

TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION (TFT) RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

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 1 - COMMUNITY BUILDING

SUMMARY

Students will be active pursuers and builders of communal shalom. Our classrooms will be communities of grace where students will walk and work together in a spirit of shalom.

GOING DEEPER

In our hectic, fast-paced, consumer-driven society, it's common to feel overwhelmed, isolated and alone. Many are re-discovering the healing and empowering role that community can bring to our lives. The sense of belonging we feel when we make the time to take an active role in our communities can give us a deeper sense of meaning and purpose.--

Robert Alan (American artist, writer and social activist)

Our students can be active pursuers and builders of community, in their classrooms, their neighbourhoods and in the global village they are part of. In fact they need to be.

Community – doing life with other people is not an option – it is how God made us.

Shalom (from Hebrew) – is more than just 'not fighting'.

The word we most use is "peace" but that doesn't quite describe the whole concept: it is more like fullness or completeness – how God intended things to be. One of the most clear and well-known biblical metaphors compares Christian community to a body. We need all the parts to work together in order to experience health.

We all know that maintaining a healthy body isn't something that just happens by itself. Attention must be paid to what we put into our body, how active we are and how we manage stress. Students need to learn and experience that community doesn't just happen either.

We need to pursue shalom – not just wait for community and peace to come to us, but to go out and make it happen. We need to build shalom– to be active and eager examples of peaceful/shalom-filled communities.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES **Could be used for devotions or memory work.**

I Corinthians 12:12

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.

Ephesians 4:1-6

There is one body and one Spirit...

John 17: 22-23

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

(This comes from Jesus' prayer for believers.)

Other Passages to Ponder:

- **I Peter 4:10-11**
- **Psalm 133:1**
- **Ecclesiastes 4:10**

WEEK 1 - COMMUNITY BUILDING

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

- [IF WE ARE THE BODY](#) (CASTING CROWNS)
- [MAKE US ONE](#) (JESUS CULTURE)
- [BY OUR LOVE](#) (FOR KING AND COUNTRY)
- [FAITH OF OUR FATHERS](#) (REDEMPTION CITY CHURCH)
- [HERE FOR YOU](#) (MATT REDMAN)

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

- Pray together
- Talk about the meaning of "shalom"
- Make something for someone (food, building/fixing something)
- Play something someone else wants to
- Resolve a conflict
- Giving people compliments
- Sharing (skills, knowledge, work, possessions, etc.)
- Singing together
- Forgive someone
- Clean up together
- Teach something new to someone (helping a sibling with school work)
- Encourage someone
- Join #caremongering online - share good news, make people laugh, sing, dance, encouraging Bible verse

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

- Elementary:**
- [Rainbow Fish](#) (digital book)
 - [Stone Soup](#) (digital book)
 - [37 More Community Building ideas](#) (blog)

- Middle/High/General:**
- [Anti-Bullying Activities and Resources](#) (website)
 - [We are Community](#) (short video)
 - [Kidblog & Edublog](#) (Blog writing sites)
 - [Whatever Happened to Community](#) (blog post)
 - [6 Costs of Real Friendships](#) (blog post)
 - [One Another - blog post](#) (lots of Bible verses)
 - [Sanctification is a Community Project](#) (blog post)
 - [A Hot Tub and a Broken Toe](#) (blog post)

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.

Think/pray together to decide on someone that may need encouragement/connection/love at this time (e.g., nursing homes, hospitals, medical care professionals, etc.). Reach out as a family (or if a student is old enough have them reach out themselves) and see how you can help them through this time. Some things you could do: write a letter, make a card, shovel their driveway, phone interview them and write a short biography to read back to them, set up a daily video chat and read to them, etc. Use this as an opportunity to build community with someone that needs it.

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 have you pursued shalom this week?
 - What has God taught you about being in community this week?
 - Why do you think building community is so important to God?
 - Who should we try to build community with?
 - When was the most difficult time for you to build community this week?
 - Where in your curriculum did you learn more about Community Building this week?