

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!

DEEP HOPE

WHAT IS A "DEEP HOPE"?

In Teaching for Transformation, when we refer to a "Deep Hope," we're referring to statements that summarize our most important desires for our students. What is it that we would want our students to remember 25 years from now about their experiences in our classrooms? Writing a "Deep Hope" is an exercise that many of our teachers are using to ensure that they prioritize the things that should matter most in their classrooms. In our Christian schools, we ask teachers to ensure that their "Deep Hopes" are rooted in God's story, align with their school's mission/vision and are inspired by their own story (should be something that they are passionate about).

Check out some of the examples Edmonton Christian School teachers have created [here](#).

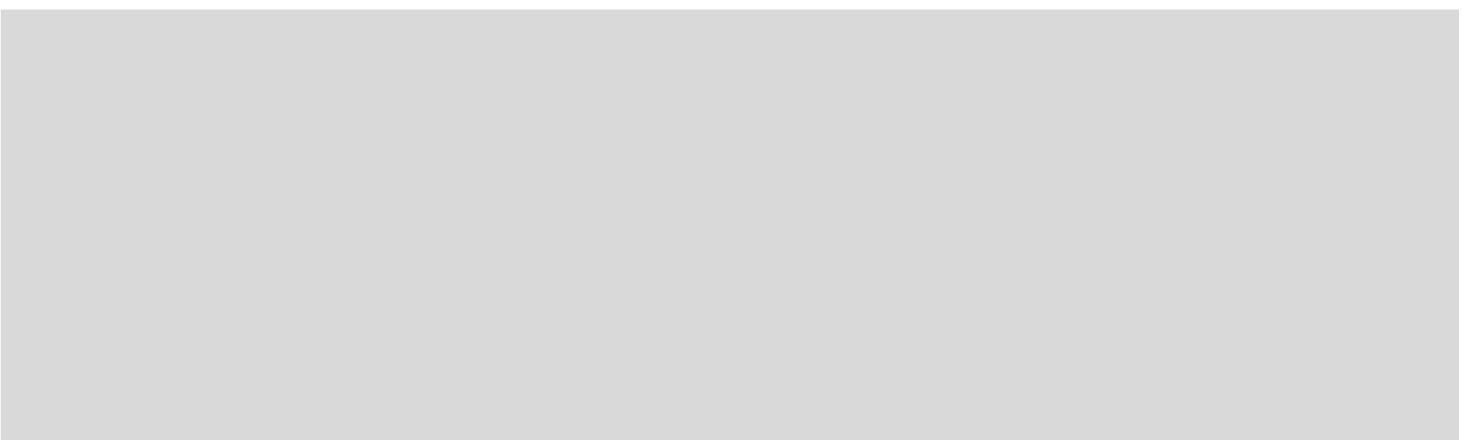
As you find yourself grappling with helping your family navigate this unique chapter in God's story, it can be beneficial to think about crafting a Deep Hope for your family. This exercise can help prioritize your time together and maybe allow you to let go of some of the "stuff" that may be causing unnecessary stress at this time.

THINKING ABOUT YOUR DEEP HOPE

Spend some time in prayer (either alone or with your family):

- What do we want our child(ren) to remember 25 years from now about this time together?
- How do we want to spend our time together?
- How might God be using this time to refocus our family?
- What could this chapter in God's story be teaching us about God, His world and our place in it?

In the space below, write down some of your initial thoughts. What came to mind right away when you thought of your deepest hopes for your child(ren)? What words/phrases did you find yourself reflecting on during your prayer time? What stood out to you as you read through the examples from Edmonton Christian or your own child(ren)'s teacher(s)?



Spend some time this week going through the resources on the next page with the goal of having a "Deep Hope" written by the end of the week. Invite your family into the process.

EXPLORING DEEP HOPE

1. Here is a [collection of words & phrases](#) that you could use as inspiration for writing your "Deep Hope." Choose 5-10 words/phrases that resonate with you and use those as inspiration for your "Deep Hope."
2. Have a family discussion about the meaning of life. Watch [this video](#) that summarizes the book of Ecclesiastes and/or read the book of Ecclesiastes for devotions.
 - o What is the meaning of life?
 - o What is "Hevel" in your life?
 - o What is the purpose of learning/school?
3. Reflect on this quote from James K. A. Smith (Desiring the Kingdom): "The primary goal of Christian education is the formation of a peculiar people - a people who desire the kingdom of God and thus undertake their life's expression of that desire."
 - o What do you agree with in this text?
 - o What do you want to argue with in this text?
 - o What do you want to aspire to in this text?
4. Read Brian Doornenbal's blog post, "[Curbside Hopes](#)."
 - o What are your deepest hopes for your child(ren) when you send them to school?
 - o If you don't already know, find out what your child(ren)'s teacher's Deep Hope is.

Bonus Activity

5. Read [A Million Miles in A Thousand Years](#) by Donald Miller.
 - o If not anything else, read chapter 9. Here is a [short recap](#)/blog response to Chapter 9: "How Jason Saved His Family."
 - What story are you inviting your child(ren) into?
 - o [Audiobook version](#)

WRITING YOUR DEEP HOPE

Here's your chance! In the space below, express your Deep Hope for your child(ren) or family.

I HAVE A DEEP HOPE...NOW WHAT?

1. Share your Deep Hope with your family.
2. Encourage your child(ren) to write a Deep Hope. If they already wrote one in school this year, has it changed in light of today's situation?
3. Share your Deep Hope on social media and invite others into this exercise.
4. Display it in your home.
5. Use it to make decisions about how you spend your time together:
 - o How can you ensure your Deep Hope is realized?
 - o What should you stop, start and continue doing?