

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 with my child
- Bless my child daily
- Schedule and have regular family times
- Create a habit of worship with my child
- Schedule a time to serve together as a family
- _____
- _____

The next step on the Faith Path is
Ready for Adolescence, recommended at age ten.

Recommended Resources

- **77 Ways Your Family Can Make a Difference**
by Penny A. Zeller
- **Your Kids Can Master Their Money** by Ron and Judy Blue, Jeremy White
- **Financial Peace Junior** by Dave Ramsey
- **The Mission-Minded Family: Releasing Your Family to God's Destiny** by Ann Dunagan and Gregg Harris
- **Becoming a Servant Bible Study** by Not Consumed Ministries

GIVING & SERVING

Teach Your Child
to Make a Difference



FAITH
PATH

Recommended for
9+ years

God blesses and entrusts each of us with gifts, talents, and resources. Look for opportunities to teach your child to be a good steward of these blessings from the Lord in a way that will honor and glorify Him.

GIVING

Followers of Jesus give a portion of their income to meet the needs of God's work and other people as an act of obedience and worship. In Genesis 28:10-22 we see Jacob making a vow to the Lord, worshipping Him, and giving ten percent (also called a tithe) back to God.

In reality, teaching children about money through tithes and offerings is not about giving to God. It is about reminding ourselves that we are dependent upon the One who gives all good gifts and that we are mere stewards rather than owners. Giving reflects obedience, showing that we love a God who is worthy to be obeyed in all areas of life. It is also an opportunity to participate in something bigger than ourselves with eternal value.

Model It:

- Start by putting into practice the disciplines you want your child to learn. This may mean taking steps to become a better steward of your family's finances. Let your child see that you first give money toward tithing, then savings, and so on. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 the Bible says,

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

Teach It:

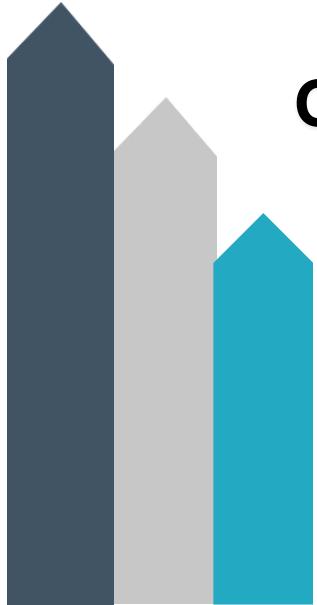
If your child receives money from an allowance, jobs, or gifts, take the time to help him or her divide the money wisely. A good place to start is to set aside 10% for giving, 10% for savings, and 80% for spending on other activities and items. Use the Rolling in Money activity card and stickers included with this kit to make your own boxes to help them start the habit of good stewardship.

SERVING

In addition to financial resources, God has also entrusted us with gifts, talents, and time. As believers, we have the great opportunity to worship and glorify God through the spiritual discipline of service. Help your child discover their unique gifts and explore how they might use those gifts to glorify Him. Use the Assessing Your Child's Spiritual Gifts tool included with this kit to get started and then find ways to experience serving together.

A few simple suggestions include:

- Shared Passion:** Spend some time talking with your child about the things that interest and concern him or her. It will be more meaningful if you share a passion for the specific area of service.
- Good Fit:** Help your child find good serving options. It can be as simple as baking cookies for a homebound neighbor or it can be an extended serving time such as a mission trip or meeting a particular need on a regular basis.
- Set Expectations:** Put your child more at ease by explaining what to expect. If visiting a nursing home, for example, explain he or she may encounter odd sights, sounds, and smells.
- Build Your Relationships:** Take note of what your child does well while serving. Intentionally encourage him or her by saying you are proud of how they demonstrated a great attitude or area of strength.
- Be Safe:** Keep a close eye on one another, especially children/teens if serving in unfamiliar settings.
- Talk About It:** Ask questions when you finish serving together such as:
 - "What kind of difference did you/we make?"
 - "Why was it important to do this project?"
 - "How did it impact those you served?" and
 - "How did it impact you/your family?"
- Pray:** Take a few minutes to pray, asking God to bless those you served.



GIVING AND SERVING

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 Giving & Serving 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

Visit myfaithpath.com and use the password **myhome2020**

Click on **GIVING & SERVING** for an overview and videos that explain this particular Faith Path step. You will hear from both experts and ordinary families as they describe the importance of intentional parenting and share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find links to other helpful resources.

STEP TWO: START

Use the guide and tools to help you get started with this step. To help your child learn about giving, this kit includes a fun activity about stewardship called Rolling in Money with corresponding Give, Save, Spend labels. We've also included an Assessing Your Child's Spiritual Gifts tool that you will enjoy completing with your son or daughter to begin coaching them toward serving in their area of strength. 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.

The next step on the Faith Path is Ready for Adolescence, recommended at age ten.



GIVING AND SERVING ROLLING IN MONEY

BEST USE

As a family night activity with younger kids

NUTRITIONAL VALUE

Teaches the value of money and good stewardship

ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Go to the bank and withdraw as many one-dollar bills as you can up to \$1000. (Don't worry – you'll return most of it the next day.)
- Three boxes and GIVE, SAVE and PAY labels for each child. These specially designed labels are included in the Giving and Serving Faith Path kit.
- Create an envelope titled "God's Instructions for Money" with several notes containing Bible passages with instructions on how to use the money.
 - *Malachi 3:10* = Give 10% to God
 - *Proverbs 30:24-25* = Save 10% for the future
 - *Romans 13:8* = Pay your bills (List several pretend bills such as \$500 for the house payment, \$150 for food, \$150 for the car, etc. Make sure the mock bills add up to almost the entire cash pile, leaving only a few dollars free.)

ROLLING IN MONEY FAMILY NIGHT

- **Step One:** Hide the pile of cash someplace in the house and invite the kids to find the secret treasure. When they find the money, allow time for them to go nuts!
- **Step Two:** Invite the kids to count the treasure promising them they will be able to spend it on anything they want AFTER following God's instructions for money.
- **Step Three:** Have the children count out enough one-dollar bills to meet each financial obligation described on the three notes – 10% for tithe, 10% for savings, and enough for each of the "bills."
- **Step Four:** Give each child the remaining cash to spend as they please. Needless to say, they will be a bit disappointed. But they will also better understand real-world expenses and our responsibilities as stewards of the money God gives.
- **Step Five:** End your time creating "Stewardship Boxes" or "Stewardship Jars" with three labels for the categories GIVE, SAVE and SPEND. Have the kids use the three categories whenever they earn money or receive their allowance.
- **Step Six:** Memorize the following jingle together...

"Before you spend away – give, save and pay."



GIVING AND SERVING SERVING TOGETHER WITH CHILDREN

BEST USE

As a guide to a time of serving as a family

NUTRITIONAL VALUE

Teaches each family member the value of serving and giving our time, talents, and treasures to others

ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Using the ideas on the back, decide on a serving activity for the whole family. Be sure to choose an activity that works for your specific family's makeup. Here are a few questions to think through when choosing serving options:
 - Skills:
 - What are the skills, strengths, and talents of each family member that might influence your choice of where you serve?
 - Do you want to do a project that involves working directly with people or prefer to help people without being in direct contact with them?
 - Learning:
 - What kinds of things would your family like to learn from volunteering?
 - Do you want to learn how to use our time, talents, or money in order to serve others?
 - Logistics: What are the best times and locations for your family to serve?
 - Engagement:
 - What level of commitment are you willing to make for serving?
 - One time? Ongoing?
 - How long do you want to serve?
 - How far are you willing to drive?
- Be sure to read through the questions on the back to ask your family before and after serving.

ON THE WAY TO SERVE

- Read Matthew 20:26-28.
- Pray for impact on the people you are serving and pray for those in your family as you serve others.
- Ask your kids to keep their eyes open and observe what is going on around them as they serve.
- Define expectations for kids in the family as they may interact with people who come from a different socio-economic background (e.g. what you may see or smell while serving those who are homeless) and coach them on what to expect during the time of service.

ON THE WAY HOME FROM SERVING

- Allow each family member to share any stories about the experience. They can be sad, silly, frustrating, funny, or serious and touching stories.
 - Was there any part of today was surprising to you?
 - What was the hardest part about serving?
 - What kind of difference do you think we made as together as a family?
 - Is there anything that you will do differently as a family because of your time serving together?
 - How did serving impact your entire family?
 - What kinds of activities do you want to do in the future?

SERVING IDEAS

- **ENTRY LEVEL SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**
 - Operation Christmas Child shoebox drive with Samaritans' Purse – Fall
 - The Blessing Tree with Arise ministries
 - Various opportunities come up through the year
 - In the weekly Kids' Talk newsletter, there is a section "WAYS TO SERVE AS A FAMILY -- LESSON APPLICATION" which gives a tangible way to apply that week's Gospel Project lesson. These ideas are also found in the weekly Gospel Project At Home material. Find a QR code for that week's material on the front page of Kids' Talk.

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80% to God
Spend

10% for the future
Save

10% to God
Give