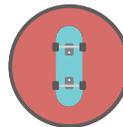


# **PARENTING PLAN**

## **YEAR 10: GENEROSITY**



# HI FRIEND!



We've heard it through the grapevine that there's a birthday in your family this month! As your child enters into Year 10, we want to focus on **generosity**.

At First Capital, we believe that a child's home is the number 1 faith-building, disciple-making environment that there is. We want to partner with you as you raise your fearfully and wonderfully made child. We've created a discipleship program that goes from year 1 all the way to year 18 when you're launching your child out into the world. We offer this plan that focuses on one thing every year when it comes to following Jesus.

This plan isn't supposed to be a course in everything you need to know when it comes to parenting and raising a child to love and follow Jesus. But we hope that every year, this plan will help you and your family take one step closer to Jesus.

This plan is just one part of many resources that we want to provide for you. Many of those resources can be found on our Parent Resources Wall in the lobby.

During this first phase of your child's life we label as the Engage Phase, we focus on

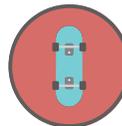
- I need to make the wise choice
- I should treat others the way I want to be treated
- I can trust God no matter what

If you have any questions or just need an adult to talk to anytime this year, we are available to you! You can reach out to anybody on the Family Ministry Team.

Evalina Pinnick - [evalina@churchanywhere.us](mailto:evalina@churchanywhere.us)  
Marianne Rader - [marianne@firstcapitalchristian.org](mailto:marianne@firstcapitalchristian.org)  
Spencer Roberts - [spencer@firstcapitalchristian.org](mailto:spencer@firstcapitalchristian.org)  
Patrick Crawford - [patrick@churchanywhere.us](mailto:patrick@churchanywhere.us)

We are praying for you and your family,  
The Family Ministry Team

# WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR FUTURE 18-YEAR-OLD

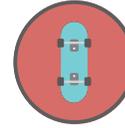


Each year throughout the parenting plan, take time to write your child a letter. Below are some ideas of things to include that will speak life and love into your child, as well as give them an invaluable collection of insights into their upbringing and a storyline of memories to be cherished for the rest of their lives

1. Things I've loved about you this year...
2. Important memories from this past year...
3. Some of my favorite time with you is when we...
4. Your favorite books to read are...
5. Your favorite hobbies are...
6. Things that make you laugh...
7. Your favorite things to do with your friends...
8. I am impressed that you...
9. I've been praying about this for you this year...
10. I've been praying about this for me as a parent this year...
11. What I want for you in life...
12. Ways you have learned to serve this past year...

You can write them all in a journal or write each letter as a separate piece of paper. Include a photo of your family with the letter to give a year by year collection of memories all in one place. Each year after giving your child the letter, get it back and keep them all somewhere safe. You will give them all to your child in the 18th year for LAUNCH.

# GENEROSITY

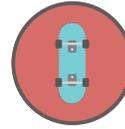


**This year we are going to focus on the spiritual discipline of giving. While we will cover a deeper level of financial responsibility in the 17th Birthday booklet, this year we want to provide some ideas on how to teach your children some basics of handling money, including honoring God first and foremost with how we give and handle the money he has entrusted to us. In reality, teaching children about money through tithes and offerings is not only about giving to God. It is about reminding ourselves of three important things:**

- 1. We are dependent upon the One who gives all good gifts. We want to teach them to learn to rely upon God for our needs – Matthew 6:11; 6:19-34. (daily bread and do not worry) and to not forget about him during times of plenty. Deuteronomy 6:10-15**
- 2. We are “stewards” rather than owners. “Our” money is really God’s. God entrusts us to use our finances to take care of our needs and to provide for the work of God in this world. Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the Talents)**
- 3. Giving reflects obedience. When we give we show that we love a God who is worthy to be obeyed in all areas of life – even our finances. Giving provides us the opportunity to “put our money where our mouth is” in regards to our faith, and participate in things that are eternal not temporary. Matthew 6:19-24**

**Teaching Our Kids to Give: This year, you can implement three intentional steps into the life of your family in order to impress on your children the importance of giving.**

# GENEROSITY

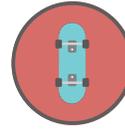


**#1 Model It: Start by putting into practice the disciplines you want your child to learn. Let your child see that you first give money toward tithing, then savings and so on. Model the joy reflected in 2 Corinthians 9:7 “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” Generosity is contagious and a powerful way to help your child see how Acts 20:35, “It is better to give than to receive,” is lived out in their home by their parents. This may mean taking steps to become a better steward of your family’s finances. There is no better year than this for you to get your finances in order and leave a legacy of financial stability and responsibility to your children.**

**#2 Help Them Start Good Habits: If your child receives money from an allowance, jobs or gifts, take the time to help him or her divide the money wisely. A good place to start is to set aside 10% for giving, 10% for savings and 80% for spending on other activities and items. Get three containers (jars or boxes work nicely) and label one for GIVING, one for SAVING and one for SPENDING. Encourage them to divide their money up as soon as they get it, rather than throwing it on the dresser for another time.**

**If you do not give an allowance you might consider starting that this year if your child has no other source of income, if for the only reason that they begin to learn to manage their own money. For example, rather than you giving them some money to put in the offering at church, they will be pulling money from their own TITHE jar. Perhaps you can post a HELP WANTED sign on the fridge, hiring your children for specific jobs above and beyond the chores they already do, like cleaning the garage or painting the dog house.**

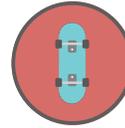
# GENEROSITY



**#3 Give Them The Gift of a Legacy of Generosity: Read Matthew 6:19-24 together as a family. Discuss it and make sure they understand what it means. Then discuss how we want to store up treasures in heaven as a family. Consider purchasing a piggy bank or a small treasure chest for your home that you can fill with pictures or stories of ways that your family has given to God's work. Maybe take a photo of the family shopping for the food pantry, or write down stories where the family gave up something in order to give to a missionary, or a family in need or the Christmas offering. Over the years, this could become a priceless family treasure that celebrates ways your family has had the privilege of participating in God's work.**

**“This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.” 2nd Corinthians 9:11 The Message**

# **FAMILY DEVOTIONS ON GIVING**



We encourage families to take time each week to have a faith discussion together (Family Time – Year 4 Booklet). These can be done in all sorts of fashion – chill night at home; fun dinner on the patio; devo time followed by an outing for ice cream; etc. Throughout this year, dedicate some of these times to the focus of giving. Here are a few ideas to get your started:

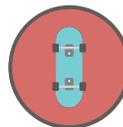
## **READ 2ND CORINTHIANS 9:6-8**

- What does this say about out giving?
- What does this say about our attitude when we give?
- How can our family be “cheerful givers?”
- Do you feel like God has given us everything we need?
- Why or why not?

## **READ PROVERBS 11:25**

- What does this verse say will happen when we give generously?
- What does it take to be generous?
- How can we be generous in our giving?

# **FAMILY DEVOTIONS ON GIVING**



## **READ MALACHI 3:6-10**

- How were the people robbing God?
- What is a tithe?
- What does God say he will do if they test him?
- How does this apply to our family?

**READ 1ST CHRONICLES 29:14 & 17** Read the whole chapter beforehand to explain the context to your family.

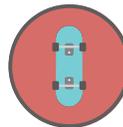
- How were the people able to give?
- What was their attitude as they gave?
- How can we give like the people in these verses?

## **READ DEUTERONOMY 15:7-11**

- Open and close your hand to visualize what God is saying in these verses.  
What does it mean to be openhanded or close fisted towards poor people?
- How can our family be openhanded to the poor?

**MORE VERSES TO MAKE ADDITIONAL DEVOTIONS** • Matt. 6:1-4 • Matt. 6:19-24 • James 1:27 • Romans 12:13 • 2nd Corinthians 8:1-15 • Proverbs 3:9

# FAMILY TIME REFRESHER

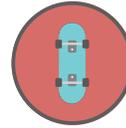


**Family Times are intentional times spent with your children where you have a faith conversation, study or activity.**

**Here is an overview of the nuts and bolts of starting a family time.**

- 1. PICK YOUR TIME** Determine a block of time that works well for your family, whether it's Monday nights after dinner, or Saturday after a late breakfast, and **PROTECT** that time. Try to have one each week, or at least one every other week.
- 2. PLAN WHAT YOU'LL TEACH** This does **NOT** have to be fancy. There are a lot of resources online or in the 4th year booklet to give you ideas on what you can do with your kids. The Bible alone can be your one stop shop for material with your family.
- 3. MAKE IT FUN** Start the time out with some loud music, a favorite game or a special treat. Keep things loose and informal, valuing time to laugh together. Keep things short - always leave them wanting more. A basic guideline is one minute of attention span per year, so 10 minutes with your ten year old should be plenty!
- 4. KEEP IT GOING** Don't get discouraged if it takes a couple of these before you feel like they're catching on. Your first attempt may find everyone in timeout, including dad! With some effort and commitment, this could become a tradition that is so cherished that it lasts in your family well into your children's adulthood.

# PROTECTING YOUR KID: TECHNOLOGY HELP



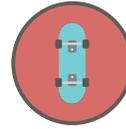
## 3 Steps to Protecting Your Child Online

**1. Talk to your child about using their devices. Discuss how they should never give out personal information or chat with strangers. Have an age-appropriate conversation about pornography. Stress how important it is to let you know if they come across inappropriate content. Make sure they know you are a safe person to talk to about what they've seen. For help in talking with kids about pornography, check out Good Pictures/Bad Pictures and Good Pictures/ Bad Pictures Jr. by Kristen Jensen, M.A. and Gail Poyner, PhD. There are also great resources at [family.org](http://family.org) and [covenanteyes.com](http://covenanteyes.com).**

**2. Set boundaries for internet usage. Require that all internet usage be done in a central area of the house where parents and other family members will be. Do not allow surfing while you are not home, including homework which typically requires a lot of need for google images. Do not allow devices in a child's room - they should not need privacy to be on the internet.**

**3. Protect your devices with a content blocker and report generator. There are several companies that provide these services/software. Focus on the Family partners with Net Nanny and Forcefield. These programs will not only block content, but will also send accountability reports on everyone's usage in the family. You should also go into the settings of each device and determine the restrictions for that device, which is then protected by a 4 digit PIN. Commit yourself to being intentional about being a gatekeeper for your child's heart and mind - no apologies. It will be impossible to protect them entirely, but these simple steps are a good start toward giving them a good shot at never knowing the dark world of a porn addiction.**

# MARRIAGE PLAN



- Each year we want to encourage you to make a plan to keep your marriage healthy. One of the most important gifts you'll give to your child is the love you give to your spouse. When mom and dad love each other and demonstrate the traits of a healthy (NOT PERFECT!) marriage, it not only sets a good example of a godly marriage but gives them a greater sense of security and well-being.
- Good marriages require intentionality. Use the plan below to make an intentional effort in your marriage this year. Read *The Best Us* by Ted Lowe (@MarriedPeople 2016) for a full explanation of **Have Serious Fun! Love God First; Respect and Love; Practice Your Promise.**

## **Have Serious Fun! Date Night Scheduling:**

- Grab your calendars and mark at least TWO date nights for each month and **PROTECT** those dates. Remember that you were boyfriend and girlfriend before you were dad and mom, and have fun together! No family administration discussions!

## **Love God First - Faith Practices 101:**

- Research finds that couples who pray together at least twice a week have a divorce rate of less than 1% (HomePointe). Commit to praying as a couple at least twice a week. Plan which worship service the two of you will attend together each week – don't "divide and conquer" in order to volunteer.

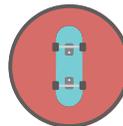
## **Love and Respect - Write an Annual Letter:**

- Write a letter to your spouse for your anniversary this year, much like the one in this packet that you will write to your child. Write a letter of memories from this past year, affirmations, prayers and promises to each other.

## **Practice Your Promise - Personal Growth:**

- Set a "secret goal" to grow as a spouse, such as "listening better," "praising her in public," or "initiating romance." Write it down and seal it in an envelope. When you receive next year's packet, open the envelope and assess your progress.

# DOWNLOAD THE PARENT CUE APP



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**Parent Cue  
creates the plan,  
so you can make  
the memories.**

