



*Lift up Jesus. Love people.*

### **FBC FAMILIES,**

When I was 16, I wasn't connected to my youth group at our church. My view of church in general was that it wasn't very important. It felt more like something you had to do or a box to check than something I saw as valuable in my life. But then... the youth pastor at my church, Mark Hunnicutt, pursued me and a few of my friends. At first, every time he would invite me, I came up with a new excuse why I couldn't come. He asked me over and over. He showed up at baseball games and approached me at church, but he didn't seem to get upset or discouraged when I repeatedly turned down his invites. I don't know if it was the fifth, tenth, or twentieth time he asked that I said yes. I truly don't remember. But what I do remember is my senior year in high school, God got ahold of my heart. He revealed himself to me through the Gospel. And it changed my life forever. I believe the Gospel changes lives and can completely change the trajectory of a person's life.

I am so thankful for our student pastors, Casey and Drew, and how they have pursued my kids. I am thankful that my youngest has gotten to experience preschool ministry with MacKenna and currently can't wait to run out the door to be involved in children's ministry with Miss Yvette and Miss Joetta. My oldest will be college age in a few years and I would count it a great blessing if he was able to be connected with Zach in our young adult ministry. We truly have some amazing leaders in our [family ministry here at FBC](#) and it is a privilege to do ministry with them!

We continue to beat the drum that parents are the primary disciple makers of our children in the home. I believe that. But I also know age-based ministry at your local church plays a role in their discipleship process. If your children aren't currently connected, it's not too late. Bring them on Sunday mornings to Sunday school. Bring them to AWANA and MDWK. Encourage them to come to college night on Thursday nights. Worship together.



Parents - come to Parent IV. Get connected to a group. Sign your kids up for S.P.A.R. and enjoy a date night. Find community through serving (some of the closest friends you will make will be through serving together). The church is a body made up of a bunch of broken imperfect people who let each other down sometimes. But we follow a perfect Savior who is the head of the church, Jesus Christ. His Gospel still changes hearts and trajectories of lives. I'm not sure what the next step looks like in your life, but when you take it, you won't regret it!

**Pastor Joey**



*Trusting God's Word*  
*Following His Ways*  
*Walking With Others*  
*Serving Our Community*  
*Reaching the Nations*

