him would be easy? No! What does it mean to truly follow Jesus? ([Matthew 16:24-25](#); [John 16:33](#))
- God does not want us to detach from the world, but to be his hands and feet in it. What does it mean to shine Christ's light? ([Matthew 5:14-16](#); [1 John 2:9-11](#))
- As a family, discuss the challenges we face as Christians in the world. How can we use the words in the Bible to encourage one another on a daily basis? ([John 14:27](#); [Philippians 4:8](#); [Hebrews 10:24-25](#))

God's Word urges us to show our love by what we do, not merely by what we say ([1 John 3:18](#)). Through the truth in the Bible, we can help our kids understand that love is not just a feeling. Love is an action. In the same way, light is not simply something we see. It is something we *are*, for God's glory and our good.

I'm thankful my parents helped me learn to follow Jesus by example. Through word and deed, they showed the world grace and truth as they held fast to their beliefs. When I let my love for Jesus inform my thoughts, conversations, and actions, other kids would often take note and ask me, "Why are you and your family so different?" I'd smile to myself, knowing Jesus put hope and light in my heart that couldn't help but shine through. After all, my parents taught me that the transformed lifestyle of a disciple begins in the heart, takes root in the home, and shines God's light brightly for the world to see.

Want to do a deep dive? Check out Family Fire's article [Follow Me As I Follow Christ](#)

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