



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

"How to 'Disciple' Your Kids into Church Dropout Status." The very title of the article caught my attention. I mean, really? Who would intentionally "disciple" their child to drop out of church? As I read the article, I quickly realized the author, Jared C. Wilson, was attempting to show how "religious families may be reinforcing the dropout trend despite their own hopes" that their children will remain faithful to the church. In other words, there are ways in which we may actually contribute to our children's dropout. Wilson listed six such ways:

1. **Attend church sporadically.** Wilson states, "If you treat church like an option, your children will too." By placing other events over gathering with God's people, we are sending a message that the church is just another event or practice.
2. **Complain about your church.** You have heard me mention this before. If our children constantly hear us talk negatively about the church and its people, then they develop a discouraged spirit as it relates to the church.
3. **Insulate them from the rest of the body.** Now, I totally believe that children, youth, and college students need their own respective spaces. They need moments to gather together to grow and worship. However, we all need generational exchange. The generations need to intermingle together and fellowship together. When a high school student decides to become a member, he or she doesn't simply join the youth group. He or she joins the church—the whole community of believers!
4. **Ignore their crucial questions.** Too often, we believe surface-level ministry is necessary to reach young lives; yet it is spiritual depth that nourishes all of us. We must take the Scripture and demonstrate how it answers the "big questions of life" and how it applies to our everyday walk.
5. **Church hop.** According to research presented in *The Prodigal Child*, the average family remains in an "attractional" church about four to seven years before moving on. Perhaps you choose a certain church for their children's ministry, but as your child grows into a youth,

you decide to attend another church for its youth ministry. The consumeristic cycle does not end but rather extends to college ministry, young adult ministry, and even to senior adult ministry. Such church hopping does not demonstrate commitment to children, but rather it conveys an attitude of the church as "a consumeristic product one can always throw away for a perceived upgrade."

6. **Marginalize or muzzle the gospel.** The best way to impact young people is through the gospel. Instead of simply telling them that they should or shouldn't do something, we ought to couch attitudes/behavior in the gospel. Our love and affection for Christ motivates us more than a simple "Thou Shalt Not" statement. Please understand me. God absolutely says, "Thou Shalt Not"! Yet, even in the law, the presumption of obedience was based on a unique, personal relationship that God had with His people. Israel was a unique, prized people that God had chosen. And so are we as the church!

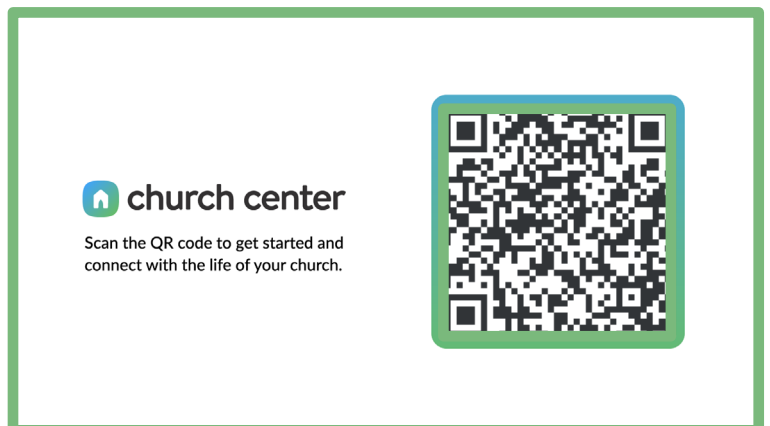
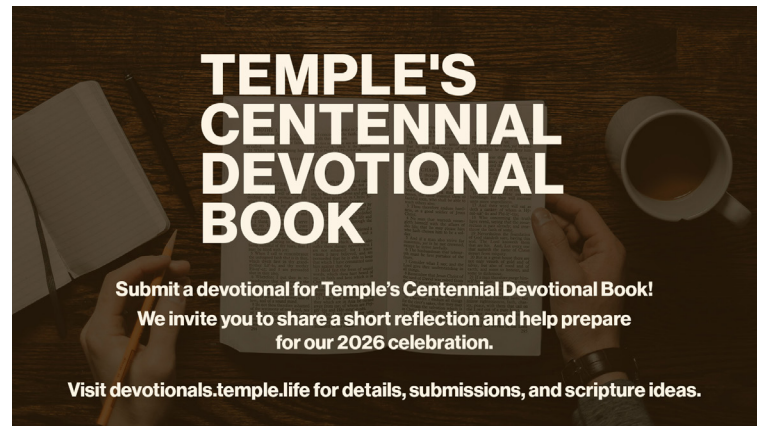
You see, the church partners with families to see children disciplined into Christ's image, but the primary responsibility for the child's discipleship is the parent! And even when the parent labors for such instruction, children still take detours on their own. But I don't want to contribute to their "dropout." Jesus loves His church, and so do I. I long for my own children to embrace the community of believers as well. That is why I needed to hear Wilson's counsel. Perhaps you did as well. May we as parents heed the warnings above; and may we, through the power of the Holy Spirit, disciple our kids toward Christ and His church!

Thankfully, we have some awesome young people coming behind us as evidenced last week by those who were on campus for WinShape, those who participated in the junior high mission trip to Memphis, those who traveled on mission to Montana, and those who are spread across the globe for the gospel's sake! God is continuing to move in the lives of young people, and He is allowing us an opportunity to join in that work. Let's be faithful to the task! See you Sunday!

Youth Ministry

John Nugent

Junior High Mission Trip: Last week, sixty-six of our junior high students and chaperones traveled to Memphis, Tennessee to work with Street Reach Ministries. Each morning our teams put on three different Bible Clubs in downtown neighborhoods with twenty-thirty children at each site. Our students led children in games, songs and Bible stories, and crafts that revolved around the armor of God. One of my favorite moments was hearing several of our students lead children through the plan of salvation and then hearing three children pray to receive Jesus Christ as Savior! In the afternoons our teams did a variety of projects from cleaning, activity clubs, and giving away food to people in need. It was hot and it rained, but our students served extremely well! Big thanks to the adults who chaperoned the trip with us! They were truly servant leaders, and it would not have been possible without them! Now we look forward to a new school year! Promotion Sunday is August 10!



Welcome to the Family!



Cadence Turner
Davia Byrd
(Baptism | Statement)
The Springs

TEMPLE BAPTIST
Women's Retreat

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2 THROUGH SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, JULY 28.

The Temple Women's Retreat will be a powerful 3-day experience filled with opportunities to invest in your own faith journey, and build sisterhood with other women.

REGISTER AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)



the family of **Cal Smith**,
father of Lindsay (Wes) Cavin,
grandfather of Cason, June,
Sawyer, and Crosby.

Congratulations to:

Cohen and Lauren Holomon on the birth
of their daughter, **Holland Ann**.

Proud grandparents are Tracy and Angela Houck.

temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

**COUNSELING
CENTER**

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 255-6940

MINISTER OF WORSHIP

Jeremy Asher

It's good to be home after serving in Boston on the music mission trip (July 3 through 9). Partnering with Jacob Ambrose and Valley Church of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, our choir was able to share the music and the message of freedom in Jesus Christ. Twelve singers from Temple took our Patriotic program on the road, as we presented our music of Faith & Freedom in four venues in five days. We sang at an assisted living facility, an outdoor pavilion, a state hospital, and a home for children in need. I am so thankful for those who were able to share in the ministry with me, and I hope you will join me in praying for continued ministry among those we were able to meet. Pray, too, for Jacob Ambrose and the ministry of Valley Church. They are meeting needs and taking the gospel to an area of our nation that is hungry for truth and desperate for Jesus. Thank you, church family, for your faithfulness in giving towards missions at Temple. Our team benefited from the Ruth Potts Scholarship fund to assist with our trip costs, and for that we are grateful. I'm thankful to serve with you as we take the gospel to the ends of the earth!



THE TIDINGS (USPS #020005), Published Weekly except Christmas by:
 Temple Baptist Church, Periodical Postage Paid, Ruston, LA 71270
 Postmaster send address changes to:
 Temple Baptist Church, 1515 South Service Road West, Ruston, LA 71270

Label here

Phone: (318) 255-3745 • Fax: (318) 255-0134
 Website: temple.life

Week-at-a-Glance

July 22-24 - Tiny Trekkers Summer Camp (JP)

Sunday, July 20 (Louisiana Baptist Children's Home Offering)

- 8 a.m. - Blended Worship (Chapel)
- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Chapel); livestream at *live.temple.life*;
 Contemporary Worship (Gathering Space);
 Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (Gathering Space);
 livestream at *live.temple.life*; Sunday School for all ages
- 2 p.m. - Deacons Meeting (Chapel)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs Sanctuary)

Tuesday, July 22

- 12 p.m. - Jr. High Lunch with John (Youth Rm/FLC Gym)
- 7 p.m. - College Missions Study (Rm 216)

Wednesday, July 23

- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8,
 \$15 max/family; Menu: Hamburgers)
- 5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Jr. High Worship (Youth Rm)
- 6 p.m. - Quarterly Business Meeting (Fellowship Hall); College Bible
 Study; Women's Bible Study (Rm 275); Children's Summer
 Sontastics (JP)
- 7 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (FLC);
 High School Worship (Youth Rm)

Thursday, July 24

- 12 p.m. - High School Lunch with John (Youth Rm/FLC Gym)

Friday, July 25

Church Offices Closed

Broadcast Hours: Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream (*live.temple.life*)

Family Life Center Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Journey Place Playscape Hours: Monday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday 2:30-4 p.m.

