

Family Ministry Strategy



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

Hey Parents!

I am so excited to partner with you on this spiritual journey as we lead your child in the ways of the Lord. In the following pages, you will see the strategy that we are implementing to help your child grow up to become a disciple of Christ.

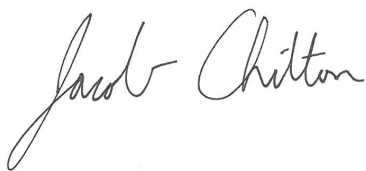
At FBCTLH, we firmly believe that spiritual growth begins in the cradle. That is why you will see this spiritual growth plan is from the cradle to college.



Our strategy comes from the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Mark 4:1-9, 13-20; Luke 8:4-8, 11-15). As parents, we are not called to save our children. In fact, we cannot. Salvation is a supernatural work of God. Only He can save. However, we do play an important role in it. As this parable explains, the seed of the Gospel thrives in the fertile soil. We must prepare the soil of our children's hearts to receive the seed of the Gospel. This is the very heart of our strategy.

Helping children and youth grow up in Christ is a partnership between the church and the home. This is why you will see "Our Role" at each stage of development. I have also provided some recommended resources to help you lead your child along each stage. Our Family Ministry goal is to partner with you to provide gospel-centered conversations, resources, and opportunities both in the home and in the church that will lead to your child's salvation and calling to be a disciple who makes disciples.

FBCTLH will go above and beyond to help equip families to thrive in the spiritual development of their children. We are not meant to do this alone. This is why I am so excited that you are partnering with us to help your child grow into a disciple of Jesus Christ.



DISCOVER (AGES 0-5)

Our Role:

Cultivator - We are called to prepare the soil for the seed of the Gospel that will be planted later.

Resources:

Family Worship by Donald Whitney

The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones

The Big Picture Interactive Bible Storybook:

Connecting Christ Throughout God's Story

Life Event:

Parent/Child Dedication

Key Foundational Truths

God loves me.

Jesus is God's Son.

The Bible is

God's Word.



DISCERN (AGES 4-8)

Our Role:

Planter - We are called to plant the seed of the Gospel in the lives of our children by teaching, equipping, modeling, observing, and answering.

Resources:

Big Truths for Young Hearts by Bruce Ware

Helping Children to Understand the Gospel

by Michael, Nelson, and Burk

New City Catechisms by Shammas and Keller

Parenting by Paul David Tripp

Life Event:

1st Grade Bible Presentation

Key Foundational Truths

Church is important.

The Bible is true.

God hears my prayers.



DECIDE (7-12)

Our Role:

Caretaker - We are called to provide the necessary nutrients (church, service, conversations, prayer, family devotionals) for the seed of the Gospel to grow.

Resources:

10 Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health

by Donald Whitney

Conversation and Discipleship by Bill Hull

Life Event:

Baptism

Key Foundational Truths

My Faith is my own.

Jesus is my Lord

and Savior.

Time with God

is important.



DISCIPLE (10+)

Our Role:

Pruner - We are called to shape the spiritual lives of our children so that they may grow healthier.

Resources:

Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper

Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life

by Donald Whitney

Multiply by Francis Chan

Life Event:

Senior Sunday/Sending

Disciple Replication

Key Foundational Truths

Love God.

Love Others.

I'm a disciple-maker.

I still need
the Gospel.



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