

THE LONG WALK

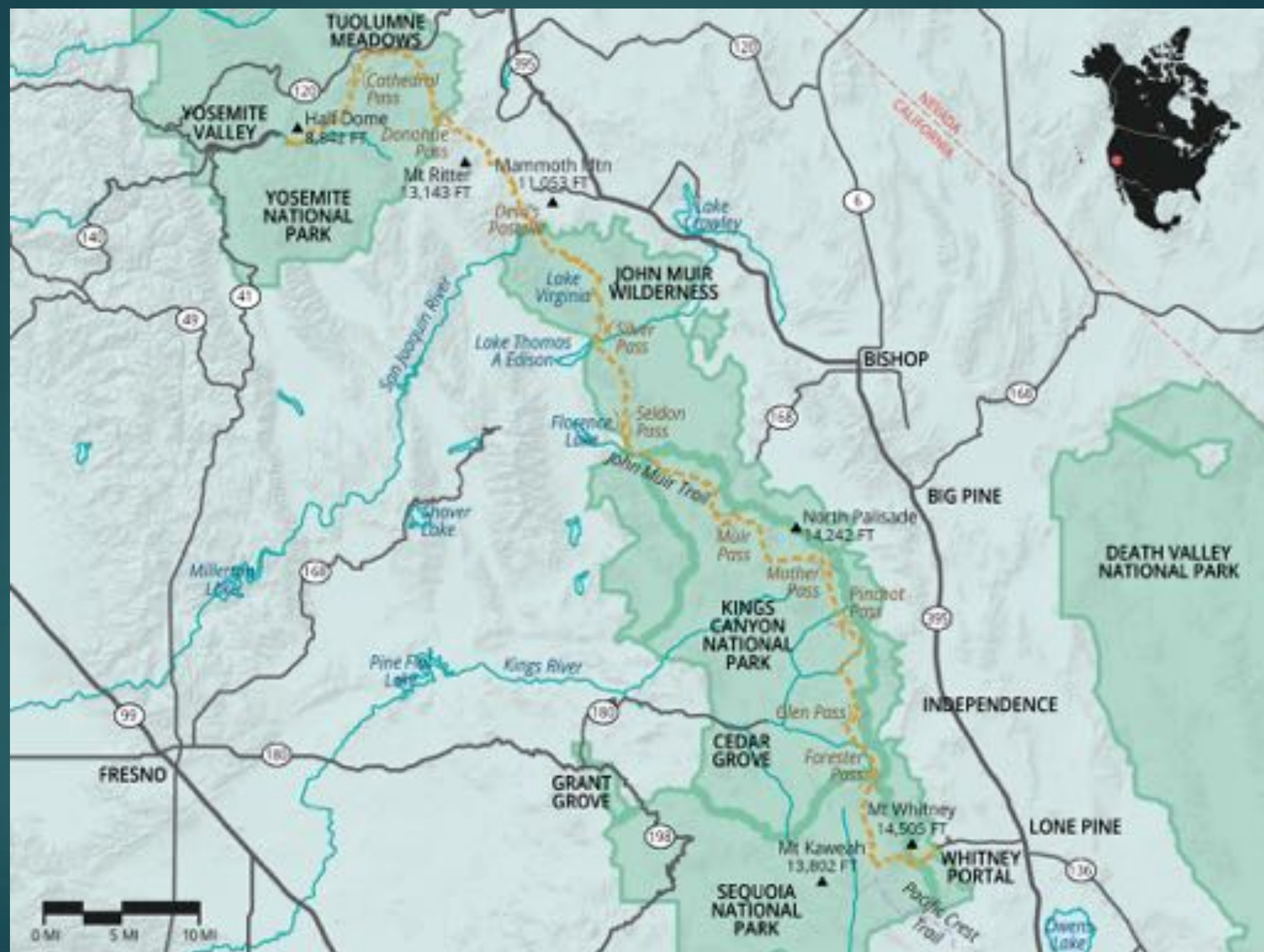
DAVID RAUSCH





QUESTION:

As parents, how do we help our kids develop a *long* walk with Jesus?









IDEA:

Following Jesus is not a vactation.
It's an adventure.



QUESTION:

What could you tell your kids to prepare them for the challenges of following Jesus?

Preschool/Early Elementary


- ▶ It's okay to feel sad. Even Jesus felt sad.
- ▶ Even mommies and daddies make mistakes sometimes.
- ▶ Jesus loves you even when you make bad choices.
- ▶ Sometimes people aren't nice to you when you follow Jesus.

Late Elementary/Middle School

- ▶ Sometimes you'll pray for things and you won't get them.
- ▶ Sometimes doing things God's way is easy and sometimes it's really hard.
- ▶ Bad things happen to good people, even Christians.
- ▶ Sometimes it feels like God is not there.

High School

- ▶ It's normal to experience doubt.
- ▶ Some very smart people are going to tell you that God is not real.
- ▶ Christians aren't perfect. Neither is the church.
- ▶ It's hard living as a Christian in a secular world.
- ▶ Your faith and your faithfulness to God will be challenged almost daily.



⁶ The commandments I give you today must be in your hearts. ⁷ Make sure your children learn them. Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

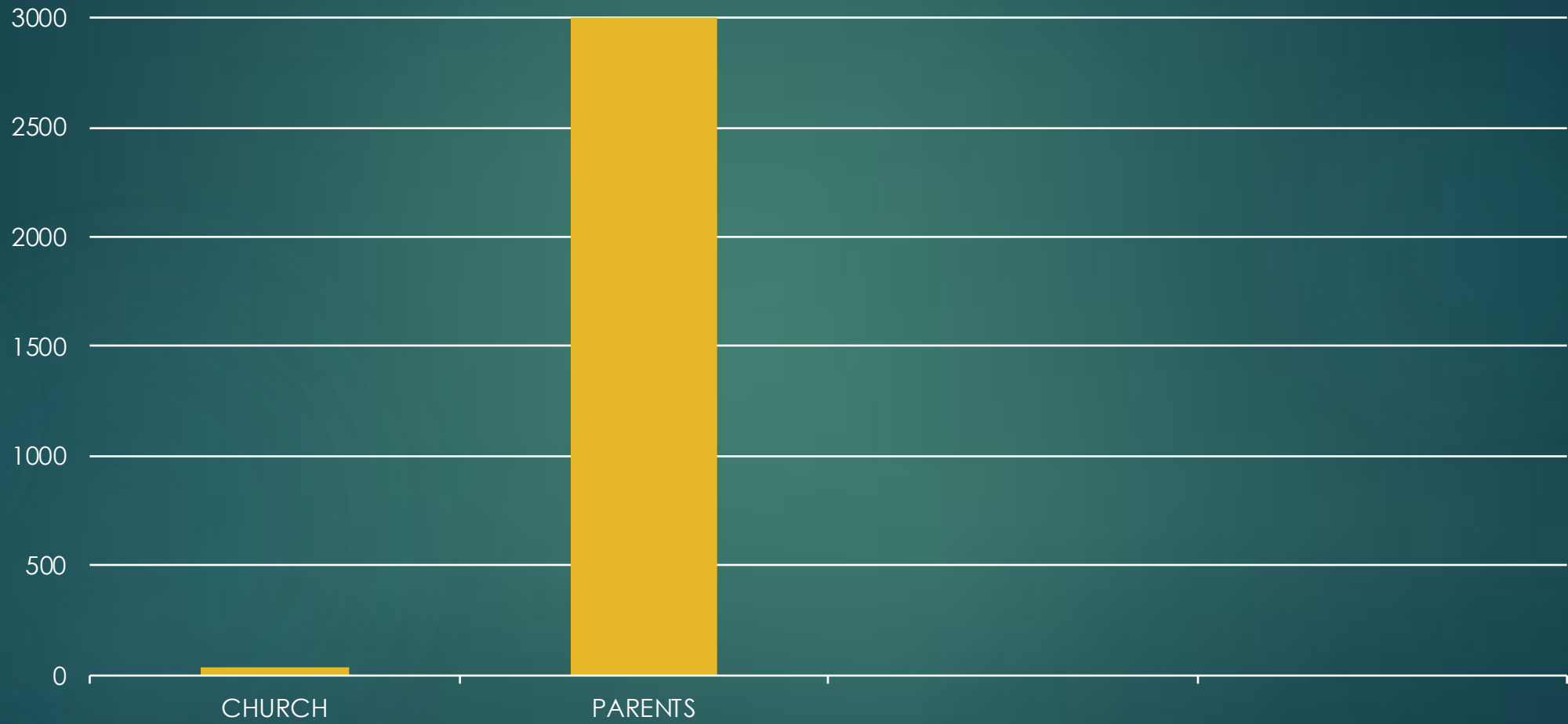



IDEA:

For better or worse, you are the greatest spiritual influence in the life of your kids.

40/3000 PRINCIPAL


HOURS






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IDEA:

Your words have the power to steer your kids deeper into a relationship with Jesus.

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- ▶ You have such great questions about God. I love your questions!
 - ▶ I'm so impressed with how much you read your Bible?
 - ▶ You have an amazing heart for God.
 - ▶ I love how you invite your friends to youth group.
 - ▶ Your love for Jesus is so obvious.



QUESTION:

How can you specifically use encouragement to steer your kids deeper into a walk with Jesus?



IDEA:

Maybe we should be helping kids develop their identity in Christ rather than trying to modify their behavior.