

TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION (TFT) RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Continuing Christian Education at Home

TFT can be summarized through the phrase: **"See the Story: Live the Story"**

We need to recognize that we are all part of God's Story. We are part of His Grand Narrative! And we are all invited to play a role in this unfolding Story. Once we know this fact, then our next step is to figure out how to play our part in this Story. TFT provides 10 ways to think about this and we call these ways Throughlines. We can be on the lookout for Throughlines in all areas of our life: on a walk outdoors, in the media that we consume, in the science that we study, in the books that we read. But it is not enough to just talk about the Throughlines, we need to invite students to BE the Throughlines. For example, as we learn about Community Building, we need to create opportunities to BE Community Builders.

You have probably heard about TFT already, as your child's teachers use this framework. The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (<https://pcce.ca/>), with the help of some of our fantastic member schools, has created some resources to help you integrate TFT into this new learning journey at home. Each week you will receive a new resource that will provide a Throughline for your family to dive into. The resource package will include an overview of the Throughline, Scripture connections, related songs, activities and digital resources. But what we are most excited about are suggestions for Formational Learning Experiences (FLEx), where your family will not just learn about the Throughline, but will have an opportunity to BE the Throughline. As your family engages in the activities, we invite you to post photos to Instagram and Twitter using the hashtags: #LivingtheStory #YourSchoolName #PCCE. Follow PCCE on Twitter and Instagram ([@prairiecentre](#)). It will be exciting to see what other families in our Prairie Centre community are doing. Maybe you'll get a great FLEx idea from someone in Fort McMurray or Portage LaPrairie.

As you begin the transition to working with your child at home, here are a couple Family Rhythms we encourage you to add to your routine:

1

MORNING MEETING

Spend a few minutes once per day and try these three things:

- **Name:** welcome each person by name so that everyone hears their name spoken in a positive manner. You can include a question for everyone to answer: your favourite part of yesterday, something you're looking forward to today, your favourite pizza, an emotion that you're feeling right now, a favourite joke. Let your children select questions too.
- **Game:** include something fun that gets people laughing and/or moving. There are lots of websites with team-building type activities if you want to try a few new things. Brain science recommends doing 10 minutes of vigorous physical activity at the beginning of the day to optimize learning and reduce behaviour management.
- **Frame:** end your circle with a reading that frames the learning for the day. You could use a scripture from the Throughline resource or another reading you find. Again, include your children in selecting and reading. Include a prayer time.

2

FRIDAY REFLECTION TIME

Take some time each Friday to reflect on the week. The attached resource has some questions to guide this discussion as it relates to the Throughline of the week. Reflections can be done orally, in written form, video, acted out - be creative!

WEEK 4 - SERVANT WORKING

SUMMARY Students will work actively to heal brokenness and bring joy to individuals and to culture.

GOING DEEPER

Students should learn to serve others by working actively to heal brokenness and bring joy and shalom. "As individuals, we are called to make a difference in the world, not just in private personal behaviour. We are also called to the restoration task as communities of believers. As redeemed image bearers we should be making a difference in the culture." (Donovan Graham)

Learning about God and His creation in itself is an act of restoration – as is showing hope, love, joy, peace, healing, overcoming, etc. Students need authentic opportunities in their learning to affect change, improve situations for people, build community, and meet needs. And the hope is that servant-working practice in school will create servant workers after graduation.

Being an image bearer means having the ability and responsibility to discover, respond to, develop, use, and improve the world that God has placed us in. This is true for the student just as it is true for the construction worker, the scientist, the truck driver, the accountant, the teacher.

We are to improve the world? Us? God has given us the gifts of ideas, skills, materials, and awareness in order to do just that. That's what we need to cultivate in our students and ourselves: the desire and ability to offer hope, healing, and restoration to this world and its people.

We are to be Christ's salt and light. We can't minister to a hurting world by pretending sin doesn't exist, and hiding in a make believe world of purity and beauty untouched by sin. "If we withdraw into the Christian ghetto the world will be darker, more tasteless and rotten for our absence... If Christians are not there to stop the rot, no wonder contemporary culture has more to say about decadence and disintegration than health and wholeness" (Art and Soul 61).

Being "salt and light" means our faith needs to be expressed in our work. We all can help to heal brokenness and bring joy. Sometimes this will be a response to an injustice, and sometimes it will be doing good things just for the sake of doing them. Sometimes these things will be easy for us to do and sometimes they will really push us out of our comfort zone – and both are great experiences!

BIBLICAL REFERENCES Could be used for devotions or memory work.

James 3:13

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

Matthew 20:28

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Other Passages to Ponder:

- Matthew 25
- Acts 20:35
- Luke 12:35 & 48b
- Ephesians 2:10
- John 13:12-17

WEEK 4 - SERVANT WORKING

SONGS

You can use these as part of your morning devotions or to play in the background during work

- [THE SERVANT SONG](#) (RICHARD GILLARD)
- [MAKE ME A SERVANT](#) (THE MARANATHA SINGERS)
- [HANDS AND FEET](#) (AUDIO ADRENALINE)
- [I WILL FOLLOW](#) (CHRIS TOMLIN)
- [MORE THAN AMAZING](#) (LINCOLN BREWSTER)
- [MORE LIKE JESUS](#) (PASSION)

ACTIVITIES

Ideas that you can connect to the learning that is happening or encourage in your student's free time.

- Collect items for a local charity
- Make an "Inspirational" poster - [ideas](#)
- Put a sibling's toys away
- Let a sibling go first
- Complete a sibling's chores
- Send a kind email to someone in your class
- Thank your local [Waste Management workers](#)
- Provide a microcredit loan ([Kiva](#))
- Learn your family's [love languages](#)
- Write a "servant" themed poem - [Ex. 1](#), [Ex. 2](#), [Ex. 3](#)
- Pray for someone in your community
- Do something for a parent without being asked
- Organize a family movie night (make & serve snacks, clean up before and after, make tickets, etc.)
- Teach your teacher about an educational tech tool
- Send an encouraging email/letter to someone from your church that lives alone

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Digital books, devotion ideas, online resources, blog articles, etc.

Student Focused:

- [Kindness Counts](#) - Read Aloud (Div 1)
- [A Chair For My Mother](#) - Read Aloud (Div 1-2)
- [Horton Hears a Who](#) - Read Aloud (Div 1-2)
- [The Invisible Boy](#) - Read Aloud (Div 1-2)
- [Do Something](#) - Music Video (Div 2-4)
- [The Giving Tree](#) - Short Film (Div 1-4)
- [A Servant Heart](#) - Youtube video (Div 3-4)
- [Live a Better Story](#) - Serve Videos (Div 3-4)

Teacher/Parent Focused:

- [Servant Worker: Making Smiles](#) - Blog
- [Jesus' Example of Servanthood](#) - Blog
- [Growing a Servant's Heart](#) - Devotion & Prayer
- [100 Bible Verse: Having a Servant's Heart](#) - Digital library
- [Kids Can Make a Difference](#) - Organization
- [The Girl Who Was Born Without "A Servant's Heart"](#) - Blog
- [35+ Service Projects for Kids](#) - Blog

FORMATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES (FLEX)

These are experiences that connect our learning/work to real people/problems (to go beyond our normal classroom walls). These are authentic opportunities for students to practice living the Kingdom story.

Check the website of/contact a local food service charity in your community (i.e., [Mustard Seed](#)) to see what is needed during this challenging time. Many of these organizations still need volunteers (e.g., delivery drivers, cooking teams, janitorial work, etc.) and have established safety measures for willing volunteers.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS/SENTENCE STARTERS

It is said that we don't learn from doing, but from reflecting on what we do. Give students time and space to reflect on their experiences and learning this week.

- How did you use your passions/skills/gifts to help others this week?
- What does it mean to be "salt and light" in this world?
- Why should we serve others?
- Who is somebody that could benefit from your help beyond this week?
- When was the last time someone helped you? Tell me about that experience.
- Where in the Bible did Jesus serve others?