

FORERUNNER

..... Families

(Week 2) Family Forerunner Series

Invite

Leader's Tip:

The key to this week is making sure everyone understands the plan and direction, and encouraging your members that it is not too late to start. The Lord meets us where we are; not where we desire to be.

The Win:

Accepting the call on our lives as parents to step into an intentional discipleship plan for our children.

Ask these warm-up questions:

- Share a time in your life when you established a plan to achieve a goal, and what was that experience like (ex. Fitness, diet, budget, etc....)?
- Why is it important that as parents we establish a clear and intentional discipleship plan for our children?

Read The Text:

Psalm 90:12 *“Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.”*

- What does it mean to “number our days”, and why do you think Moses sees this as a catalyst for wisdom?

Read aloud the various stages:

FEEL THE FAITH (0-2 Years): (Parenting Role: Protector/Nurturer)

Infants and toddlers associate spaces, places, and experiences with feelings. This allows parents and church leaders to help our kids associate faith moments and environments with positive feelings of love, joy, safety, curiosity, and playfulness.

BUILD THE FAITH (3-5 years): (Provider/Director)

As 3–5-year-olds continue in their physical and spiritual development, they are internalizing all kinds of new information at an incredibly rapid pace. To coincide with their growing curiosity and ability to engage broader concepts, we want to begin introducing foundational faith elements in a myriad of different ways. Faith talks, prayer, scripture, and community experiences should be introduced and normalized both at home and at church.



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DEFINE THE FAITH (6-9 years): (Teacher/Corrector)

In the heart of their elementary years, kids need opportunities to deepen their understanding of faith in both intellectual and experiential mediums. Broader concepts of “Jesus loves you” move into deeper conversations of salvation, sin, serving, and worship. Parents and church leaders can help facilitate opportunities to teach AND expose our kids to deeper levels of familiar concepts.

EXPERIENCE THE FAITH (10-13 years): (Guide/Accountability)

Our pre-teens and middle schoolers need to understand that faith is not just about what we believe, but what we do. With a firm grasp on concepts, we want to push them into environments that will bring these tenets of faith to life. Giving our kids opportunities to serve, worship with adults, share their faith, and take the Lord’s Supper are just a few examples of living what they’ve been learning!

LIVE THE FAITH (13-16 years): (Model/Motivator):

At this stage, we need to motivate our teenagers to begin embracing their faith as their own. We must encourage spiritual disciplines, Biblical community, personal evangelism, and a willingness to wrestle with the harder realities of living out their faith in a culture of disbelief. However, information is no longer enough. Inspiration and modeling play a huge role. Our teenagers can spot inauthentic and disconnected believers from a mile away – both at home and in the church. Exposure to and relationships with authentic, growing, and transparent believers is critical.

OWN THE FAITH (16-18 years): (Coach/Resource)

As students near the end of their high school journeys, their natural desire for independence will leave them open to influence, but resistant to control. During these final years in the home, parents and church leaders have the opportunity to equip their students with the necessary tools for living out their faith after they leave the home.

Ask The Following Questions:

- What stage(s) are you currently in? What shifts do you feel like you need to make in your approach as a parent in order to help prepare your kid for the path in this season?
- Understanding that the Lord has chosen YOU to be the primary disciple-maker for your children, what are the current fears, or barriers, you feel as you consider stepping into this pathway?



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- You have heard it said, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Though you are the PRIMARY disciple-maker of your child, the local church also has a responsibility to come alongside you in this process. What could this look like practically within the context of your small group?

Listen to This Song:

“I Get Overwhelmed Sometimes”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1xCGaL8YM8>

Ask The Following Questions about the Song.

- When you feel stressed, overwhelmed, or inadequate, where is the place you turn to get help?
- What is something as a parent that you need to surrender to the Lord so that you can learn to trust Him more deeply?

Closing Thoughts:

- Prayer is our strongest weapon! Take some time for everyone to share where they are needing prayer right now as a parent and pray over each other.

Closing Prayer

“Lord, you do not expect perfection, for Christ has been that on our behalf. But, you have entrusted us to steward the time we have with our children to raise up Godly, mature followers of Christ. Grant us the grace and intentionality we need to do all that we can to point our children to you.”

