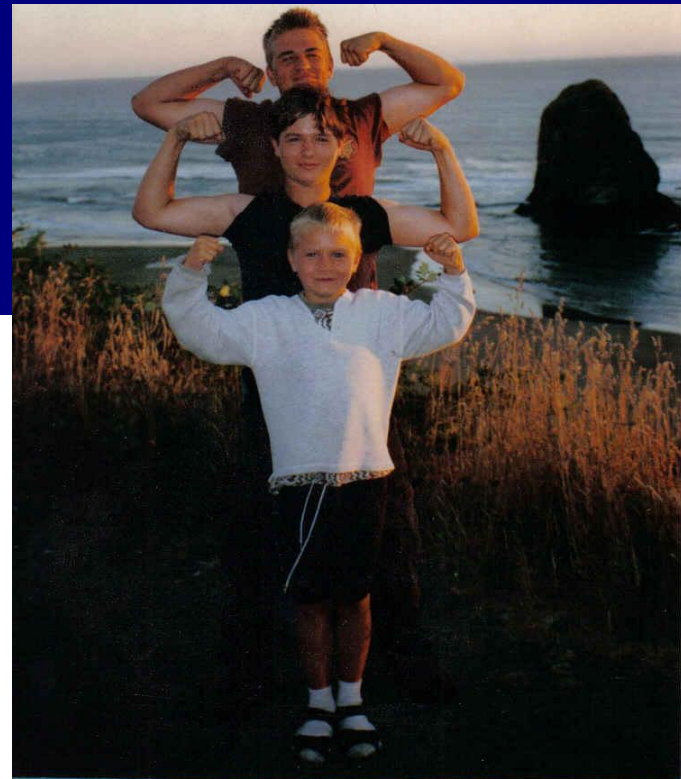


# Raising a Faith-Filled Family



“As Christian families, you not only belong to the Church, but your daily life is a true expression of the Church.”



# Intentionality

## Five Key Moments

1. Exits & entries
2. Bed time
3. Car time
4. Meal time
5. Memory making time



# SPARKS: What Kids Need to Succeed\*

- We want them to discover two things:
  - Something special about them
  - Courage to put their gifts into play
- SPARK:
  - Something to get him/her excited
  - Get out of bed
  - Give meaning
  - Power to change

“We need to help our kids find their own sparks”

\*Peter Benson, Search Institute, 2008

# Faith Practices

## Four Key Activities

1. Caring Conversation
2. Ritual & Tradition
3. Devotion
4. Outreach & Service

# Caring Conversation

- Surface → Intimacy



# Provocation . . . or question?

“Dad, I have decided . . .



# Advice . . . from Youth



- Take time to listen and share. What is the "talkative" time of day for your child?
- Invite discussion on a provocative issue or controversial topic.
- Allow doubts and different opinions to be expressed.
- Be willing to be questioned about your own views and beliefs.

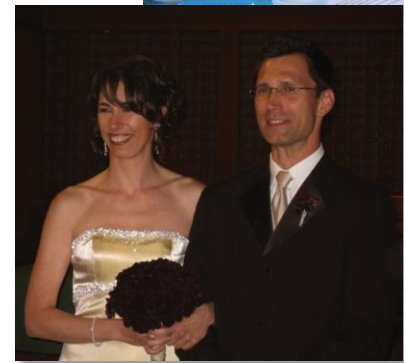
# Devotion & Prayer

- Conditioning for Christian living => prayer, praise, and thanksgiving—home, congregation, and elsewhere!
- No one way




# Three Categories

- **Daily/routine**—how do we pray our way through the day?
- **Seasonal**—how do we pray our way through the year?
- **Rites of passage**—how do we pray our way through milestone events?



# Advice



- Set up a regular time for family prayer.
- Link to available resources, e.g.  VIBRANT FAITH @HOME
- Share responsibility for celebration and ritual among all family members.
- Adopt the attitude: If it's worth doing, it's worth doing poorly!



# Serving Others

- Children and youth learn the faith by watching adults live it
- Social justice is constitutive of the Gospel—love your neighbor!
- “Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2.17).

# Advice



- Be invitational without inflicting guilt.
- Educate yourselves to advocates, victims, and situations. Diffuses fear and ignorance.
- Stay within your family's capacity.
- Integrate fun whenever possible.
- Do "with" instead of do "for."
- Consider both works of justice and works of mercy.

# Ritual & Tradition



All families and communities have words, gestures, actions, and traditions that are repeated and take on meaning.

# Advice

- Rituals and traditions are sacred, even if not “religious”
- Take time together



# Nurturing “Sticky Faith”\*

- Share your own faith journey
- Ask who they will turn to when they have doubts
- Connect them to at least five caring adults
- Faith is bigger than our mistakes
- Talk about life and faith practice after “launch”

\*Fuller Youth Institute research, 2011, Kara Powell, et al

## Five Key Moments

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## Four Key Activities

1. Caring Conversation
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# Vibrant Faith @ Home

- Renewing the Earth (adults)
- Gifts from God Inventory (families w/ young children)
- Drawn to the Word (all ages)
- Top Five Lists (young adults)

\* Just a few of the many activities featured on Vibrant Faith @ Home, available March, 2012.





1. Awareness: Stop! Look! Listen!
2. Acknowledge It!
3. Connect to the Sacred
4. So What?



- Do the four steps make sense to you?
- How would you tailor them to the personality of your family?

# You Are Mine

Do not be afraid, I am with you.

I have called you each by name.

Come and follow me,

I will bring you home.

I love you, and you are mine.

# Leif Kehrwald

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