



IT'S JUST A PHASE

(SO DON'T MISS IT)



IT'S JUST A PHASE, PART 3: RHYTHMS & RELATIONSHIPS

Statistics say that the three biggest factors in building a faith that lasts in the life of a child are the spiritual investment of a parent, the outside voices of other adults, and the opportunity for that child to find a personal mission. That's why having a family rhythm of faith and having outside voices speaking into your family are so important. That's why a partnership with a church is so important for every family. This week, we're looking at exactly what that could look like for you.

BIG IDEA: Your family's road to faith is paved by rhythms and relationships.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Looking back at your own life, what were the regular rhythms of your family? Did you have routines or traditions that you remember? What priorities did these patterns communicate to you?
2. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Deuteronomy 6:5-9.*

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (NLT)

3. To what extent do you think God wants to be part of a family's everyday rhythm? Why?
4. In this passage, God outlines a plan for Israelite families to invest faith in the lives of children. Looking at this model what do you think this rhythm could look like in your family or families that you know?
5. Looking back on your family life so far, to what extent has God become part of your family's rhythm and reality?
6. Looking back at your life as a child, were there adults who influenced you or spoke into your life? Is there an adult who was a bridge into your life when the bridge to your parents or family broke?
7. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Samuel 16:1, 5-13.*

Now the LORD said to Samuel, "Fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too. When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the LORD's anointed!" But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the LORD has chosen." Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the LORD has chosen." In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." *1 Samuel 16:1, 5-10 (NLT)*

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Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats." "Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives." So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the LORD said, "This is the one; anoint him." So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on. 1 Samuel 16:11-13 (NLT)

8. Why do you think Jesse didn't bring David to the line up for Samuel as he looked for the next king? What did Samuel see that Jesse couldn't?
9. Why do you think parents often miss the story God is writing in the life of their child? Why do you think it takes an outside person to point it out?
10. At oneChurch.tv we've learned that as students serve alongside adults, there's something about their faith that becomes strengthened. Why do you think that is?
11. Pick one child who isn't in your family but is in your life and share something extraordinary about them with your group. Pick a time to share that with that child or their parent this week.

MOVING FORWARD

Considering the kids that you know, is there a child or teenager whose life you can speak into as a partner and support to a parent? Think of how you could encourage that child in their faith by sending them a note, giving them encouragement, or having a conversation with them to show them you care.

Looking for more help with the phases your kids are in? Be sure to check out www.justaphase.com and the www.theparentcue.org.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Create a Rhythm: Increase the quantity of quality spiritual time you spend with your kids.

Widen the Circle: Pursue strategic relationships with your kids.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Deuteronomy 6:7 (NLT)

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