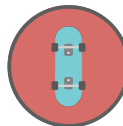


PARENTING PLAN

YEAR 6: PREPARING FOR A FAITH DECISION



HI FRIEND!



We've heard it through the grapevine that there's a birthday in your family this month! As your child enters into Year 6, we want to focus on **Your Child's Faith Decision and Baptism**.

At First Capital, we believe that a child's home is the number 1 faith-building, disciple-making environment that there is. We want to partner with you as you raise your fearfully and wonderfully made child. We've created a discipleship program that goes from year 1 all the way to year 18 when you're launching your child out into the world. We offer this plan that focuses on one thing every year when it comes to following Jesus.

This plan isn't supposed to be a course in everything you need to know when it comes to parenting and raising a child to love and follow Jesus. But we hope that every year, this plan will help you and your family take one step closer to Jesus.

This plan is just one part of many resources that we want to provide for you. Many of those resources can be found on our Parent Resources Wall in the lobby.

During this first phase of your child's life we label as the Engage Phase, we focus on

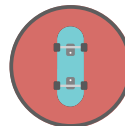
- I need to make the wise choice
- I should treat others the way I want to be treated
- I can trust God no matter what

If you have any questions or just need an adult to talk to anytime this year, we are available to you! You can reach out to anybody on the Family Ministry Team.

Evalina Pinnick - evalina@churchanywhere.us
Marianne Rader - marianne@firstcapitalchristian.org
Spencer Roberts - spencer@firstcapitalchristian.org
Patrick Crawford - patrick@churchanywhere.us

We are praying for you and your family,
The Family Ministry Team

WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR FUTURE 18-YEAR-OLD

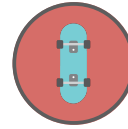


Each year throughout the parenting plan, take time to write your child a letter. Below are some ideas of things to include that will speak life and love into your child, as well as give them an invaluable collection of insights into their upbringing and a storyline of memories to be cherished for the rest of their lives

1. Things I've loved about you this year...
2. Important memories from this past year...
3. Some of my favorite time with you is when we...
4. Our favorite book to read together is...
5. Our favorite song to sing together is...
6. Your favorite toy this year is...
7. Your favorite things to do with your friends...
8. Your favorite food this year...
9. I've been praying about this for you this year...
10. I've been praying about this for me as a parent this year...
11. What I want for you in life...
12. A scripture verse I have picked out for you this year...

You can write them all in a journal or write each letter as a separate piece of paper. Include a photo of your family with the letter to give a year by year collection of memories all in one place. Each year after giving your child the letter, get it back and keep them all somewhere safe. You will give them all to your child in the 18th year for LAUNCH.

PREPARING FOR A FAITH DECISION



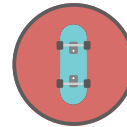
BE PREPARED FOR THE CONVERSATIONS: While we don't expect that many six year olds are ready to make their own faith decision, we want to give you this guide early so that when the time comes that they ask about following Jesus or about baptism, you will be prepared. Most kids at First Capital make a decision to follow Jesus and be baptized between 3rd grade and Junior High, though every child is different and has had a different journey.

One of the greatest privileges you have as a parent is to help your child come to faith in Christ. Like many parents, you may not quite know how or when to approach one of the most exciting moments of parenthood. Some worry that they won't explain salvation properly. They might be tempted to just "leave it to the professionals" by relying on people at church or ministry events.

That's understandable, but God has given YOU the most important and influential role when it comes to leading your child to Christ. This guide is designed to help you feel more comfortable about the process when that time comes.

FAITH DECISION - LANGUAGE MATTERS: You may wonder what we mean by a faith decision. Rather than using phrases like "Becoming a Christian" or "asking Jesus into your heart," we believe that you are raising your child in the Christian faith. They already have a relationship with Jesus as they have learned to love Him and follow Him since they've been little. Now we are talking about them making their own decision to follow Jesus, not just because they've been raised in church. The Bible teaches us that if we are going to follow Jesus we need to believe in our hearts, confess Him as Lord, repent from our sins, be baptized, and follow Jesus in obedience.

PREPARING FOR A FAITH DECISION

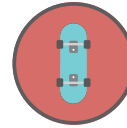


LAY A FOUNDATION: We have started this parenting plan with the intentionality of teaching your children about who God is and developing a relationship with him through prayer and the scriptures. Your son or daughter grows in his or her understanding of God by developing a foundation; hearing stories from the Bible, learning scriptures, singing about Jesus, etc.

Your child also learns by experiencing life in your home; watching your example, feeling your love, experiencing GRACE (getting what you don't deserve) and MERCY (not getting what you do deserve) at home and learning right from wrong. And now we want to make sure they understand that God made us and loves us. But because of our sin, we need a Savior to rescue us from our sin and give us a relationship with God again. So Jesus came from Heaven to die for us and raise again.

ASK QUESTIONS: To gauge where your child is in his or her understanding, ask questions. Use the discussion guides in this booklet that lay out the gospel and make sure that they understand each segment. Give them plenty of opportunities to ask questions. Don't panic if they ask hard questions or if they have areas of doubt. This is actually very natural, and it's best for them to sort this out while they are still at home in a safe place with safe people. Never shame them for their questions.

PREPARING FOR A FAITH DECISION



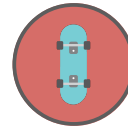
DISCERN READINESS: Do your best to discern when your child is mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push for a decision before he or she is ready to truly grasp the gospel. Young children are usually bonded to their parents in such a way that they want to please and do not have a full sense of a separate self. A child needs to understand that this is a personal decision and not just something to do to please you. This decision requires both understanding and obedience.

HELP THEM TAKE THE NEXT STEP: When you feel like your child understands what sin is and what it means to accept God's gift of salvation and submit to Him as Lord, then you can guide your child to respond to God's grace by reading these scriptures about believing, confessing, repenting and being baptized:

Believe in Jesus and Confess Him as Lord: Romans 10:9-10 "Say with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord.'

Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. With your heart you believe and are made right with God. With your mouth you say what you believe. And so you are saved." Repent & Be Baptized: Acts 2:38 "Peter replied, "All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." You can lead your child in a prayer of confession and commitment and make plans for their baptism by contacting Marianne Rader at marianne@firstcapitalchristian.org

SHARING THE GOSPEL IN YOUR HOME



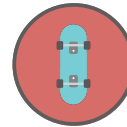
Throughout your child's life, it is your primary responsibility to raise your child to know the good news about Jesus. There are a variety of ways to explain the gospel, but we've given you a few examples and some things to think about as you raise your child in the grace of God.

EMPHASIZE GRACE IN YOUR HOME: It has long been said that our children's first impression of God comes from their first impression of their parents, especially dads. Be very careful, then, to emphasize grace in your home. Grace is the unmerited, unearned gift of God. It is something we receive that we didn't earn. We can help children grasp that better if we make our homes a place of grace where they haven't had to earn your love.

THE GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL: Here is a simple summary of the gospel. The word gospel simply means "good news." The good news, however, starts with bad news...

THE BAD NEWS We have all sinned – Romans 3:23. Discuss what sin is and have them give some examples. Sin breaks our relationship with God – Romans 6:23a. Talk about how our relationship with God died when we sinned.

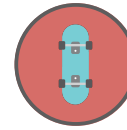
SHARING THE GOSPEL IN YOUR HOME



THE GOOD NEWS God doesn't want to be separated from us – 2nd Peter 3:9. Discuss how God is being patient so more and more people will turn to Him again. Jesus died and took the punishment for our sin – Hebrews 9:28. Discuss how a good and just God had to have someone pay for the sins we've done, but that he didn't want that to be us. Jesus took the punishment for our sins so that God could forgive us AND our sin was paid for. We can have a new relationship with God - Romans 6:23b. Talk about how we can have eternal life with God starting now because of Jesus.

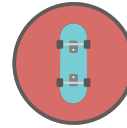
PAYCHECKS VS. GIFTS: Give your kids a chore to do and tell them if they do it, you will give them some money (based on your situation) Choose an amount to fit the chore. After they've completed the chore, give them their "pay." Then read Romans 6:23 and talk about what we earn in that verse (spiritual death or a broken relationship with God). Then give them a gift (more money, candy bar, etc.). Talk about how they didn't earn that, but you just gave it to them for fun. Then discuss how we EARN death because of our sin, but God gives us the GIFT of eternal life.

NOTES



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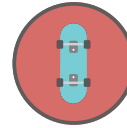
SHOW GOD AS LOVING PARENT BY CONTINUING A HEALTHY MARRIAGE



Each year we want to encourage you to make a plan to keep your marriage healthy. One of the most important gifts you'll give to your child is the love you give to your spouse. When mom and dad love each other and demonstrate the traits of a healthy (NOT PERFECT!) marriage, it not only sets a good example of a godly marriage but gives them a greater sense of security and well-being.

Good marriages require intentionality. Use the plan below to make an intentional effort in your marriage this year. Read *The Best Us* by Ted Lowe (©MarriedPeople 2016) for a full explanation of Have Serious Fun! Love God First; Respect and Love; Practice Your Promise.

SHOW GOD AS LOVING PARENT BY CONTINUING A HEALTHY MARRIAGE



Have Serious Fun! Date Night Scheduling:

- Grab your calendars and mark at least **TWO** date nights for each month and **PROTECT** those dates. Remember that you were boyfriend and girlfriend before you were dad and mom, and have fun together! No family administration discussions!

Love God First - Faith Practices 101:

- Research finds that couples who pray together at least twice a week have a divorce rate of less than 1% (HomePointe). Commit to praying as a couple at least twice a week. Plan which worship service the two of you will attend together each week – don't "divide and conquer" in order to volunteer.

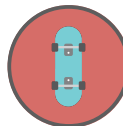
Love and Respect - Write an Annual Letter:

- Write a letter to your spouse for your anniversary this year, much like the one in this packet that you will write to your child. Write a letter of memories from this past year, affirmations, prayers and promises to each other.

Practice Your Promise - Personal Growth:

- Set a "secret goal" to grow as a spouse, such as "listening better," "praising her in public," or "initiating romance." Write it down and seal it in an envelope. When you receive next year's packet, open the envelope and assess your progress.

DOWNLOAD THE PARENT CUE APP



itunes



google play

**Parent Cue
creates the plan,
so you can make
the memories.**

