



LIFE LONG FAITH

SERVE IN MISSION

We need to encourage the broad spectrum of ages to be involved in mission. We need to encourage families to serve together. This provides all ages to use their gifts, to put their faith into action and to see the power of God firsthand. This can be overseas or in or local communities, the need is great. We are all called in deed and in word to share God's love.

GOD'S BIG STORY

Every part of the Bible – each event, book, character, commands, prophecy and column – needs to be understood in the context of one storyline. God's Big Story has never changed, it was always His plan for us to be a part of it. It is also important to remember that it is HIS story, not ours, we are simply privileged to play a small role.

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

Within our faith community and our household of faith we need to be intentional about providing spaces to encounter Jesus. To create spaces to hear from God. To encounter Him together and to share our stories and encounters with each other. We feel we are so "time poor" that it is about being intentional and making this a priority in our life.

RESPOND WITH COMPASSION

How do we help children to respond to the needs they see when they feel so powerless? We all need to be prepared to take some risks – expose ourselves to the brokenness and allow the Spirit of God to work through us all. This will be a model to our kids and the world around us that needs us to respond with the compassion of Jesus.

POSITIVE PEER COMMUNITY

As children grow in age the influence and importance of the peer group becomes more dominant often at the expense of parental influence. This underlines the importance of creating positive peer environments for our children. But this is also true at any age.

PEAK EXPERIENCES

A peak experience is a vital complement to the regular activities within the faith community. A peak experience is a place where God meets you, stretches and inspires you, when He comes close to you and you come close to Him and transformation happens.

MENTORING AND COACHING

Life is not meant to be journeyed alone but together in community. The challenge of mentoring and coaching is that it requires time to listen, time to be encouraging, time to be available, time to be accepting....it requires TIME. Time is precious today, but spending time walking with someone else is what we are called to do.

RITEs OF PASSAGE

Anticipating, honouring and celebrating 'transitions' and 'rites of passage' for all ages is important. This is something we need to be intentional about, it needs to be public and an event or experience that can become an anchor in a person's life. This anchor can become something that helps them to stay on track with God when times are tough

FAMILY HOUSEHOLD NURTURE

Families (households) are the "primary faith communities" for all ages, especially children in their formative years and the household needs to be supported strongly in this role.

GENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Discipleship is about being intentional, relational and holistic in creating a culture of lifelong formation across the ages.

A large part of our discipling strategy has revolved around the imparting of **INFORMATION**. While the content of our curricula and programs is important, it cannot, on its own, produce disciples. To this equation we need to intentionally add experiences that focus on **FORMATION** so that faith goes deeper. The result will be **TRANSFORMATION**. - Here2Stay