

imitator parent guide

Our DNow Weekend is so close we can see it! We're so excited that you've encouraged and allowed your child to participate. It's going to be an amazing time of fun, community, and meaningful spiritual growth.

As promised, here is the document that will help you know exactly what your child will be learning over the course of the weekend. For each small group session your child will participate in, I've included both an overview of the content, and some suggested takeaways you might could utilize to help make sure your child is applying these truths in his or her life.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Again, thank you for your support and for the amazing job you do of steering your child's spiritual growth.

Imitator Small Group Session 1

The first small group session was entitled, "Be An Imitator," and focused on Ephesians 5:1-2. The point of the lesson was to build on the concept of being a God-imitator, and to help students grasp the *motivation* behind living as imitators.

Next Steps . . .

As you go through the week, find a few occasions to circle back around with your child, picking back up on some of the themes of the weekend.

- If you have the chance, read Ephesians 5:1-2 with your child. Have him or her share any reflections and recollections from the weekend that centered on these two verses. Try to help your child process some of what he or she learned.
 - Help him or her think about what applying this in his or her life looks like.
- Ask your child to explain to you what it means to him or her to be a child of God. Maybe you could share what you think it means, as well. Ask if they can remember how being a child of God is to be our motivation for imitating God.

Imitator Small Group Session 2

The second small group session was entitled, "The Call To Imitate," and focused on 1 John 2:15-17, 3 John 11, and Romans 12:2. The point of the lesson was to help students understand the fact that they will ultimately either imitate God or the world; there is no other option.

Next Steps . . .

- As you go through the weeks following the event, look for instances where you, or your child, or a mutual friend made a choice to follow God instead of "the world."
 - It may be someone choosing not to engage in a certain behavior, or choosing to show kindness or generosity to someone.
 - Draw attention to these instances and seek to engage your child in a conversation about how this shows someone making an actual choice to imitate God.
- As you "do life" with your child, look for times when there is tension between wanting to imitate the world and imitate God.
 - Part of helping your child apply these biblical truths in his or her life is to help your child be aware of the moments where he or she must choose which path to take.
- Share with your child times you had to make a tough decision to imitate God instead of imitating the world, even if you didn't make the right decision!
 - Opening up to your child about your spiritual highs and lows is one of the most powerful things you can do.

Imitator Small Group Session 3

The third small group session was entitled, "Show Some Love," and focused on Colossians 3:1-3, Matthew 12:33-35, and Galatians 6:7-10. The point of the lesson was to help students paint a picture of what a God-imitating life looks like in the world they live in, practically speaking.

Next Steps . . .

- As a family, brainstorm a list of ways that you as a family can show a Christ-like love to others.
 - This could be serving meals to the homeless, volunteering at an after school mentoring or tutoring program, or giving your time to one of your church's ministries.
- Ask your child to recall what he or she learned about the sacrificial nature of Christ's love.
 - Ask them how he or she can imitate Jesus' life of sacrificial, selfless love in their lives.
 - Help your child come up with a plan to follow through on any suggestions he or she makes.
- What if each person in your family identified one way he or she could make a personal sacrifice for the good of someone else?

Imitator Small Group Session 4

The fourth small group session was entitled, "Imitation With A Purpose," and focused on Galatians 5:16-25. The point of the lesson was to help encourage and motivate students by reminding them that the Holy Spirit is the source of their strength and power when it comes to living a God-imitating life.

Next Steps . . .

- Talk with your family over dinner or a car ride about the role of the Holy Spirit.
 - This doesn't have to be a deep theological conversation, though it certainly could!
 - As a family, think of some of the things the Holy Spirit does in the life of Christ-followers.
 - Talk about the idea of being empowered, the concept of the Holy Spirit literally giving us the power to live as God-imitators.
- Share a time in your life where you felt the leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - Talk about whether you followed the Spirit's leading or not, and what resulted.
- Ask your child if he or she has ever felt the Holy Spirit leading them to act.
 - Encourage your child to be listening for those moments in his or her life where the Spirit is empowering him or her to imitate God, and to respond in faith and obedience.