

FAITH PATH

Guiding Your Child's Spiritual Journey One Step at a Time

WHY

The people of Waterloo Road Baptist Church believe God designed the family to be the primary disciple-making relationship. In other words, God gave parents the privilege of nurturing faith in the next generation. That's why the Faith Path was created, as a step-by-step plan to help you be intentional as you prepare for key faith milestones and foster spiritual disciplines in your child's faith journey. It is important to have a consistent routine of creating intentional moments that will help your family deepen relationships and have faith discussions. Regularly scheduled family time activities are a great way to make that happen.

WHAT

The Faith Path strategy is intended to help you develop a clear plan to intentionally point your child toward Christ in an age appropriate manner. We hope that you are naturally exposing your child to many of these faith practices from an early age. The Faith Path recommends focusing on particular practices or preparing for certain milestones at specific ages and stages. We will provide you with free kits that include training, resources, and ideas to help you guide your child along the path.

WHEN

You can start today regardless of your child's age or stage of development. Don't worry if you miss a step or if you start the process with an older child. You can always go back and emphasize earlier steps. We also encourage you to reinforce these practices as your child matures rather than view them as one-time resources and ideas for beginning each step in your child's life.

YOUR CHILD'S FAITH DECISION

Every step along the Faith Path is intended to guide and direct your child toward becoming a fully developing follower of Jesus Christ. At some point along the way, your child will be mature enough to make a clear decision to trust Christ as his or her Savior and then follow the Lord in believer's baptism. We have created material to assist you in leading your child to Christ and understanding salvation. When that wonderful event occurs, we would love to provide you with a special Salvation and Baptism kit containing resources to help you celebrate.

FAITH PATH STEPS

The Faith Path suggests a focus of specific practices and milestones at certain ages. However, you know your child best and can determine the most appropriate time to emphasize each step.

PARENT DEDICATION (0-2 years): Make a commitment to raise your child in a Christ-centered home.

BLESSING (3 years): Establish a practice of praying for and giving a blessing to your child on a routine basis.

FAMILY TIME (4 years): Establish the practice of connecting as a family while passing spiritual truths to your child.

PREPARING TO LEAD YOUR CHILD TO CHRIST (Age will vary, kit provided at 5 years): Learn how to lead your child to Christ. Although it may be several years before your child expresses an interest in becoming a Christian, now is the time for you to prepare for those discussions.



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PRAYER (6 years): Teach your child about prayer and establish the practice of praying as a family.

BIBLE (7 years): Teach your child about God's Word and establish the practice of reading and memorizing Scripture as a family.

WORSHIP (8 years): Establish the practice of adoring God personally, at home, at church, and as a lifestyle.

GIVING/SERVING (9 years): Establish the practice of giving and serving others for God's glory.

PREPARING FOR ADOLESCENCE (10 years): Discuss the changes and challenges of puberty with your child.

PURITY (11 years): Prepare and challenge your child to cherish and commit to purity.

RITE OF PASSAGE (16 years): Celebrate and give your child a vision for the future as an emerging adult.

LAUNCH (18 years): Coach your child to move toward college and/or career and adult independence.

FAITH DECISION

SALVATION & BAPTISM (Age will vary): When your child trusts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, create a time of celebration and guide your child in believer's baptism.

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

Child's Current Step: _____

Child's Next Step: _____

We offer free kits to guide you through each Faith Path step. Learn about the appropriate tools for your child's next step at waterlooroad.org/faith-at-home or by emailing Emily@waterlooroad.org

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles that Can Radically Change Your Family by Paul David Tripp

Parenting Book Lists from Waterloo's Childhood Ministry

WATERLOO ROAD MINISTRIES

Childhood Ministry · waterlooroad.org/ministry/childhood/

Student Ministry · waterlooroad.org/ministry/students/

College & Young Adult Ministry · waterlooroad.org/ministry/college/

HomePointe · homepointe.org

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