

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Prayer: Regularly talking with God and interceding for ourselves and others
 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4.6-7

RAISING Z – THE GOD STUFF

IMPACT IN NOVEMBER STARTS NEXT WEEK, SEE THE NOTE AT THE BOTTOM OF GUIDE

STARTER QUESTIONS:

How do you explain to a child that they should believe in God?

Does your explanation about belief in God change if you’re talking to a teen or adult?

If so, why?

Has anyone ever asked you a question about God that you weren’t comfortable answering? What was the question?

Why weren’t you comfortable with that question?

How do you explain what it means to have faith?

MAIN IDEA:

This is our last week in our series Raising Z. Over the last few weeks we have focused on how to effectively communicate with and relate to the younger people in generation Z and ultimately raise them to know Jesus. Being able to connect with the people in this generation is important if we are going to be able to share the gospel with them in an effective manner and teach them about God and the sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us.

In this week Hank discussed the process that a person goes through as their faith progresses through their life. This process was geared towards younger people, but it is just as applicable to adults, although there may be some differences.

The end goal of the faith development process is for each person to own their faith. As we all know, ownership in one’s faith takes a lot of work on the part of the individual and support from our family and church community.

The home is one of the best (and toughest!) places to make disciples. Parenting is a high calling whether you're a Christian or not—but if you're actively trying to make disciples of your kids, you've got a huge task before you. The good news is that the Apostle Paul says that all Scripture is useful for training in righteousness, which means there's plenty of help for parents in the Bible.

Read 2Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

After the experience stage and affiliation stage is the Searching Stage. The searching stage is where people often times have a lot of questions about their faith and about God. Often times these questions are difficult to answer.

Topics for discussion:

1. What does the bible say about how to get your kids to know God?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (ESV)

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)

2. How can the church family help Generations Z work through the tough questions in the

Searching Stage?

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.” Hebrews 11:1-4 (NIV)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

FINAL THOUGHTS:

God tells us that it pleases Him that we believe in Him even though we cannot see Him. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that “he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” This is not to say that we have faith in God just to get something from Him. However, God loves to bless those who are obedient and faithful. We see a perfect example of this in Luke 7:50. Jesus is engaged in dialog with a sinful woman when He gives us a glimpse of why faith is so rewarding. “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” The woman believed in Jesus Christ by faith, and He rewarded her for it. Finally, faith is what sustains us to the end, knowing that by faith we will be in heaven with God for all eternity. “Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:8-9).

IMPACT IN NOVEMBER:

Impact series starts November 5th. Discuss with your LIFE group where your group will be willing to serve and what the sign-up process might look like for your group.

Discuss with your LIFE group how the idea of impacting our community could become a larger part of our daily lives, and not just in November.

Ask everyone to be thinking about who they could invite to church for the series.

Places to serve:

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater (new moms)
H.E.R. Shelter (women and children ministry)
Good News Jail and Prison Ministry (prison ministry)
99 to 1 (homeless ministry)
Connect with a Wish (foster child & family ministry)

How can our group pray for you?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Additional Scriptures for this topic:

James 1:2-4
Hebrews Chapter 11
Ehpesians 2:11-22
1 Thessalonians 2:13

RAISING Z
"The God Stuff"
October 29, 2017

Stages of Faith Development: (John Westerhof, Duke University)

- "Experience Stage"

"Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NIV)

- "Affiliation Stage"

"So Lot rushed out to tell his daughters' fiancées, "Quick, get out of the city, for the Lord is going to destroy it." But the young men looked at him as though he had lost his senses."

Genesis 19:14 (TLB)

- "Searching Stage"

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Luke 22:31-32 (NIV)

- "Ownership Stage"

"We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders. For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands." Psalm 78:4-7 (NLT)