

the

PARENT

RELEASE

CONTROL

link

RELEASE VS. CONTROL

Control it or release it? Every parent has victories and failures with this stage of growing up. It comes with the territory that there will be moments that we feel certain we handled appropriately and then marvel as the wheels fall off! As a parent and a youth worker, I recognize from both sides just how difficult this can be.

Here's a personal example: Recently, my son wanted to go to the skate park with friends. It was late and I wasn't sure it was a good idea. The "control" side of me said no with a few enumerated reasons. That didn't go over well. The wheels began to come off because he felt unheard and uncared for. Still, in this instance, releasing control didn't seem right. So we strive for balance.

Here are some tips:

1. Think about the big issues

Where do you want to have more boundaries? Have a conversation with your student about those issues at a safe time, not in the moment of decision-making.

2. Give them a chance to talk.

Listen to their perspective. (In all honesty, this is my area of struggle.)

3. Provide opportunity for kids to make decisions.

Then allow them to face the consequences. Be wise – start with small choices that won't derail their lives if they make the wrong choice.

4. Talk to other parents.

Ask questions about how they deal with this issue. Build community with those who may have already figured out great ways releasing and holding on.

5. Pray and ask God to lead your decisions.

-Lars Rood

FREEDOM TO FAIL

We all hold that natural instinct to protect our kids from disaster. "Don't touch the stove – it's hot!" "Get off that before you break your neck!" "Don't get close – it could be rabid!"

Shielding our kids from disaster is almost innate. And we should. But not all failure is disastrous. The key to great parenting is knowing which deficiency is really success in disguise and which implosion is truly a catastrophe.

Help your kids navigate certain failure (because we all fail sometimes) by talking through consequences before a decision is made, helping them define parameters for a successful outcome, and debriefing with them after they've missed the mark.

And if the debacle represents certain calamity, step in with an assured "STOP!"

YOUTH UNIVERSITY @FBC

This month, youth have the opportunity to choose which SMBS lesson they would like to attend:

Scandal: How Jesus Shook Up the Status Quo

July 6: Be Colorblind (Luke 10:30-37)

July 13: Ignore Labels (Matthew 9:9-13)

July 20: Value Men and Women Equally (Luke 8:1-3)

July 27: Focus on Relationships, not Rules and Rituals

Inked: Marked for Life

July 6: A Life Permanently Marked by Love (Matthew 22:36-40)

July 13: A Life Permanently Marked by Humility (Mark 10:13-16)

July 20: A Life Permanently Marked by Unity (Esphesians 4:1-16)

July 27: A Life Permanently Marked by Compassion (James 2:14-26)

JUNE UPDATES

What a whirlwind the month of June was! Kicking off with choir tour, the youth did an incredible job with every performance they had. They were able to meet and share stories in elder care homes, with kids, and with people facing disabilities. We are so proud of them for sharing the love of Christ with the people in East Tennessee.

The youth also helped lead crews in VBS and worked at Upward cheerleading and basketball camps.

As if that weren't enough, 22 youth and 5 adults took on Toccoa Falls, GA at The Journey Camp. Various speakers encouraged the youth to find freedom in Christ, and the youth loved worship every night. In the free time they had, they were on the slingshot slip n' slide, playing Bubble Soccer, and competing for Ultimate Athlete.

Thanks parents for encouraging youth involvement! We had an incredible month!

FREEDOM TO EXPLORE

Exploring culture is very different now than it was when we were all kids. The availability of television, movies, radio and more via digital content on the internet means our kids can explore so much so quickly. It can be amazing that they can access so much great stuff. As parents, we have the privilege and responsibility to help them navigate this cyber highway of information and to provide guidance about how it intersects their faith and culture. We do this by helping them look for God's truth in media. Sometimes that's as simple as asking the question "Did you see or hear anything in that which makes you think or engage with God?"

Often, you'll be blown away by the depth of their answers because many students are really aware of how their spiritual life connects with the world. You could also try searching phrases like "God in movies" or "Faith in music" in an internet search engine or experiment with your own search terms. You will likely find some great resources to help you engage in meaningful conversation with your son or daughter while helping them navigate faith, culture, and their world. It's also important to be aware that not all of culture is 'good.'

Sometimes our teenagers will get into places and things that they feel like they shouldn't have. Helping them develop their filter builds confidence in their own decision-making as they interact with media and the world around them.

EXPLORE RESPONSIBILITY

As your kids navigate the wide wide world of web, remember there are sinister forces lurking just on the other side of the screen. Be sure to take precautions to safeguard your kids as they interact online.

1. Keep the computer in a public space.
2. Set time limits for recreational computer use.
3. Install accountability software like Covenant Eyes or XXXChurch.
4. Always set privacy limits on social media.
5. Remind your student to keep personal information (like grade, birthdate, school, etc.) to a minimum.
6. Insist that your teenager only interact with people they know personally.

GET APP EDUCATED

While smart phones are becoming more common among moms and dads, many apps are still an enigma – especially those apps our kids love.

Kill two birds with one stone! Have your kids 'school' you on how to use certain apps on their phones. You succeed in keeping communication lines open and flowing and your kids feel like they have taught you something in the process. Yes, you'll need to tolerate the rolling of the eyes and smug laughter that signals how dumb you are...it's part of the plan! You are empowering your teenager and, at the same time, indicating you don't know everything. It's a win-win. Kids love feeling smarter than their parents (we already know they're thinking it) and parents who are humble win major points at home!

And the bonus? You've just learned a whole lot about the technology your teenager interacts with every day.

A WORD FROM THE WORD

I will lead a life of integrity in my own home! I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar!

Psalm 101:2-3 (NLT)

COLLIDE

Collide is our mid-week gathering that meets every Wednesday at 6:00PM (summer schedule) in the Quad on the 2nd floor of the Christian Life Center. This is a time for your students to connect with God and with friends in an exciting atmosphere. Each Collide is normally apart of a themed sermon series.

Our summer series is a look into Proverbs as we discuss "The Good Life". People sometimes seem to see the book of Proverbs as a candy-- like a quick, tasty treat. But there is a chewy nougat of wisdom inside every verse that can provide a full, spiritual meal. This summer we are going to un-wrap several lessons that will lead you to a diet of spiritual health that will help you have a better life.

Each week after Collide, there is a special fellowship activity!

July 2 | Heart; Free bowling at Crenshaw Lanes

July 9 | Choices; dinner at BurgerFi: \$10

July 16 | Friendship; "The Amazing Spiderman" in IMAX: \$10

July 23 | Words; Buffalo Wild Wings: \$10

July 30 | Wealth; Dodgeball and pizza! FREE

LUNCH AND A MOVIE

We are watching the movie "Frozen" on a hot summer day. What are we eating? Chili, icecream, and drinking Arctic Burst Mountin Dew. Chili, ice, and arctic...now that is the perfect "Frozen" meal that even Olaf would love! This will be Sunday, July 13, from 12;45-3PM.

FUN STATION

On Sunday, July 20th from 6:30-8:30 PM, we are going to Fun Station for FREE soft drinks and pizza. Go karts, bumper boats, laser tag, and mini-golf are all \$1.50 each. The cheapest princes of the summer, so bring a few dollars, a few friends, and join us!

GRILLIN' AND CHILLIN' SWIM PARTY

We will be swimming at the Southwood Pool and enjoying the famous "Ramba Burgers". Modest one piece bathing suits. Bring a towel and a change of clothes for ultimate frisbee. Join us Sunday, July 27th, from 6-8PM @the Ramba house. 4670 Grove Park Drive in Southwood.

MY SUMMER AT FBC

Hello all!

What a crazy summer it has been so far. I've loved being able to spend time with your kids this summer and really get to know them through smaller group settings. The summer is a great time to connect with kids, because of the smaller group, and it has been a wonderful experience. From listening to their youth choir tour performance, to watching them lead children in VBS and basketball and cheer camp, they have grown so much as a youth group in just these few short weeks. Their desire to lead in the church is incredible to see, and makes Todd and I both so proud of them. The last week of June, we had the opportunity to go to a new camp location in Toccoa Falls, GA. After several bus mishaps, we arrived to the Journey Camp with 22 students and 5 chaperones that, after a very long day, were in high spirits and excited for the adventure this camp would be. The first night we were there, some of our boys tried Bubble Soccer for the first time. If you have no idea what this is, you're not alone, but imagine with me, if you will, kids inside giant bubble suits running at each other as fast as they can, just to inevitably hit and fly backwards with impressive force. This was the underlying theme of every Bubble Soccer match. There was also a "slingshot slip n'slide", which many of our youth enjoyed flying off of in a tube. It looked like something that the boys from Duck Dynasty would have made in their backyard, but the kids sure did have a blast! There was a boys/girls night where both groups were able to go down a 300 foot slip n'slide. No, you read that right. 300 beautiful, slippery feet of tarp for our youth to slide down, and they loved every second. Worship and breakout sessions were amazing at the Journey Camp. The speakers we heard from encouraged the youth to really enjoy God for the first time, and what that means to enjoy Him. Seeing our teenagers sold out for the cause of Christ was so beautiful as they lifted their hands and sang, with a new freedom and a new hope that they found at camp.

Since camp, things have settled down a little, but in youth ministry, there is no opportunity to sit still for too long. Our Collide summer series has been great. We are going through Proverbs, and it has been neat to watch our kids get into the Word and find out what the Bible says about some of these tough topics. The first week, we went over the topic of guarding our hearts and what that really means, and let me tell you, I wish someone would have told me what it meant to guard my heart at that age (can I get an amen, parents?). Our youth ventured over to the "big kid bowling alley" at FSU (go Noles!), and boy did we have a blast! Kids were getting strikes with granny rolls, and by rolling it backwards, and at one point, I think there was a lane that had at least 4 bowling balls stuck in the gutters. It was too much fun.

One Sunday, we had a party where we watched Frozen and ate chili and ice cream. The girls outnumbered the boys 3:1, but everyone had a good time. Every song was sung, and every dance was danced. The summer so far has been awesome. It's been a great experience to be able to see what a summer in the FBC youth looks like. I think one of my favorite things has been seeing them interact with new faces on Sundays and Wednesdays. Our group is so tight-knit, but when we have a visitor, it's a joy to watch them break apart from the group to welcome in the guest. There are still lots of other opportunities to join us and hang out! We have a couple swim parties coming up, and chances to eat great food on Wednesday nights. There is also a Parent's BBQ at Todd's house in August that I recommend everyone go to. It's a great way to connect with parents. I've never been a parent, but I have been a kid, and I know that it has to be nice to have a time where you can meet up with other parents and share stories and be encouraged that you aren't going through the teenage years alone. You are such influences in the lives of our youth, and you are being prayed for every day. We appreciate the impact you have on the lives of these kids, and we sure do love them. They are a constant source of joy in my life, and I am thankful, even as a college student, for the youth ministry at FBC. Thank you for everything you do, parents. We couldn't do youth ministry without you.

Maris Renard

JULY 2014

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
		1	2 6PM Collide "The Good Life": Heart Bowling at Crenshaw: FREE	3	4	5
6 Youth University	7	8	9 6PM Collide "The Good Life": Choices Dinner at BurgerFi: \$10	10	11	12
13 Youth University Lunch and a Movie 12:45-3PM	14	15	16 6PM Collide "The Good Life": Friendship "The Amazing Spiderman": \$10	17	18	19
20 Youth University Fun Station 6:30-8:30 PM	21	22	23 6PM Collide "The Good Life": Words Dinner at Buffalo Wild Wings: \$10	24	25	26
27 Youth University Grillin' and Chillin' @the Ramba's 6-8PM	28	29	30 6PM Collide "The Good Life": Wealth Dodgeball and pizza! FREE!	31	August 1	2 Wakulla Springs 8:30-2PM