



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP



TIME



MOMENTS



MILESTONES

BUILD A LEGACY OF FAITH



Living Hope Baptist Church exists to glorify God by leading more people to anchor their life and hope in Jesus. That's simply our way of saying that our mission as a church is to obey Jesus' commission to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt.28:19-20), nurturing a people whose passion for Jesus and glad, sacrificial commitment to His purposes is the blazing center of their life. Everything we are and everything we do intentionally serves this eternal, gospel purpose.

Among the core values that saturate our life together is family discipleship, the conviction that God means for us to pass our faith to the next generation. This calling to God's people is clear throughout the Scriptures:

"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your sound with all your might. And these words I command you today shall be on your heart. 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." (Dt. 6:4-9)

"...tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever." (Ps. 48:13-14)

"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done. He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of the Lord, but keep His commandments." (Ps. 78:4-7)

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline (nurture) and instruction of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4)



Do you see the common theme? Disciple-making of the nations begins in the homes and families of those who already know, treasure and follow Jesus. The first disciple-making we are to do is with our own children.

Parents have the God-given calling, privilege and responsibility to be the primary faith-trainers of their children—to lead their children to faith in Jesus and to live as His disciples. The church and its ministries exist to partner and support parents in this joyful quest.

So, at Living Hope, our **Family Discipleship ministry is an initiative by which our Next Generation Discipleship ministries will partner with parents to affirm and equip them to leverage ordinary family life to enjoy God, apply the gospel, make disciples, and build a legacy of faith in their children, so that together we will pass gospel faith to the next generation.**

How? Our Next Generation Discipleship Ministries (preschool, children, middle school, high school) will encourage and help parents pursue a very practical “Deuteronomy 6” lifestyle of

TIME, MOMENTS, AND MILESTONES



TIME: CREATE FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP TIME

“The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” (Dt.6:4-5)

Parents build intentional time into the rhythm of their family life for the focused purpose of thinking about, talking about and living out the gospel. This includes prioritizing Sundays to worship and study God’s Word with the Living Hope family, engaging in family worship at home, as well as family meals, tuck-in blessings, family prayer and more.



We will help parents develop a gospel-based view of time and its use, (including the Lord's Day), develop teams of adults prepared to invest in the spiritual growth of children and students on Sundays, and provide training and resources for age-appropriate family worship, prayer, meals, etc.



MOMENTS: CAPTURE FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP MOMENTS

"These words I command you shall be in your heart. 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." (Dt.6:6-8)

Parents capture and leverage opportunities in the course of everyday life for the purpose of gospel-centered conversations. Since the Lord lays claim to everything, these moments could arise from simply observing the beauty of a sunset, an argument between siblings, a school challenge, a world event, accomplishments & disappointments, a movie or song, or a thousand other things—and then engaging your child in a conversation that results in discovering and communicating God's truth from it.

We will provide parents with training in how to see all of life through the lens of the gospel, and resource them with age-appropriate conversation, prayer and Scripture suggestions.



MILESTONES: CELEBRATE FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP MILESTONES

"Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates....bring [children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord....tell the next generation that this is our God for ever and ever....that they should set their hope in God." (Dt. 6:9; Eph. 6:4, Ps. 48:12-13, Ps. 78: 7)



Parents make and mark significant spiritual milestones of God's work in the life of the family and child. Through intentional planning and thoughtful commemoration (including celebrations, conversations, and rites of passage), the parent helps their child see the beauty of God's faithful providence, the fullness of His gospel purposes across the course of life, and their progress in the journey of faith.

We will walk this journey with the parents, providing Biblical, gospel-centered training and practical resources for every step. A Gospel Parenting Summit will be held at least once a year to prepare parents for the next step in their child's soul development. For each milestone, there are also components for the church and/or the family, and the child / student.

We will encourage parents to mark nine milestones:

BIRTH OF A CHILD

- Parent Seminar: *Foundations for Gospel Parenting* (also for families new to Living Hope or beginning Family Discipleship)
- Church Event: Family Dedication Service

BECOMING A WORSHIPING FAMILY

- Parent Seminar: *The Family Worshiping from Home, at Church, in Life*
- Church Event: New in the Pew

PREPARING TO LEAD YOUR CHILD TO CHRIST

- Parent Seminar: *Preparing to Lead Your Child to Christ* (Child or Student: *Baptism training*)
- Church Event: Believer's Baptism

RAISING A SERVANT-HEARTED CHILD

- Parent Seminar: *Raising a Child Who Gives & Serves*
- Family Event: Family mission project



PREPARING FOR ADOLESCENCE

- Parent Seminar: *Change is Coming: Preparing for Your Child's Journey through Adolescence*
- Family Event: Road Trip with intentional conversations

A COMMITMENT TO PURITY

- Parent Seminar: *Helping Your Child Develop a Heart of Purity*
- Student Training: *6th-7th grade purity teaching series*
- Family Event: Commitment to purity celebration

PASSAGE TO ADULTHOOD

- Parent & Student Retreat: *Living God's Design as a Godly Man or Woman*
- Family Event: Significant event marking the transition from childhood to adulthood; at a meal, family & friends speak into child's life with gospel blessing; a gift is given.

COVENANT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- Church Event: Students (age 16+) participate with Discovering Hope
- *Students personally affirm the Living Hope Articles of Faith & Church Covenant & are publicly welcomed by the church as voting members*

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

- Parent Seminar: *Releasing Your Child to Live Their Story*
- Student Seminar: *Discovering & Living Your Own Story with Jesus*
- Church Event: Meal with child and parents Celebration with parent blessing; also commissioning in a worship gathering.



The Family Discipleship initiative means that we are working together with parents to captivate the head (what we know), heart (who we are), and hands (what we do) of children and students for the sake of Christ.

So at the same time parents are living out the Time, Moments and Milestones life at home, each of our **Living Hope Next Generation Discipleship Ministries** (preschool, children, middle school, high school) will be intentionally designing and pursuing a coordinated strategy of curricula, events, experiences, and training designed to, by God's grace, help each child or student know Jesus, steadily grow like Him, join His mission, and faithfully, joyfully follow Him for a lifetime.

In other words, through Family Discipleship we are leading more preschoolers, children, students -and their families- to anchor their life and hope in Jesus. We pray to see families strengthened around the gospel and for the coming generations to join us as we Worship, Connect, Serve, Equip, and Multiply living hope. It's an audacious goal, but one we pursue with confidence, clinging to this sure promise:

"To Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
(Eph. 3;20-21)



For more information about our Family Discipleship Ministry,
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