



GRACE

HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR JON:

Helping Children See God as Relevant to Their Lives
(Focus on the Family article)

Will my child leave the faith?

Many Christian parents have asked themselves this question. Their anxiety is understandable. They've heard the stories of kids who've left home and announced that they would no longer follow the family's faith. In our work with young adults, we've witnessed such stories too often. Despite the historical footprint of Christianity in America, its mark on today's young people is not as visible as it has been with previous generations. But there is hope. While church attendance may be down, it's surprising how many of today's young people pray and hunger for real answers. Many desire to live a meaningful life, one that helps mend a broken world. But they're not sure how to do it. They haven't recognized how the faith they were taught fuels an authentic life.

As parents, we can trust that God will continue to pursue the hearts of those who are wandering. And we can partner with Him to help our kids see His love, truth and wisdom as a relevant, authentic source of strength. **Here are some principles to remember as you help your children develop a faith that is worth holding on to:**

1. Authentic faith is an integral part of life

Apologist Sean McDowell hears a number of explanations for why young people leave the church. "It can be for moral reasons. ... It can be relational, spiritual or intellectual," Sean says. Still, he sees a common thread through the different stories: Young people don't see a connection between what the adults in their lives believe spiritually and how these adults actually live. "They've seen how spiritual things help on Sunday morning and Wednesday night," he says, "but don't see how it translates into their everyday lives."

As parents, we have the opportunity and responsibility to help our children see Christianity in a holistic and meaningful way, to recognize how God's loving wisdom applies to how they

compete on the field, how they behave at school and how they interact with others.

In other words, we should discuss everyday activities with our kids through the lens of God's Word. Make it a lively, normal part of life. Be open to questions, especially ones that keep the conversation going. Sometimes it's hard to believe, but teens really do crave spiritual conversations with the adults in their lives. Not lectures, but real conversations. God instructs us to talk about His truth every day with our kids (Deuteronomy 6).

We must also provide space in our kids' schedules for growing their faith. If children invest most of their time in sports, music, gaming or anything else that overshadows developing their faith, then essentially that activity is more important to your family than spiritual growth. If our kids' faith is to last, they need to see the Gospel as the center of the home. It can't be just a part of the family routine twice a week; it must be an essential foundation for all of life.

2. Relevant faith helps us navigate the dark

A mother of three recently talked to us about her parenting journey. Mrs. Lee told us that she wishes she'd done better at helping her boys engage the culture, with all its pitfalls, risks and misguided worldviews. "I was more concerned with trying to protect them," she told us. "My husband and I would freak out if the boys were around things we were trying so hard to protect them from. By the time they went off to college, it was a real culture shock." We've heard many moms and dads express similar thoughts. As parents, we can become so overly protective that we don't lean into God's protection for our children. We try to shield them from the consequences of their choices and from the challenges and obstacles of the world. But constant protection from a world that they will soon live in isn't healthy for a child and his faith. Indeed, young adults from overprotective homes often end up rebelling, abandoning church or hanging out with the wrong crowd. We must consistently show our kids that faith is compatible with the harsh realities of the real world. And not just compatible, but also essential for facing those challenges. When your child

September 2017

Here am I. Send me!

Isaiah 6:8 – Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"
Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

recognizes faith as a true source of strength — when it helps her overcome temptation, persecution, relationship problems or bad decisions — she is far more likely to rely on that source in the future.

3. True faith reaches out

Dr. Ed Stetzer is the executive director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism and the author of numerous books on the spiritual shifts in our culture. We talked to Dr. Stetzer about the generational differences evident in today's churches. One interesting difference is in the spiritual questions young people are asking. Previous generations asked about the Bible's trustworthiness, such as if Jesus truly rose from the dead. Today's young people start with more foundational questions, such as "Does God really exist?" They have a "prove it to me" mindset. And since Christianity is not provable in the sense of hard scientific data, they look for consistency and authenticity. They want to see a faith that fuels real change, one that reaches out to love and serve others.

As you live the Christian faith with your family, remember that your kids are of a generation earnestly seeking to fulfill the words of 1 Peter 2:15: "This is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people." If we are to help our kids see a faith worth holding on to, we must show them how that faith is lived out through our actions. Be a family that reaches out, a family that engages a hurting world. When we show concern and compassion for the needs of others, our kids are able to better recognize the love behind our actions. But they do need to see those actions.

God is on the march. As culture increasingly shifts toward an anti-Christian environment, God is calling our young people to a more authentic faith. He is calling them to rise from their slumber, to shed their self-entitled attitudes and reflect His love and truth. We must join this movement. We must help our children focus on more meaningful pursuits than their extracurricular activities, their circle of friends or the latest internet trend.

If we show young people the joy of reaching out — helping a group of less fortunate people or partnering with an organization bringing clean water to a village — their lives can change forever.

- Written by Alex McFarland and Jason Jimenez

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit, pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the directory or put cards of encouragement in the box above the mailboxes in the library and they will be delivered on a regular basis.

Wilma Davidson
Julie Lindsey
Gerry Kline
Russ Hearton
Roland Brooks

Carol Sarver
John Gay
Nina Johnson
Gerry Gladfelder
Wanda Buttrey



WE BELIEVE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT for all Ages (Nursery to Whatever Age You Happen To Be) and there is a Class just for **YOU** Starting on September 3!!

Teachers and Assistants are still necessary for Sunday School, Children's Church, Nursery, Pioneers, Youth. Contact Jenn Gaidos or Pastor Jon to fill a position designed just for you!

BABY/CHILD DEDICATION

Sunday, September 10
8:15 and 10:45 Services

Put a note in Pastor Jon's mailbox or email him if desiring to have your child dedicated at this time
Your child is a gift from God. The act of dedication reminds the parents of their pledge to be faithful parents and to introduce their child to the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His grace and work in us.



Grace Baptist Church
3920 East Prospect Road
York, PA 17406
(717) 755-0091

gracebaptistyork@comcast.net
www.gracebaptistyork.com

Sunday: 8:15 Contemporary Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Traditional Worship
6:30 Against the Flow Youth
6:30 Evening Worship Service
Wednesday: 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer for Adults /
Pioneer Clubs / Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jon Barrett
Assistant Pastor

BAPTISM

The Lord Jesus Christ commanded baptism, and nothing is unimportant that Jesus commands. Jesus, Himself, chose to be baptized publicly (Matthew 3:13-17). God, the Father, was pleased with it and spoke aloud from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." There are three commands in the Great Commission, and baptism is one of them (Matthew 28:19-20). The apostles were to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to observe all things Jesus commanded. The only thing that should come before baptism is salvation. Everything else should follow it. The Bible makes baptism important, and so should we.

~GBC Policies

Let Pastor Jon know by a note in his mailbox or an email that you would like to be baptized during the
COMMUNION/BAPTISM SERVICE
Sunday, September 17, at 6:30 p.m.



September 8

October 27

December 8

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

All teens are invited to attend this ministry outreach and bring along your friends!

Snacks will be available. "Refuel" t-shirts will be sold which will be a great way for the teens to share with their friends and extend an invitation to attend. Basketball, ping pong, air hockey, board games will be enjoyed until 8:00. During "half-time" there will be a Gospel presentation. Then the kids will return to games and eating, leaving time to minister individually. The youth group is praying that many teens will be with us on these Friday nights so they can be in a fun, safe environment where the Gospel will be presented! Be in prayer for this outreach ministry.

BLOOD DRIVE JUST 1 DONATION SAVES 3 LIVES

Tuesday, September 5
2:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Schedule your appointment now at redcrossblood.org.

org/account-login and enter: Grace Baptist Church York or contact Valerie Kneisley or sign up at church. Valerie can also use your help to make phone calls and be on hand the day of the blood drive. Snacks, give-aways and door prizes for everyone will be available and for first time donors, a free pizza party will be held at a later date.

SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Grace Baptist Church students attend High Point Camp in Geigertown, PA, each summer and return with very positive comments about their experiences, the speakers, the activities, the friends they meet and even the food.

Summer camp is available to students entering grade 3 through grade 12. JUNIOR CAMP is for grades 3-7 and TEEN CAMP is for grades 7-12. Camp week is typically in July.

Each camper's dream includes activities such as swimming, waterslide, tubing, land trolley, laser tag for Junior High and Teen campers at the cost of \$10, and much more.

Registration lines open Monday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. for each camp week. Junior Camp weeks dismiss on Friday at 5:30 p.m. Teen and Junior High Camp weeks dismiss on Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

Campers are assigned to cabins by age group. Each camper may use his or her registration form to request one name as a possible roommate. The person whose name you write down must also write your name down for your request to be honored. If a group of three friends attend together, we are able to accommodate them together in one cabin (provided they are close in age), however groups of four or more cannot be accommodated and will be broken into smaller pairings.

Girls may wear modest walking shorts, loose fitting slacks or skirts; modest, loose-fitting tops, no spaghetti straps. Boys may wear walking shorts or loose fitting pants.

Campers may want to bring \$20-\$30 for their account to spend on offering, snack shop, handcrafts, souvenirs and t-shirts. Additional costs are: \$9 for weekly DVD, \$4 for 5x7 cabin picture, \$12 for 4x6 cabin picture in frame, \$10 to make a Tie Dye t-shirt or bag, and \$10 for Laser Tag (JH and TN weeks only). At the end of the week balances higher than \$5 will be refunded, otherwise they will go into the camp's scholarship fund.

Scholarships toward the costs of summer camp are available for any student wishing to participate. PARENTS are responsible to follow the procedural guidelines for their child to earn part or all of their way to camp. These guidelines have been set by the GBC education department and must be followed to receive any scholarship money.

1. Locate the white "Summer Camp Scholarship" notebook located on the table at the rear of the sanctuary.
2. Write your child's name at the top of a page to begin tracking the following each week:
 - a. Attending Sunday School and Church
 - b. Having a Bible
 - c. Bringing an offering
 - d. Completing Sunday School take-home papers
3. Sign off on what your child has accomplished each week.

4. If your child is away and attends another church, give a bulletin from that church to the Sunday School teacher and fill in the book for that week as well.
5. Complete "SUMMER KICK-OFF" REGISTRATION
 - a. Must be completed prior to April 1, 2018.
 - b. May be done on line at HPCAMP.ORG or by mail to High Point Camp, PO Box 188, Geigertown, PA 19523—Brochures for 2018 will be available after the new year.
 - c. Pay the registration fee to High Point Camp.
 - d. Give a copy of the fee receipt to Julie Shaeffer for reimbursement based on the percentage of what your child earned.

The church scholarship fund will be calculated on the EARLY registration rate. If you register your child late you, the parent, will be responsible to pay the difference. Also all additional snack money, shirts, activities, DVDs, etc. are at the parent's expense.

Even if you are unsure that your child will be interested in going to camp next summer, begin filling out a page on September 3, the first Sunday of the new year.

Be prepared for next summer—it will be here before you know it! Any questions call or text Julie Shaeffer 858-3721 or email JJShae33@comcast.net



**WANTED!!
CHILDREN AGE 2
THROUGH
GRADE 6**

Every Wednesday night at 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. beginning September 6 you are **needed** to attend the new style of **Pioneer Clubs - Delta Program.**

New groups are forming by age/grade:
 Skippers – 2 and 3 year olds
 Scooters – 4 year olds through kindergarten
 Hikers – 1st and 2nd graders
 Adventurers – 3rd and 4th graders
 Navigators – 5th and 6th graders

For the Hikers, Adventurers and Navigators the theme for the 2017-18 year is "Knowing God's Love". There are six units to help you explore the Bible including God's Love Through the Bible, Showing God's Love to Others, Accepting God's Love, God's Love for Me, God's Love Works in Families and God's Love Changes Us.

There are also six "Skill Awards" you will have the opportunity to earn: Artist, Chef, Let's Communicate, Discovery (science based), Missions and Safety.

Don't forget the "Games Awards" which everyone will enjoy and be taught important skills.

Kids, tell your parents you want to be a part of each exciting Wednesday night at Pioneers. Invite your school friends, neighbors, cousins to come with you.

ASK YOUR PARENTS AND OTHER GBC ADULTS TO TAKE PART IN PIONEER CLUBS TOO:

Club Helpers – record keeping and extra hands

Skill Awards leaders and helpers (every other week for two months):

Artist Award helpers – September 6 and 20 and October 4 and 18

Chef Award helpers – November 1 and 15 and December 6 and 27

Let's Communicate leader and helpers + those with "Kid Writing" experience – January 10 and 24 and February 7 and 21

Discovery (science type activities) leader and helpers – March 7 and 21 and April 4 and 18

Missions leader and helpers – May 2, 16 and 30 and June 13

Safety leaders and helpers (possibly people with Emergency Responder connections or EMT/fire/self-defense training)

Game Awards helpers for all weeks – be the first to volunteer and pick your weeks!

*NOTE: All personnel must have background clearances. Email the church office at gracebaptistyork@comcast.net or put a note in the Marchant mailbox

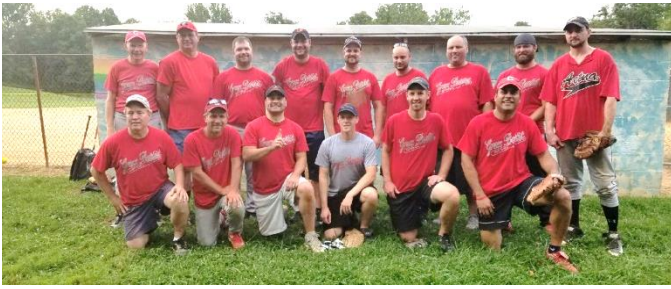
Contact: Kathy Wagaman 779-3463 or kndwag@aol.com or a note in her church mailbox

RED LION STREET FAIR FOLLOW-UP



Often throughout the day the seats were filled under the tent while 22 GBC missionaries shared the Gospel and prayed with 70 people. Nineteen of those people prayed the "Prayer of Salvation". We all should continue praying that these folks will understand what they prayed that day and they would grow through Bible reading, prayer, attending a church and living a Christian life.





The Grace Baptist softball team won the 2017 championship without losing one game in the playoffs! Each year, the team competes against 5 other teams as part of a Dallastown area church league. If you would like to help defend the championship next year, please contact Gary Auker or Roger Apple. We're always looking for a few extra players.



When Lala & Nannie joined our family as newborns, they were so sick no one believed they would survive. Here they are now, thriving and bringing us so much joy.

This year, 11 year old Nannie (right) shared in a camp meeting what Jesus meant to her. It brought tears to our eyes to hear her say, "For me, He is life, I was sick and He gave me life".

We couldn't do this without you
your partnership with us is invaluable.

Thank you!

Linda, Jenny & the House of Hope

