

Developing Leaders

Evangelizing Communities

Growing Healthy Churches

Strengthening Families

The Church, Family, Kids Link



Are We Successful?

- 60 to 90 percent of the children enrolled in your church programs today are going to disengage from the Christian faith when they are young adults.
- Most Americans who consider themselves unbelievers are actually former church kids.

Understand the Biblical Roles of Family and Church

- God expects parents to disciple their kids, Deuteronomy 6:6
- Training and instruction is done in the context of a loving faith community—the local church.
- The local church is responsible to every member of the faith community, regardless of age, Ephesians 4:12, 13

Understand the Realities in Our Local Churches

- Parents have disengaged from the task of faith formation in their children.
 - Christian parents are not intentionally involved in discipleship in their homes.
- Parents have a drop—off mentality
 - “They (parents) have subcontracted their teaching of the faith to their children to this staff of volunteers within the church.” Ervin, Best Practices in Children’s Ministry

Understand the Realities in Our Local Churches

- Christian parents do not feel competent as faith nurturers.
 - Only 4% of Christian parents surveyed said they were “very satisfied” with their “progress in providing a Christian upbringing.”

Understand the Realities in Our Local Churches

- Churches have not encircled or equipped families to accomplish the good work of faith formation in the home.
 - Church programs create a dependency on the church for faith formation
 - Churches focus on what is done at church.
 - Church programs and events have segregated rather than integrated families.
 - Churches have failed to provide the resources and support families need to accomplish the task of faith formation.

Make the Church-Family-Kids Link

- **Vision**

- Begin developing a Biblical vision for the families (parents and kids) of your local church.

Deuteronomy 6, Malachi 4:6, Psalm 78: 1-8, Ephesians 4:6, 12, 13.

- Inspire parents with the vision God has for them and for their children.
- Encourage parents to develop a vision for their family.

Make the Church-Family-Kids Link

- **Engage**

- Be intentional in engaging parents
- Get all ministries involved
- Plan intergenerational events

An intergenerational event does not mean doing the same thing but inviting everyone.

- Account for “outliers”

Make the Church-Family-Kids Link

- **Equip**

- Create intergenerational small groups or mentoring groups
- Offer support groups for families facing specific challenges
- Provide families with tools

Make the Church-Family-Kids Link

- **Reach**

- Be more intentional in connecting with unbelieving parents of children who attend your ministry.
- Even unbelieving parents are responsible for their children's spiritual formation.
- Make sure that family focused events and programs don't exclude children whose parents do not attend the church.