

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for and with my child.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- Bless my child daily.
- Create a habit of worship with my child.
- Serve together as a family.
- Schedule a special time to discuss the upcoming changes.
- Weekly spend time discussing a catechism topic
- _____

The next step on the Faith Path is Identity in Christ recommended at age twelve.

Recommended Resources

- [The New City Catechism devotional](#) by Crossway
- [The New City Catechism for Kids](#) by Gospel Coalition
- [Faith Foundations: 99 Devotions to Help Your Family Know, Love, and Act Like Jesus](#) by Brian Dembowczyk
- [Parkway Discipleship Guide 1.0](#)
- [The 99 Essential Doctrines](#) by Gospel Project/Lifeway Resources
- [Ages & Stages: Levels of Biblical Learning](#) by Lifeway Press, lifeway.com/lobl

ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH

Laying a foundation of who God is and how to live for Him

**FAITH
PATH**

Recommended for
11+ years

"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.

You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

God charges parents with the holy responsibility of passing the faith foundations to our children and grandchildren. The Faith Path framework guides parents in this enormous and important endeavor. Thankfully, many faithful parents have gone before us and have given patterns of ways to pass the understanding of God and His story to our kids. Much can be learned by our kids from our modeling a genuine walk with Christ, but there comes a time when we need to dig into the specifics of what God's Word teaches us.

WHY TEACH THE ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH

- Create solid theological foundations - surveys and research regularly show many believers have a poor understanding of basic Christian doctrines
- Builds confident, mature believers who can move beyond "head knowledge" to a deeper, more mature faith, helping them not only understand what they believe, but also why that matters.
- Equips believers for daily life as they can apply biblical truths in their daily lives
- Gives confidence to believers to give an answer for what and why they believe

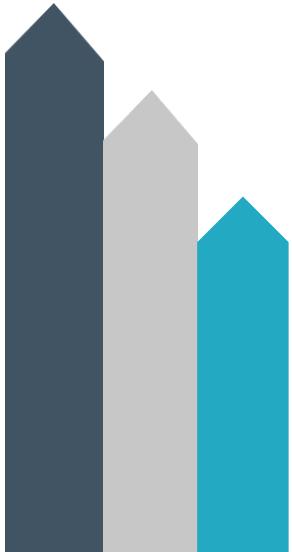
The practice of focusing on the foundations of the faith has been common throughout Church history, since even the Early Church Age. While ideally regular and conscientious reading of the Scripture would produce the same effects, this practice of focusing in on essentials helps guarantee important pieces of God's Plan are not overlooked.

One tool common to aid these focused studies are catechisms. Catechisms are a series of questions and answers that teach Christian doctrine. There are many examples of catechisms, dating back hundreds of years. The catechism method leans into memorization as a means of driving concepts deeper into the heart of the student. The practice of question-answer recitation makes the study more conversational and interactive, helping the learning process.

Our Recommended Resource section includes multiple modern catechism options that would be a blessing to instructing families in the essentials.

Depending on the resource you choose, here are some suggestions of how to tackle working through catechism instruction. Try to find a consistent time to discuss, ideally weekly to start.

- Read a catechism question and answer
- Read the corresponding Scripture
- Read the devotion, if provided, paraphrasing for younger children, as needed
- Engage with the discussion questions, being open to questions this sparks with your child
- Make the connection to Jesus and consider how living this essential out will look
- Pray together
- Plan a family activity, if possible, as application
- Review often!



ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH

DEAR PARENT,

We believe that God designed the family as the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path framework exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age appropriate kits have been created to help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this Essentials of the Faith kit, you will find practical ideas and suggested resources to help you begin the journey well. We urge you to start today by taking the following simple steps.

STEP ONE: LEARN

This Faith Path step does not have a Faith Path training video and section.

Instead, here is an option for training that can be enjoyed with your child on RightNow Media. The Essentials of the Faith video series is available via RightNow Media, which you can request access to from the church office. Here's what the video series covers:

Phase 1 includes:

1. What is a Christian?
2. Why does Jesus matter?
3. What is the church?
4. Why do we need the Bible?

Phase 2 includes:

5. How are we changed?
6. What does the Bible say?
7. Why should we go to church?
8. How do we live as Christians?

Phase 3 (will be available in Fall 2026-Spring 2027)

9. What is the Trinity?
10. How do we read the Bible?
11. What is the hope of the church?
12. How do we accomplish Jesus's mission?

STEP TWO: START

Use the guide and tools to help you get started with this step.

Thank you for taking seriously the task of guiding your child's faith. We hope you find these tools and the Faith Path framework helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home.

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