

PARENTING PATHWAY

A GUIDE TO DISCIPLING YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH THE STAGES OF LIFE

GOD'S HEART FOR PARENTING

God has expressed his plan for parenting in the Bible (Deuteronomy 6). As parents, our goal is to follow his plan. This model expresses the Father heart of God, and his desire for his children to pass on a godly legacy. The kingdom of God expands one heart at a time from one generation to the next. This occurs as you disciple your children:

1. In the Home
2. In the Church



Every human longs in their heart to know who they are, where they belong and why they are here in the world. As parents, you model and impart these three basic needs through God given instincts of love, protection and provision. Making connections to your child's heart, and helping them connect to God's heart, will assist them in a lifelong journey of embracing his answers to:



IDENTITY: Parents model the Father heart of God so the child understands their identity and feels loved.



BELONGING: Parents model the character of Christ so the child understands sin, conviction, how the body of Christ belongs together, and the child feels trust and safety.



PURPOSE: Parents model the work of the Holy Spirit that gives them purpose in the kingdom of God, and the child feels the power to overcome darkness and walk in freedom.



Your child's time in the home can be viewed as four growth stages and parents play a unique role in each revealing Father God's heart:

Love & Discipline Years:

Babies - 2 years: Parent Role - Nurturer

2 - 5 years: Parent Role - Establishing Boundaries

Training Years:

Kindergarten- 3rd grade: Parent Role - Character Builder

4th- 5th grade: Parent Role - Equipper

Coaching Years:

6th- 8th grade: Parent Role - Coach

9th- 10th grade: Parent Role - Coach

Releasing/Friendship Years:

11th- 12th grade: Parent Role - Consultant and Guidance

College - Adult: Parent Role - Friend

As you disciple your children through the stages, there will be key things they will need to know, feel, and grow in their relationships with Jesus.



KNOW: Your child will learn about who God is, who they are, and how to connect with the world around them during their development from baby into adulthood.



FEEL: You want to shepherd your child's heart in a way that they experience heart transformation, not behavior modification. This is where true character is developed.



GROW: As your child matures in Christ, you can expect them to grow emotionally, spiritually and mentally, eventually becoming thriving adults.