“Partnering With Parents To Help The Next Generation Find Their Joy In Jesus Christ”

Our Next-Gen team exists to partner with parents to help the next generation find their joy in Jesus Christ. We believe that life is found in God alone, and that God has commissioned dads and moms with the awesome and weighty responsibility to raise their children to know and follow God. Deuteronomy 6:4–7 says it this way...

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

Deuteronomy 6:4–7

It is our joy and desire to come alongside of parents and partner with you in this process! The family discipleship plan is a tool to help you as you disciple your children in the everyday triumphs and trials of life. We believe in you and are here for you during the awesome journey of parenthood!
PURSUING LIFE CHANGE

Moving from being a sinner separated from God, to becoming a follower of Jesus Christ, to becoming a disciple maker is no simple task. There are no five-step methods to accomplishing spiritual formation. Having an abiding relationship with Jesus is a lifelong pursuit. The good news is that it is a pursuit of joy.

The goal of gospel-centered parenting is for our children to know God live their lives to make Him known. God has not given us our children so that we can parent for their daily happiness or success by worldly standards. He has instead given us the awesome and weighty privilege of teaching them to love Him, to find their joy in Him, and to see themselves as His missionaries in all of life.

As a parent, the charge to teach your children to “love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, and might” is not an easy one, but a good one. While there are so many things that go into creating and initiating a discipleship plan with your family, there are four aims that every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, guardian, or even child can lean into during this process. These aims are things that God’s Word tells us that we should pursue to know, feel, do, and want in our relationship with God.
The “know” section of the family discipleship plan is built around knowledge about God and His Word. These are things that are crucial for every child and family TO KNOW about the Lord during each phase of life. The goal is that every family would have a comprehensive knowledge of who God is, the main storyline of scripture, what it means to find your identity in Jesus Christ, and how to leverage the influence of your life for God’s glory. Ultimately, it is our desire that every child and family would have a love for and comprehensive understanding of God’s Word.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16–17

The “feel” section of the family discipleship plan is built around experiences that lead to affections for God. These are things that are crucial for every child and family TO FEEL towards God during each phase of life. The goal is that families would leverage events, trips, experiences, and the everyday moments of life to become a catalyst for affections of wonder, awe, delight, burden, and love for God and others. Ultimately, it is our desire that every child and family would experience the unconditional love of God, and would respond in an authentic lifestyle of worship.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!” Psalm 103:1

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:17–19

The “do” section of the family discipleship plan is built around capabilities that are attained through a personal pursuit of God. These are things that are crucial for every child and family to have the ability TO DO in response to God and His Word during each phase of life. The goal is that every family would be equipped to do things like study and memorize God's Word, be able to articulate the message of the gospel, and be able to serve others with the spiritual gifts that God has given them. Ultimately, it is our desire that every child and family would be able to leverage their life for the glory of God.

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

The “want” section of the family discipleship plan is built around convictions that flow out of an abiding relationship with God. These are things that are crucial for every child and family TO WANT during each phase of life. The goal is that every family would have desires that would motivate them to want to do things like wanting to know more about who God is, wanting to study His Word, and wanting to share the gospel with those who are far from God. Ultimately, it is our desire that every child and family would be driven by convictions that flow out of an understanding of who God is and what He has done for them.

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.” 2 Corinthians 5:14–15
# Family Discipleship Plan

## Foundation: God Is One

The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Deuteronomy 6:4

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOD IS</th>
<th>GOD GIVES</th>
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<tr>
<td>God Is Father</td>
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<td>God Gives Security</td>
<td>God Is Redeemer</td>
<td>God Gives The Church</td>
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## Story: The Gospel

The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

Romans 1:16

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<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
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<td>God Created We Broke God's Creation</td>
<td>God Is Fixing Creation</td>
<td>God Offers A New Creation</td>
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<td>God Rules Creation We Are Separated From God</td>
<td>God Provides Mercy &amp; Grace</td>
<td>God Offers New Relationship</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>God Created Me We Are Broken In Our Sin</td>
<td>God Is Our Rescuer</td>
<td>God Offers New Life</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>God Created Family We Are A Broken Family</td>
<td>God Provides Adoption</td>
<td>God Offers A New Family</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>God Is Life We Are Dead In Our Sin</td>
<td>God Is Our Substitute</td>
<td>God Offers Eternal Life</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>God Has A Plan For Us We Rejected God's Plan</td>
<td>God Provides Reconciliation</td>
<td>God Offers A New Mission</td>
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## Identity: I Am In Christ

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

Galatians 2:20

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<td>I Am In Christ</td>
<td>I Am Growing</td>
<td>I Am In Purpose</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>I Am An Image Bearer</td>
<td>I Am A Part Of A Family</td>
<td>I Am Living As An Alien</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>I Am Called</td>
<td>I Am An Ambassador</td>
<td>I Am Living In Confidence</td>
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## Influence: I Live For Jesus

...that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9
The preschool years are a time of foundation. Everything that will happen in their lives is built upon what they learn during these formative years. This season of life is also a time for spiritual foundation. It is during this season of life that it is crucial for children to begin learning who God is. While they may not be able to understand the complexities of the faith, they can begin to understand that God is love.

During the preschool years of the family discipleship plan, parents and teachers have the opportunity to help a child begin to understand what God is like, how He demonstrates His character to us, and how we are to respond to who He is. There are sixteen foundation principles that are covered annually over the span of three to four years in the plan.

The goal is that children will be able to move from this phase to the next one with a basic understanding of who God is. Just like seeds in the soil over time produce plants and fruit, the hope is that learning these principles about God during these early years will lead to an abiding relationship with Him in the future.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7
PHASE OF LIFE

“Preschoolers think like an artist. They experience the world through activities that stimulate the five senses. They blend reality with imagination and learn through participation. A baby’s brain has more neurons than at any other time in life, and those neurons are forming two million synapses every second. In this phase they are mildly aware of everything in their environment, and they take it all in at an unfathomable pace. In the first five years of a child’s life, a child forms impressions about themselves and the world. The way a child resolves the “Am I” questions of these phases establishes a critical foundation for the future. It shapes how a child trusts others, how confident they feel about their own abilities, and how they internalize motives for behavior and self-control.” (It’s Just A Phase Reggie Joiner & Kristen Ivy).

During the preschool years the hope is that children would begin to know who God is. They need to know that He is the one true God, He is the creator of all things, and that He is good. This is a critical time in a child’s life for them to begin developing a general knowledge of God’s Word as well.

During the preschool years the hope is that children would begin to want to trust God and know more about Him. As they learn more about God’s Word and spend time with God’s people they can begin to develop desires like wanting to know more about who God is, wanting to go to church, and wanting to sing songs of praise.

During the preschool years the hope is that children would begin to feel affections for God. Everyday is an opportunity to leverage the moments and experiences we are giving to inspire affections of wonder and awe toward God in the lives of preschoolers. This is a critical time in a child’s life to experience the love, safety, and security in a human relationship that helps them understand that these things are found in God.

During the preschool years the hope is that children would begin to be able to do things for God. Even at a young age children can begin to memorize portions of God’s Word, sing praises to Him, and to show love and kindness towards others while recognizing that God is in these things. This is a critical time to intentionally begin equipping children with capabilities that will one day develop into spiritual disciplines.

RESOURCES

- Jesus Story Book Bible
  - Sally Lloyd Jones
- Show Them Jesus
  - Jack Klumpenhower
- Everything A Child Should Know About God
  - Kenneth Taylor
- Apparent Privilege
  - Steve Wright
- God Marriage And Family
  - Andreas Kostenberger
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<tr>
<td>God is Truth - John 17:17</td>
<td>God Gives The Bible - 2 Timothy 3:16</td>
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<td>God is Father - 1 Corinthians 8:6</td>
<td>God Gives a Family - 1 John 3:1</td>
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<td>God is Son - John 20:31</td>
<td>God Gives A Rescuer - John 14:6</td>
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<td>God is Known - John 1:14</td>
<td>God Gives Wisdom - Proverbs 2:6</td>
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<td>God is Creator - Isaiah 40:28</td>
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<td>God is Powerful - Jeremiah 32:17</td>
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<td>God is Holy - 1 Samuel 2:2</td>
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<td>God is Just - Deuteronomy 32:4</td>
<td>God Gives Mercy - James 2:13b</td>
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<td>God is Satisfied - Romans 14:11</td>
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<td>God is Love - 1 John 4:16</td>
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<td>God is Gracious - Titus 2:11</td>
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<td>God is Joy - John 15:11</td>
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<td>God is Savior - Isaiah 43:11</td>
<td>God Gives Adoption - Ephesians 1:5</td>
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<td>God is Redeemer - Isaiah 49:26</td>
<td>God Gives The Church - 1 Corinthians 12:27</td>
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**GOD IS**

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.  
Deuteronomy 6:4

**GOD GIVES**

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17

**Description:**
God is more powerful than anyone or anything else in the universe. His power is simply the ability to do what He desires to do. God has a purpose, will accomplish it, and His purposes always bring Him glory. Since God is the source of all power it means that He gives us strength. We need to do the things He calls us to do. Paul says in Philippians 4:13 that he can “do all things through Christ who gives him strength.” That means that we can do anything and endure anything that God calls us to because it is God Himself who is giving us His strength to do it.

**Application:**
Because God is the ultimate source of power, we know He will accomplish everything that He desires to do. We can walk in confidence because God is all powerful. His power also means that nothing can or will stop Him from doing what He is doing. This is good news for us, because it means that we can trust in Him no matter what we face in life. His power helps us see that we can follow Him faithfully because when we are doing the things God wants us to do, He gives us strength to do them. We can be confident that we have the greatest source of power supporting us.
Description:
God does not just know what is true, He is truth. When God speaks, everything He says comes into being. The God who spoke everything into existence determines what is true and what is false. In His grace, God not only is truth, but also gives us the chance to know what is true by speaking. God speaks through His Word, the Bible, and the message of the Bible is given to us by Him. The Bible allows us to know what is true, what is false, and gives us knowledge of the truest thing in the universe, Himself.

Application:
The Bible is the very word of God, and this means that everything in it is 100% true. That means that the best thing we can do is learn what is has to say and live in obedience. Just like God Himself, what is in the Bible is unchanging, without error, and will last the test of time. Not only is it inerrant, but it is also the ultimate authority for us. We can rest assured that His promises will come true, and that the Bible holds the keys to a joy-filled life.

Description:
God is our heavenly Father. The Bible teaches that God is three in one; He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Father, God rules over all things, is greater than all things, and loves sinful people by sending His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place. God becomes the Father of those who place their faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that God is the perfect Father who lovingly adopts us into His family through faith in His Son. Because God is Father we can become a part of a new family that will last forever.

Application:
Since God is the perfect Father who rules over creation, we obey His word knowing that everything God commands us to do is for our good and for His glory. God being a perfect Father also means that we can trust Him. Even though things happen in our lives that we do not understand or may not like, we can trust God because He is always a good Father to His children. Knowing that God gives His people a new family (the church) causes us to want to be a part of God’s family. We should want to spend time with other people who love God and are a part of His family because they help us to learn more about Him, and help us know how to obediently follow Him.
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

Description:
God not only exists as Father, but also as Son. Jesus is the Son of God. Through the incarnation (putting on flesh), Jesus became fully God and fully man. There has never been and never will be a man like this. Even though Jesus was fully God, He chose to empty Himself and submit to the will of God the Father. God sent His son to be our rescuer. This is only possible through Jesus’ sacrificial death in our place on the cross. The good news is that Jesus did not stay dead, but rose from the grave defeating sin and death!

Application:
Because Jesus was fully man, He understands us. He has felt our pain, faced the same temptations we face, and carried the burdens we carry. We can take comfort in the fact that God knows what we are going through. This truth also helps us to see that just as Jesus lived and never sinned, we do not have to be victims of our circumstances. In all things we have a choice to obey and pursue God. Even in our failures and sin we can find hope because God has sent a rescuer to save us. Salvation comes by grace alone, in faith alone, through Jesus Christ alone.

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:24

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. John 14:26

Description:
God not only exists as Father and Son, but also as Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is probably the most difficult person of the trinity for us to grasp because it is the concept most unfamiliar to us. The Bible tells us that God is Spirit. The Holy Spirit is fully God, active, alive, and at work today in the lives of those who place their faith in God. Jesus told the disciples that it was far better for Him to leave the world than to stay, because God would send the Holy Spirit to indwell them, lead them, and work in them. God does not leave us on our own as Christians, but has sent us a helper, the Holy Spirit.

Application:
The Holy Spirit is good news for Jesus followers. His presence means that God is with us always, and this knowledge brings comfort and hope at all times. The Holy Spirit speaks to us through and helps us to understand God’s Word. This is why it is so important for Christians to spend time reading, meditating, and learning about the Bible. The Holy Spirit also convicts us of sin. He helps keep us from evil, and directs us to things that are good and bring glory to God. We can and should trust the Holy Spirit.
Description:
God does not hide His existence from humanity. Although sin has broken our relationship with God, He still reveals Himself to us in many ways. He reveals Himself through His creation, through His Word, the Bible, and through Jesus His Son coming to earth as a man. Jesus is the image of the invisible God, and He lived on earth as a man, experiencing the world just like we do. Not only is God known by us, but He gives us wisdom to know Him. Wisdom is taking truths about God's Word and applying them in our daily lives. Because God has revealed Himself, we can know who He is, who we are, how creation reflects His glory, and how we are to live for Him.

Application:
Since God exists and is known, we have an opportunity to learn about Him through the world we live in. We should pursue knowing Him where He has revealed Himself. When we see something good in creation, we should ask what it tells us about God. Understanding that God is known also challenges us to read the Word of God and learn about who He is, who we are, and what God is doing in the world. We then seek wisdom from God to apply these truths into our everyday lives.

Description:
Everything that is and that existed was created by God. All of creation He created from nothing. He created everything for the purpose of bringing glory to His name, and after He created He declared everything He made to be good. Since God is creator, it is He who gives life to all things, including us. Our lives and the purpose for our lives is found in Him.

Application:
Since God created everything, we can learn about God through creation. The sun, moon, forest, mountains, oceans, plants, and animals all carry His power and lead to wonder and awe for who He is. From creation we know that He exists, and we can learn things about His character. Because God is creator it also means that He created me, and He created me for a specific purpose. Our lives are not an accident. Since He is the author and sustainer of all things we can also rest confidently and take comfort in the fact that He is in control and He is a good Father to His creation.
GOD IS POWERFUL

‘Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. Jeremiah 32:17

Description:
God is more powerful than anyone or anything else in the universe. His power is simply the ability to do what He desires to do. God has a purpose, will accomplish it, and His purposes always bring Him glory. Since God is the source of all power it means that He gives us strength. We need to do the things He calls us to do. Paul says in Philippians 4:13 that he can “do all things through Christ who gives him strength.” That means that we can do anything and endure anything that God calls us to because it is God Himself who is giving us His strength to do it.

Application:
Because God is the ultimate source of power, we know He will accomplish everything that He desires to do. We can walk in confidence because God is all powerful. His power also means that nothing can or will stop Him from doing what He is doing. This is good news for us, because it means that we can trust in Him no matter what we face in life. His power helps us see that we can follow Him faithfully because when we are doing the things God wants us to do, He gives us strength to do them. We can be confident that we have the greatest source of power supporting us.

GOD GIVES STRENGTH

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

GOD IS KEEPER

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

Description:
God is keeper over all His creation. That means that God is not only greater than creation, but He is present in it. Everything in creation is held together by God Himself. Not only is God keeper of His creation, but He also keeps His promises. We can live confidently and securely knowing that He is in control and holds all things together for His glory. He has promised to redeem a people to himself, to finish the work He starts in believers, and to make all things new. When God starts something, we can rest securely in the fact that He will bring it to completion.

Application:
We can worship God knowing that we have security in this life because we know that He is in control of and keeping all things. There are always times in life when everything seems to be falling apart. Even in these times, we rest secure knowing that God is present and holding everything together. God gives us security by not only keeping his creation, but by keeping his promises. We can also rest securely knowing that even as bad as we are, God kept His promise to make a way to save us from our sin.

GOD GIVES SECURITY

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. Psalm 62:1-2
GOD IS HOLY

There is none holy like the Lord:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God. 1 Samuel 2:2

Description:
God is holy. This means that He is separate from all of creation. There is nothing like Him in existence and nothing that can ever be compared to Him. He is complete, perfect, and separate in every single way possible. God commands that His people are to “be holy just as He is holy.” In our imperfection there is no way we can be holy, but in God’s grace He gave His people the law. The law points us to who God is, our need for Him, and that our only hope to become holy like God is through the shedding of innocent blood on behalf of the guilty.

Application:
God's holiness is to be revered and praised. There is nothing that can even compare to God because there is nothing similar. When we begin to see God for who He really is, we begin to see ourselves for who we truly are. That means feeling the weight of our guilt and shame due to our sin. Through reading God's law we understand our inability to save ourselves from our sin, and also see the hope of redemption that is promised in the coming of a substitute for sin.

GOD IS JUST

The Rock, his work is perfect,
for all his ways are justice.
A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,
just and upright is he. Deuteronomy 32:4

Description:
Every decision that God makes is perfect and completely just. He is a good judge whom cannot and does not allow evil to go unpunished. This means that God must punish injustice. The problem that we all face is that we are unjust sinners. We deserve justice. God’s justice is why we need a substitute, and He sent Jesus to become that substitute. Instead of justice, those who place their faith in Jesus receive mercy.

Application:
God's justice means we know that everything in the world will be made right one day. Nothing evil in the world will go unpunished. We also don’t ever have to fear God's punishment in our own lives because we know Jesus took our place. This means when we sin, we can run to God for comfort instead of running away and hiding from him. Understanding the mercy that we have been shown by God also helps to be able to show mercy to those who do not deserve it.
**GOD IS SATISFIED**

*for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” Romans 14:11*

**GOD GIVES A SUBSTITUTE**

*but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

**Description:**

God is holy and just. Everything He does is right and good. In His holiness and justice, He must punish injustice. His righteous wrath (anger against sin) must be satisfied. Sin and rebellion cannot be ignored or looked over. It must be dealt with, and we as guilty sinners deserve God’s wrath to be poured out on us. Thankfully, God, in His mercy, chose to forgive us. The only way He could do this was by punishing Jesus in our place. He sent His Son to be a substitute for our sin in order to rescue us. Jesus bore the punishment that we deserve.

**Application:**

As Jesus followers, we do not have to live in fear that God is angry with us or looking to get back at us every time we sin. When Jesus died on the cross in our place, He paid the penalty for all of our past, present, and future sin. This knowledge also motivates us to pursue godliness and to run from sin because we understand the grace we have received from God in Jesus. We can live lives of worship and thanksgiving knowing that our debt has been paid and the Father’s wrath is satisfied.

**GOD IS LOVE**

*So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 1 John 4:16*

**GOD GIVES HIMSELF**

*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10*

**Description:**

God is love. Love is not just something that God does, it is who He is. God’s love is perfect and unchanging. It is not simply an emotion or feeling, but it is an unbreakable commitment. His love is displayed to humanity and all of creation by giving us the greatest gift in all the universe….Himself! Even when humanity rebelled against God, he still displayed his love and commitment to us by sending Jesus to redeem us. God’s character of love is displayed throughout human history in that he loves us even when we do not love him back. The way that God demonstrates His love for us is by sending Jesus to die in our place.

**Application:**

God’s love teaches us what true love really is. In a world where love is viewed as a powerful and uncontrollable emotion, God shows us that true love is a choice that we commit to. One way for us to reflect the love of God to others is by counting the cost and putting the others before ourselves, like Jesus displayed on the cross. Another way we love others as God has loved us is by seeing people the way God sees them. Understanding the way God loves us compels us to love Him and others the same way. Knowing that God is love also makes us thankful and grateful. He loves us so much that He gave us the greatest gift in the entire universe, Himself.
Description:
Every person who has ever lived has chosen to reject God, and we deserve to be punished. We deserve complete separation from God because we have willfully chosen to disobey God’s law and run from Him. However, God is gracious in that he gives us exactly the opposite of what we deserve. Instead of punishment, He provides a way of salvation by sending Jesus to take the punishment we deserve. We deserve punishment, but instead receive grace. Grace is getting a gift that we do not deserve. The way that we receive grace is through forgiveness. When we confess our sins the Bible tells us that he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins because of his redeeming grace.

Application:
The immediate reaction to God’s grace is to celebrate and praise him. Another response for us when we see the picture of what perfect grace is from God is to then show grace to others like God has shown to us. We also have the opportunity to forgive others, even if they do not deserve it, because God offers forgiveness to us when we do not deserve it. God’s grace also moves us to share the gospel with others because we want them to experience the same grace that we have received from God.

Description:
God Himself is joy. Joy is not just an attribute of God. All joy is found in Him. Psalm 16:11 says, “In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” We were created to delight and find joy in God. There is always more about God to know, see, experience, and love than we could ever imagine. Sin separated us from God and also from the joy that comes from knowing Him. In the midst of that, God gives us faith to restore our relationship with Him and to know Him again. Not only is God the truest source of joy, but He gives us faith so we can have access to that joy.

Application:
Since faith is what saves us, gives us a right relationship with God, and gives us access to joy, we want to always increase and strengthen our faith. Because God gives faith we go to Him first with the attitude of the man who told Jesus He believed, but asked him to help his unbelief. We need to ask God to give us faith. Understanding that God is joy also challenges us to not try to find joy in the things of this world that will not satisfy, but to look to God as the true source of our joy. Understanding that God is joy challenges us to live by faith, not just for our own benefit, but also that others might know God and experience joy in Him as well.
**GOD IS SAVIOR**

I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.
Isaiah 43:11

**GOD GIVES ADOPTION**

he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will...
Ephesians 1:5

**Description:**
Separated from God because of sin, humanity has no hope apart from God Himself. God in the midst of our sin declares that He is savior. Jesus, fully God and fully man, came to earth to willingly die to take our place. After three days He rose from the grave and He defeated sin and death itself. God being a savior is the same as the hero of the story sacrificing himself to save the villain. God is savior and He not only saves us from judgement, but also adopts us into His family as sons and daughters of God. Through Jesus we become a part of a new family and have a new father.

**Application:**
Since God is savior, He declares that all who trust Him for their salvation will be saved. This is good news for us! If we are saved, we not only have a relationship with God, but we can come to Him as His sons and daughters. He is a good father and we can trust Him. Because humanity is the villain in the story, God saving us is an undeserved love by Him toward us. Understanding this sacrificial love compels us to tell others about how God offers adoption and salvation for any who will put their trust in Him.

**GOD IS REDEEMER**

...Then all flesh shall know that I am the Lord your Savior, and your Redeemer... Isaiah 49:26

**GOD GIVES THE CHURCH**

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27

**Description:**
God does not just save us from eternal punishment, but also redeems us. The word redemption means to buy back. This means that God sets us free from the slavery of sin through the death of His Son. God is not just redeeming us as individuals though, but He instead is redeeming a people, His church. The church is the collection of believers both universal (Christians everywhere) and local (Christians who meet together locally). God has set apart His people to declare His praises.

**Application:**
The church is the people of God, His adopted sons and daughters. This means as believers we get a perfect heavenly Father and a new family! This also means that the church is not a social club, charity, or hobby, but it is the very people of God meeting together to praise Him and grow closer to Him. The church is a people, not a place where people meet. God commands Jesus followers to be a part of a local church because it is through the gathering of His people under the teaching of His Word that we grow into His likeness.
Elementary age children love stories. They love to learn and to try to connect the dots between fantasy and reality. It is during this phase of life that they can begin to learn about and understand the greatest story of all, the gospel. The word “gospel” literally means “good news.” This is a very crucial season in a child’s life to begin helping them understand what the story of the Bible actually is and how they fit into it.

During the elementary years of the family discipleship plan, parents and teachers will have the opportunity to engage their children with the main storyline of the Bible: creation, fall, redemption, and new creation. These four parts of the gospel will be taught every year from kindergarten through fifth grade in a way that develops successively year after year along with a child’s personal development.

The goal is that children would be able to move from this phase to the next one with a clear understanding of what the gospel is and how they should respond to it. The gospel is the good news that opens eyes and saves lives; our prayer is that it makes an eternal impact during the elementary age years of a child’s life and beyond.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...

Romans 1:16a
PHASE OF LIFE

“Elementary age kids think like a scientist. They understand the world through concrete evidence they can test repeatedly. Brain research suggests that during the elementary years, kids learn information quickly and easily. But just because kids in this phase are eager learners doesn’t mean they learn like adults. They’re still mostly concrete thinkers. They need repetition and clear application.”

“This is a season of discovery how the world works and how to have fun in it. Kids want to laugh and play and learn and connect. It’s important during this phase of life to engage their interests. They learn best when they can observe something in their present environment. The more frequently a new concept can be connected to an everyday experience, the better.” (It’s Just A Phase Reggie Joiner & Kristen Ivy).

**KNOW**

During the elementary years the hope is that children would begin to know and understand the main storyline of Scripture, which is the gospel. They need to know that God created a good world, that sin brought brokenness to all things, that God sent His Son to break the power of sin, and that God is making all things new.

**DO**

During the elementary years the hope is that children would begin to be able to do things for God in light of their understanding of the gospel. It is during this stage of life that kids can memorize large portions God’s Word, learn how the Bible is arranged, be able to articulate the main parts of the gospel, and begin to be able to engage in gospel conversations with others. This is a critical time to intentionally begin equipping children with capabilities that they can use to grow in their understanding of God’s Word, prayer, serving, and even sharing the gospel with others.

**FEEL**

During the elementary years the hope is that children would begin to feel affections for God through an understanding of the gospel. Every-day is an opportunity to leverage the moments and experiences we are giving to inspire affections of wonder and awe toward God by helping kids understand God’s story and their place in it. This is a critical time in a child’s life to experience the beauties, complexities, and difficulties of life through the lens of God who is pursuing them and has a purpose for them.

**WANT**

During the elementary years the hope is that children would begin to want to know more about God, have a personal relationship with Him, and desire to tell others about Him. As they learn more about God’s Word, spend time with God’s people, and discover how His world works, they can begin to develop desires to pursue Him. With a better understanding of the gospel should come a greater conviction of sin and a greater desire to pursue an abiding relationship with Him.

**RESOURCES**

Big Truths For Young Hearts - Bruce Ware

Give Them Grace - Elyse Fitzpatrick

Sticky Families - Kara Powell

Parenting Beyond Your Capacity - Reggie Joiner

Instructing A Child’s Heart - Ted Tripp
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<th>CREATEON</th>
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<td>WE BROKE GOD’S CREATION</td>
<td>GOD IS FIXING CREATION</td>
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<td>God made everything</td>
<td>Sin made the world groan</td>
<td>Jesus broke the power of sin</td>
<td>God is making everything new.</td>
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<td>“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen 1:1)</td>
<td>“The whole creation has been groaning” (Romans 8:22)</td>
<td>“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)</td>
<td>“I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)</td>
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<td>GOD RULES CREATION</td>
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<td>God is in control</td>
<td>Sin rejects the rule of God</td>
<td>God shows me undeserved love.</td>
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<td>“Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth” (Psalm 135:6)</td>
<td>“Your sins have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you” (Isaiah 59:2)</td>
<td>“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)</td>
<td>“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation...” (1 Peter 2:9)</td>
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<td>GOD CREATED ME</td>
<td>WE ARE BROKEN IN OUR SIN</td>
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<td>God made me in His image</td>
<td>Sin ruined my heart</td>
<td>God sent His Son to save me</td>
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<td>“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)</td>
<td>“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick” (Jeremiah 17:9)</td>
<td>“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God”</td>
<td>“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me...” (Galatian 2:20)</td>
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<td>God made us for community</td>
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<td>God invites us into his family</td>
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<td>“It is not good that man should be alone.” (Genesis 2:18)</td>
<td>“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)</td>
<td>“You received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”</td>
<td>“So we, though many, are one body in Christ.” (Romans 12:5)</td>
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<td>GOD IS LIFE</td>
<td>WE ARE DEAD IN OUR SIN</td>
<td>GOD IS OUR SUBSTITUTE</td>
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<td>God is life, gives life, and sustains life</td>
<td>Sin makes me dead</td>
<td>Jesus died in my place</td>
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<td>“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness...”</td>
<td>“whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US</td>
<td>WE REJECTED GOD’S PLAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>God created me for His purpose</td>
<td>Sin keeps me from being who God created me to be</td>
<td>God reunites me to Himself and His purposes for my life through Jesus</td>
<td>God makes me his ambassador</td>
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<td>“The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.” (Psalm 138:8)</td>
<td>“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6)</td>
<td>“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself...”</td>
<td>“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 2:20a)</td>
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</table>
God Made Everything Good

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
Genesis 1:1

Sin Made The World Groan

Everything was perfect in the world until we broke it. When humanity chose to sin, the world that was once perfect became messed up and broken. Sin is ultimately a rejection of God Himself. Because of sin bad things happen, we experience all types of pain, and death has come into the world. All of creation groans and wishes that the world be perfect and good like it was before.

“The whole creation has been groaning”
Romans 8:22

Jesus Broke The Power Of Sin

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time God promised He would fix creation, and He proved this by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin's power in creation would be broken forever.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
2 Corinthians 5:17

God Is Making Everything New

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth as well for us to live and worship Him in.

“I make all things new.”
Revelation 21:5
God Is In Control

God is in control of everything. There is nothing He is not in charge of and rules over. Everything finds life and purpose in Him. God gives us rules and wisdom to live in His creation so that we and it can flourish. There is nothing that happens that God does not know about or allow to happen. Since God is good and wants us to enjoy Him, it is a good thing that He is in control of everything.

“Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps”
Psalm 135:6

Sin Rejects The Rule Of God

When we sin, we are telling God that we do not want Him to be in control of life, and that we do not want to follow Him with our lives. Even though God is still in control, we reject Him to do the things that we think are right and best for us. Choosing sin means that we choose to be separated from God. We do not have a relationship with Him like we were created to have, and are therefore separated from our true source of joy.

“but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear”
Isaiah 59:2

God Provides Mercy And Grace

God Shows Me Undeserved Love

Even though we rejected God’s loving rule over creation, God still loves us. He loves us so much that He is willing to save us from the punishment we should receive. He sent His Son Jesus to come and live a life that was perfectly obedient to God’s rule. Not only did He live a sinless life, but He also died in our place. For those who place their faith in Jesus, God shows mercy in not giving us the punishment that we deserve. He not only shows us mercy, but also shows us grace by rescuing us from our sin and offering new life in Him.

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”
Romans 5:8

GOD OFFERS A NEW RELATIONSHIP

God Is Making A New People To Rule

God does so much more than save us from punishment. He initiates a new relationship with us. Before Jesus came we were enemies of God. Now through Christ God invites us to be a part of His family. And being a part of God’s family is bigger than just our personal relationship with Him. When God saves us, we become His people and we delight and live in His loving and perfect rule.

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”
1 Peter 2:9
God Made Me In His Image

The Bible tells us from the very beginning in Genesis chapter one that God created everything. On day six of creation God created humanity, and there was something uniquely different about this part of God’s creation. He created us in His image and likeness. Like a mirror, God made us to reflect Him. This means that no one is an accident and no one is without worth and value. You carry the very image of who God is in your DNA. We were designed to reflect our creator to a watching world.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
Genesis 1:27

Sin Ruined My Heart

We were made in the image and likeness of God, but that image has been broken and distorted due to sin. We are still made in God’s image, but instead of our lives being a reflection of Him we have chosen to disobey Him. This choice to sin is ultimately choosing to believe the lie that there is something better than God for us to find our joy in, and all of us have chosen to believe this lie. Sin is ultimately an issue of the heart. We were created by God for His glory, and we have instead given away our hearts to lesser things that cannot satisfy. Sin is not just bad things we do. Sin leaves us with a spiritually dead heart.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it”
Jeremiah 17:9

God Is Making My Heart New

Not only does God make a way for us to find rescue from our sin through Jesus Christ, but He also makes a way for us to have a new heart. In Christ we do not just stop being bad, but instead, we become new. God gives us a new life with a new heart. Our desires change. Instead of living selfishly we begin to have a conviction rise within us as God’s people to live for His glory and the good of others. Our hearts that were calloused and hardened due to sin, now become alive and tender toward God’s Word and the needs of others. In Christ God can make you new!

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”
Galatians 2:20
God Made Us For Community

In the very beginning of the Bible we see that family was a part of God’s plan for creation. After creating man in His “image and likeness.” He gave the command to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” In Genesis chapter two God ordains the first marriage, and says that “it is not good for man to be alone.” God created humans with a need for companionship and community. Family is God’s good design given to us before sin entered into the world for His glory and for our joy.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
Romans 3:23

Sin Wrecked Our Family

When Adam and Eve committed the first sin their disobedience led to a fracturing of all of creation. Adam and Eve’s sin against God quickly led them to sin against one another. In response to God’s pursuit of them in the garden in Genesis chapter three, they began to blame one another for their sin. Sin not only wrecks our relationship with God, but also with one another. Because our hearts are broken and desperately sick, one of the byproducts is that our families are broken as well. Pride, jealously, bitterness, and selfishness cause relationships to not function the way that God intended them to.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
Romans 3:23

God Provides Adoption

God Invites Us Into His Family

Even though our families are broken and wounded because of our sin, God has made a way to redeem and rescue the family through Jesus. When God sent Jesus to die in our place on the cross as a substitute for our sin, He paid our debt in full. But that is not all. He not only rescues us from the power of sin, but He also invites us into His family through adoption. Anyone and everyone who places their faith in Jesus by grace alone becomes a part of God’s family.

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”
Romans 8:15-16

God Offers A New Family

God Makes Us Brothers And Sisters

Becoming a part of God’s family means that we can now have a new Father and a new family. No matter what your family background is and what difficulties you might have faced, you can now have a perfect Father who loves you just as you are. Becoming a part of God’s family also gives us the ability to love our physical family with the love of Christ. God makes us new and can make our families new through the power of the gospel.

“So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another”
Romans 12:5
God Is Life, Gives Life, And Sustains Life

Life flows from God. He is the author and sustainer of all things. Hebrews 1:3 says that “he upholds the universe by the word of his power”. Since God is the author of life, it is only in Him and through Him that we can be physically and spiritually alive. We were created to not just be alive and exist, but to thrive and flourish through a relationship with the author of life.

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high”
Hebrews 1:3

Sin Makes Me Dead

We were created by the author of life to live for His glory. Instead of living for the author of life we have all chosen to go our own way and reject God. This rebellion is called sin, and sin infects our being to the very core of who we are. Sin is not just bad things that we do, sin is a part of who we are. Sin does not make us bad people; sin makes us spiritually dead people. Ephesians 2:1 says, that “we were dead in our trespasses and sins.” Sin leads us to physical and spiritual death, and dead people cannot raise themselves back to life.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”
Romans 6:23

Jesus Died In My Place

In our spiritual deadness we are hopeless to save ourselves. We can never be good enough to erase our sin, and even in trying to be good enough, we sin thinking we can do something apart from God. However, there is hope! God sent Jesus to bear our sin and shame on Himself in our place. Jesus lived a sinless life and died as a substitute for our sin. He took what He did not deserve on Himself so that we could get what we do not deserve — life. The person we rebelled against has become a substitute for our sin.

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed”
1 Peter 2:24

God Makes Me His Forever

Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. God did not just send Jesus to erase our sin but also to give us life — not just life in this world, but eternal life with Him. When anyone places their faith in Jesus, they get to worship and be with God forever. As God’s children we are foreigners in this world, placed here to point others to Him. We can live in confidence knowing that our home is with God and that we will be with Him forever.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”
John 3:16
God Created Me For His Purposes

Your life is not a random accident. You were created to know God, find your joy in Him alone, and live your life to make Him known. God knows you better than you know yourself, and He loves you uniquely. You are an image bearer, created to carry the worth and beauty of your Creator everywhere you go. God created you for a purpose that is bigger than you. He created you to be a part of the greatest story of all, His story. You were created by God for a purpose with a purpose.

“The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands”
Psalm 138:8

Sin Keeps Me From Being Who God Created Me To Be

The Bible tells us and we all know that we have rejected God. We have willingly chosen to revolt and rebel against Him, believing the lie that there is something better than Him in this life and that there is a higher purpose than following Him. Sin not only makes us dead, but it also separates us from God. That means that sin keeps us from being who God made us to be and living out the purpose that we were created for. Instead of living with purpose, we spend our lives chasing false saviors that never satisfy. Sin leaves our lives empty, broken, and meaningless.

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all”
Isaiah 53:6a

God Makes Me His Ambassador

When someone places their faith in God they not only get brought back into right relationship with Him, but also get a new purpose. We have been called to be ambassadors of Christ. We live as foreigners in this world and as representatives of God. We proclaim the good news that God has made a way to rescue us through the gospel to those who are dead in sin and have no hope. God not only saves us, but also gives us a new mission to spread the news of His grace and mercy to a lost and dying world.

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ…”
2 Corinthians 5:20a
IDENTITY: I AM IN CHRIST

The middle school years are all about identity. Students during this time of life are constantly asking the question, “who am I, where do I fit in, what’s my purpose?” They are transitioning from being a child to becoming a teenager, and it is awkward transition for everyone involved. This time of life can become a time of identity confusion and identity crisis. This is a very crucial season in a child’s life for them to begin to understand what it means to find their identity in Jesus Christ.

During the middle school years of the discipleship plan, parents and teachers will have the opportunity to engage their children with the truth of what it means for us to become a new creation in Jesus. The theme of identity in Christ will be taught every year from sixth grade through the eighth grade in a way that develops successively year after year along with a child’s personal development. Subjects will include things like spiritual growth, spiritual gifts, biblical manhood and womanhood, relationships, authority, purity, community, and life on mission.

The goal is that students would be able to move from this phase to the next one with a clear understanding of what it means to find one’s identity in Jesus, and how they should live in light of this truth from God’s Word. Finding our identity in Christ means that who I am and what I am living for finds its root in who Jesus is. Our prayer is that students will begin to find their hope and security in Jesus Christ during this phase of life.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me...

Galatians 2:20a
“Middle schoolers think like an engineer. Engineers solve problems by connecting concepts so they work together. Middle schoolers personalize abstract concepts by connecting ideas. Like their physical bodies, there is a ‘growth spurt’ in the brain of a middle schooler. The brain overproduces neurons and snaps similar to the growing brain of a toddler. This period of rapid growth accounts for a middle schoolers’ ability to think more abstractly, to understand multiple perspectives, and to think critically about them- selves and others. It also means that instructions need to be simple and clear if you hope to be heard.

In middle school, a pre-teen challenges authority and personalizes what they believe. The way a middle schooler resolves the “who” questions of life will determine the framework for their relational stability. It affects the way they see themselves, the way they see the world, and the way they see themselves in the world. In these phases, the relational questions shift from black-and-white to gray. Middle schoolers need a consistent adult, because almost nothing else in their life is consistent.” (‘It’s Just A Phase’ Reggie Joiner & Kristen Ivy).

During the middle school years, the hope is that students would begin to know about what it means to find their identity in Jesus Christ. They need to know that who they were created to be is found in who they are in Him. This is a critical time for them to being developing an understanding of what it means to pursuit a personal relationship with God that is founded upon who they are in Christ.

During the middle school years, the hope is that students would begin to want to pursue a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. During this stage of life students are faced with many false saviors to place their joy in. As students begin to grow in the understanding of what it means to find their identity, security, and hope in Christ, it begins to create a desire to know and pursue this God who first pursued them.

**RESOURCES**

- **What is the Gospel?**
  - Greg Gilbert
- **Raising the Bar**
  - Alvin Reid
- **A Gospel Primer**
  - Milton Vincent
- **Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart**
  - J.D. Greear
- **Teaching Your Children Healthy Sexuality**
  - Jim Burns
6TH GRADE

I AM IN CHRIST

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
2 Corinthians 5:17

I AM GROWING

Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:104–105

7TH GRADE

I AM AN IMAGE BEARER

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
Genesis 1:27

I AM A PART OF A FAMILY

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”
Romans 8:15–16

8TH GRADE

I AM CALLED

So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
Romans 12:5

I AM AN AMBASSADOR

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
2 Corinthians 5:20
INFLUENCE: I LIVE FOR JESUS

The high school years are all about influence. Students during this time of life are constantly trying to figure out what their purpose in life is, and how they get at their purpose through their passions. They are transitioning from being a middle schooler to becoming an adult. In a few short years they will be out from under your care and on their own. This is a very crucial season in a child’s life for them to begin to understand and embrace the amazing purpose that God has created and prepared them for, and to leverage their influence for His glory.

During the high school years of the discipleship plan, parents and teachers will have the opportunity to engage their children with the truth of what it means to live for Jesus. God has uniquely gifted every person with gifts, passions, and experiences that they can leverage to influence others for the glory of God, which in turn leads to their joy. The theme of influence will be taught every year from ninth grade through the twelfth grade in a way that develops successively year after year along with a child’s personal and spiritual development.

The goal is that students would be able to move from this phase to adulthood with a clear understanding of what it means to leverage one’s influence for Jesus. When we live to make God famous with our lives, He becomes our joy, and our joy becomes full in Him. Our prayer is that students will find their hope in God and graduate high school resolved to leverage their lives for His glory in all of life.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9
“A high schooler loses approximately one percent of the grey matter of their brain every year through a process called “pruning.” Pruning allows the brain to prioritize information to become flexible and efficient. With this new efficiency comes an increase in analytical thinking. But, the limbic system (risk taking) is developing at a faster rate than the prefrontal cortex (regulating behavior). So the risk and personal experience still govern behavior.

High schoolers think like a philosopher. Philosophers seek to understand what is unseen and what cannot be measured. High schoolers want to discover meaning and learn best by processing out loud. The way a high schooler resolves the “where”, “why”, “how”, and “what” questions of life provides a compass for navigating their future direction. It affects the way they pursue community, live out personal ethic, and contribute to a greater mission. The best way to solve a high schoolers relational questions is to mobilize their potential.” (It’s Just A Phase Reggie Joiner & Kristen Ivy).

During the high school years, the hope is that students would begin to know about what it means to leverage their influence for the glory of God. They need to know that they were created with a purpose, have been given a mission to live for, and have been uniquely gifted by God for that mission. This is a critical time for students to understand God’s joy-filled calling on their life.

During the high school years, the hope is that students would begin to see how they can leverage their influence to do great things for God. As they embrace what it means for them to live for Jesus, they can begin to leverage their unique talents and abilities for His glory. This is an important time of life for students to begin harnessing their passions and skills to show Jesus as incomparably glorious.

During the high school years, the hope is that students would begin to feel affections of joy in God, and excitement for the mission that He has created them to leverage their lives for. This stage of life can be a time of insecurity, uncertainty, and fear. As they begin to discover what it means to live for Jesus and leverage their influence for the gospel, students begin to find their joy in God.

During the high school years, the hope is that students would begin to want to live for Jesus by leveraging their influence for God’s glory. This is an incredible time for students to discover how their passions can be used for a greater purpose. As students begin to grow in their understanding and love for the gospel, they begin to want to leverage their influence for the One who has rescued them.

**RESOURCES**

**Multiply**
- Francis Chan

**Explicit Gospel**
- Matt Chandler

**Sticky Faith**
- Kara Powell

**Just Do Something**
- Kevin DeYoung

**Don’t Waste Your Life**
- John Piper
9TH GRADE

LIVING FOR JESUS
I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
John 15:5

LIVING ON MISSION
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.
Matthew 28:19-20

10TH GRADE

LIVING IN PURSUIT
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
Colossians 3:16

LIVING IN COMMUNITY
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25

11TH GRADE

LIVING IN WISDOM
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
Proverbs 9:10

LIVING IN FREEDOM
For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.
Galatians 5:1
And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
Colossians 3:17

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.
Mark 8:34–35

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”
1 Peter 3:15

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
Philippians 1:21
TRI-CITIES
BAPTIST CHURCH

A redeemed community of Jesus followers
on mission together.