

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS



How to talk to your
kids about your faith

In partners at your table, take
a couple minutes to discuss
the following questions

What did talking about faith look
like in your house growing up?

What does talking about faith look
like in your family currently?

What would you like talking about
faith to look like in your family?

Reactive

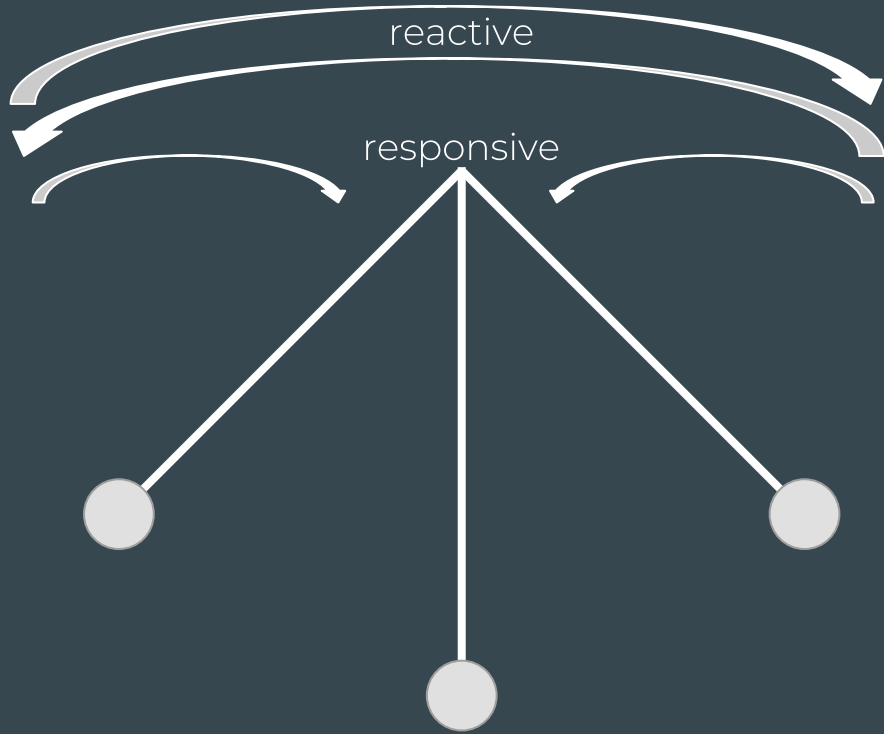
Blame
Jump to conclusions
Criticize harshly
Act on instinct
Take offense easily
Want instant solutions
Can't see the part they play in problems
Triggered
Anxious

Responsive

Ownership
Stand back and observe
Respond thoughtfully
Act on principle
Tough skin
Work toward long-term solutions
See the part they play in problems
Reflective
Non-Anxious/Equanimity

Permissive

Grace-Fueled
Disobedience



Moralistic

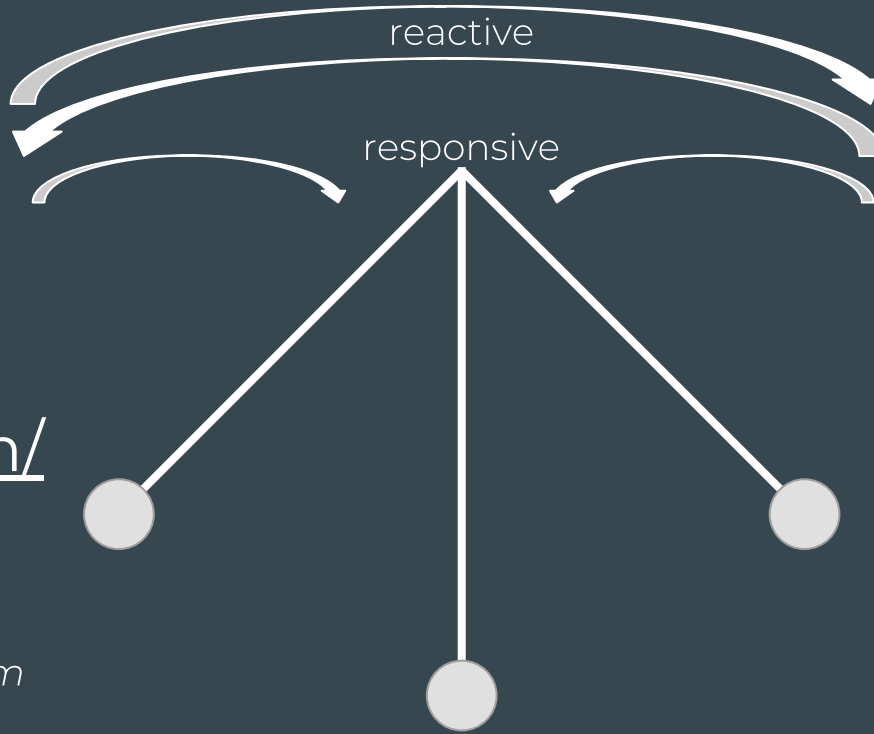
Guilt-Fueled
Obedience

Jesus-Centered

Grace-Fueled
Obedience

Individualism/
Relativism

Seeks Security in
*Authenticity, Freedom
and Autonomy*

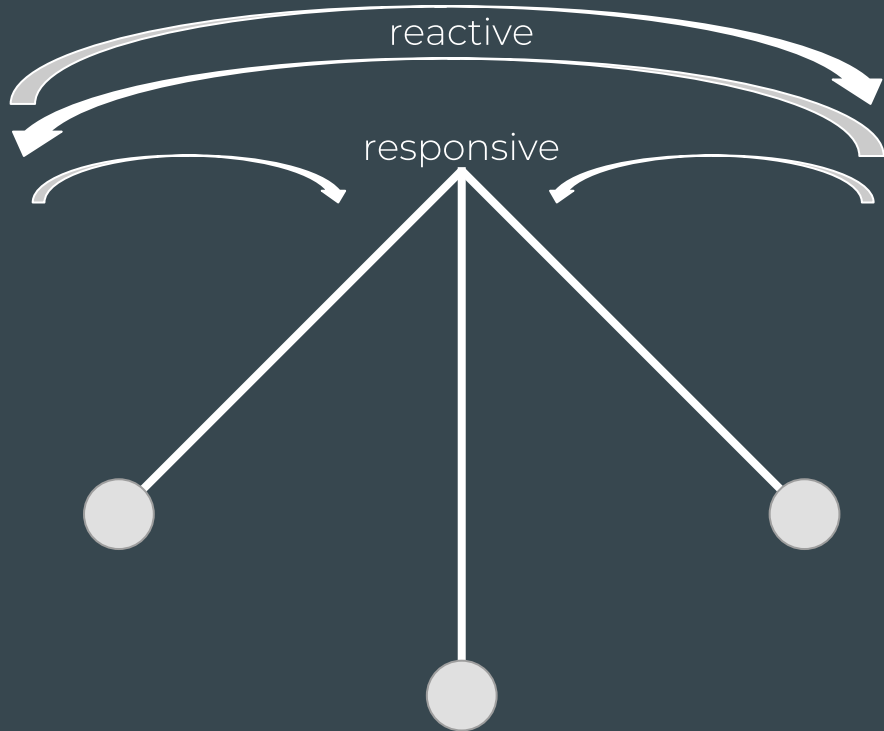


Absolutism

Seeks Security
In Certainty

Jesus-Centered

Seeks Security in *Jesus*



Osmosis

Hands Off
"Passive"

Instruction

Hands On
"Control"

Jesus-Centered

Actively Engaged and Trusting God



FAITH IS A DEVELOPMENTAL AND RELATIONAL
PROCESS THAT SPANS THE LIFETIME.

0-2 Years Old

What's happening in their brains and bodies?

- Developing senses, reflexes, mobility, habits and working memory
- Establish strong, safe, and healthy attachment with caregivers
- Develop trust with environment, caregivers, and self through senses
- Main influence is mother and father

What faith looks like?

- Lots of love, snuggles, play time and establishing life rhythms
- Incorporating songs, stories, pictures, and objects that go with what they are learning.



3-5 Years Old

What's happening in their brains and bodies?

- Learning language and continuing to discover the world around them like little sponges--absorbing all information
- Begin developing intuitive thoughts--words, images, gestures are symbols for something else
- Also developing autonomy and initiative
- Main influence is the whole family



What does faith look like?

- Able to believe without question or reliability
- Powerfully influenced by examples, moods, actions, and stories of caregivers
- They use imagination, symbols and play to express beliefs (“I love Jesus more than ice cream!”)
- Playing out the story, experiencing the story with their hands, making space for all those intuitive questions



6-11 Years Old



What's happening in their brains and bodies?

- Making sense of the world around them by rearranging thoughts and categorizing information
- Developing inductive reasoning and the ability to draw conclusions and make generalizations
- Understand that their thoughts and feelings are unique and not necessarily the same as others (empathy)
- Discovering own interests and striving to do the right thing
- Main influence: positive/negative feedback from neighbors and schools

What does faith look like?

- Beliefs from the songs and stories become more literal
- They start to embrace meaning for themselves connecting them to greater community
- They view the world through a justice lense (fairness and equity)
- Faith as Rules vs Faith as Relationship

12-14 Years Old

What's happening in their brains and bodies?

- Understanding their different social roles: friends, students, children and citizens
- Thinking rationally about abstract and hypothetical concepts (love, hate, success, failure)
- Deeper understanding of identity and morality
- Developing compassionate, deductive reasoning
- Main influences: peers and role models



What does faith look like?

- Deeply influenced by by their context (peers, school, church, authority, other adults, etc.)
- Mentors play a really important role in this stage as the adolescent is forming their identity
- Many adults can remain in this stage of faith development as they seek to maintain the comfortable equilibrium of relationships with self and others



15-20 Years Old

What's happening in their brains and bodies?

- Developing logical reasoning
- Continued identity development (with trust and freedom from caregivers and peers)
- Future oriented thinking helps them further determine who they are
- Begin forming intimate relationships and commitment
- Main influence: friends and partners

What does faith look like?

- Moving into a more deeply developed faith requires struggle, usually a significant event, tragedy, or loss
- Crossroads leads us to take responsibility for and ownership of our beliefs, values, systems of meaning and commitments
- The unevaluated faith is replaced by a more robust sense of security and trust



Resources

- Apostle's Creed Cards
- Lesson Updates on the UC Website and App
- Resource Page on UC Website
- Resource link in UC Kids Button on the App
- UC Kids Playlist on Youtube
- UC Kids Playlist on Spotify
- Each other!