

## // Parent Ministry

### *The DNA of D6*

*Building Blocks of Generational Discipleship*

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#### **REVIEW:**

The D6 conference, curriculum, and movement have continued to gain steam in youth ministry circles and with churches around the country. The shift toward family-ministry has begun to move youth ministries, children's ministries and churches to new levels of engagement and effectiveness.

*The DNA of D6* is a simple handbook and beginner's guide to the philosophy and strategy behind generational discipleship at the heart of the family-ministry movement. This book is an outstanding read for anyone looking to reimagine their church's ministries and discipleship model.

#### **SNAPSHOT**

##### ***Where to Begin?***

Scripturally, "family" is defined clearly as when a dad and a mom influence their children and grandchildren. We do not live in a perfect world however, so family often does not look as God has intended. Therefore, the church's role is to help in shaping homes, in whatever form it takes. God's call is for staff and churches to seek to become people who are willing to fight for the next generation and close the gap of those choosing to leave faith.

##### ***1/168: Flawed Fraction or Ministry Multiplier***

The "1" represents the average number of hours a student spends in discipleship each week, inside the church. The "168" is the remaining hours in a week, including hours spent with families and parents. If the church is to disciple a new generation, they must plug into the power of parents and family. While it can be argued that much of the remaining hours are used up in sleep, school and other activities, there still remains a large amount of unaccounted time. The church must raise the numerator by rethinking how parents spiritually connect and communicate with their children.



### ***D6 Goes Beyond Deuteronomy 6***

Generational discipleship is not just found in one passage, Deuteronomy 6, but is woven through scripture. Early in Genesis through the New Testament there is a clear commission for one generation to pass on the knowledge of God to next generation.

The idea of "Three Chairs" describes the generational impact found in scriptures. All it takes is three generations to go from a generation that knows God intimately to a generation that is no longer walking with God.

### ***Biblical Worldviews and Battleships***

Preparing the next generation for the battle of defending their personal faith is like building a battleship. The church needs to teach parents how to raise their children with a Biblical worldview that is self-sustaining and capable of navigating through the issues of life.

How do we build such thinkers? Consider Bloom's taxonomy of learning and six simple steps: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation build a generation that will say afloat in the midst of the battles ahead.

### ***The One-Eared Mickey Mouse***

Over the years, there has become two distinct circles of ministry in the church - the larger circle, the church as a whole and then a second smaller circle on the fringes, youth ministry. While still connected to the church, it's connection to the larger church is fringe at best. Other ministries have also been added to the peripheries of connection: children's ministry, college/career and the list goes on. The church must come back together as a whole and approach all ministry and all age groups as a team.

### ***The Senior Pastor Complex***

The truth is senior pastors want to be the leaders for change and generational discipleship, but because of their own failures with their own children they feel they are disqualified. It is time to leave the guilt behind and letting Satan hold back the church. Senior pastors must own the past, educate themselves, and seek forgiveness. The senior pastor must be the vision-caster and lead; if they are not, change will not happen.

### ***Staffing for a D6 Church***

*"Often the difference between a team of talented players and a winning team is the coach."* The pastor is the coach and lead for significant change in a church. The team should be made up of both paid and lay workers. Understanding and creating the right structures, vision and organizational chart coordinates and connects

a winning team for generational discipleship.

### ***The Unseen Staff Member***

Curriculum is the unseen staff member in churches. Finding the right curriculum that works for your church and organization enables everyone to win, including families. A church must decide if they want to buy, create or use no curriculum at all. Each option comes with its gaps and benefits. Having the right curriculum that matches up with a vision of family-enabled discipleship both empowers parents outside the church and teachers leading inside your church.

### ***Reach and Teach Strategy***

Churches tend to move in one of two directions becoming a “reaching” church or a “teaching” church. A successful strategy for long-term discipleship is a balance of both through a three-level strategy of small groups: community groups, elective groups, and life groups. Each of these groups will allow a church to do both reaching and teaching through intentional relationships inside and outside the building.

### ***Help Parents Dive Deep***

Enabling parents to have three levels of conversations in order to draw closer to the heart of their children will empower them to dive deeper spiritually. Level one, the “sand castle” level, is communication for knowledge, asking simple questions and listening with little risk and depth. Level two is “snorkel level”, communication for understanding, sharing feelings and having conversation. Level three, “scuba level,” is diving deep in conversation for influence. This level of conversation is where beliefs, needs and changes can be addressed.

### ***Changing the Way People Think***

Change is not easy in any organization, especially churches. Change needs true leadership and collaboration. Changing the culture, principles, and process will be a challenge but will allow for a clear vision and measurement of progress.

The goal in the end inside your culture, in whatever forms it takes, is seeing generational change and spiritual dedication for the long term.

