

FAITH TALK OUTLINE (Weekly / Bi-weekly 1-on-1)

- 1) Choose a special place where you and your child enjoy being together (i.e. park, restaurant, etc.). Work to make this meeting time a tradition that you both look forward to.

- 2) Choose a book of the Bible or a particular passage that you will “work on little by little over many weeks.” This is helpful for guiding the discussion time each week and avoiding the dreaded Bible-Roulette.

- 3) Read the selected Scripture together.

- 4) Have a discussion based on the following questions:
 - What did this mean to people back then?
 - What should this mean for us today?
 - What has God been doing in your life this week?
 - What needs to happen next in your life to follow Jesus more closely?
 - How can I/we help you?
 - What struggles are you facing right now?
 - How does the gospel apply to your struggles? (Be willing to share your own answers!)

- 5) Write in their journal a one-sentence thought, a scripture verse, and a brief prayer to summarize the day. This will be helpful later as you look back to gauge growth and progression.

(The above has been summarized and slightly reworded and reformatted to fit our NBC Family Ministry lingo but is completely pulled from the work of Dr. Timothy Paul Jones' book, "Family Ministry Field Guide: how your church can equip parents to make disciples" p. 166-167, Wesleyan Publishing House, 2011)

FAITH TALK IDEA #1

Scripture

Philippians 4:8 – *“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable – if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise – dwell on these things.”*

Where do we pitch the tents of our mind? As you dive into this verse, spend some time defining these key terms (truth, honor, just, pure, lovely, commendable, morally excellent) we are called to consider so that your child knows what he/she is to think on. Share your heart in this discussion. Be open about some of the directions your thoughts go.



Questions:

- 1) What do you spend most of your time thinking about? Why do you suppose that is?
- 2) Why do you think it is important for us to think on these things mentioned in Philippians 4:8?
- 3) How do your thoughts affect your actions?
- 4) What can we do to help stimulate thoughts that grow our trust and appreciation of Jesus?

Prayer:

Jesus, mold our hearts and minds. Allow us to see you at work in our lives and be grateful for all the grace and goodness you supply each day. May we always look to pitch our tents in the midst of Your presence. Amen.

FAITH TALK IDEA #2



Scripture

Psalm 119:105 – “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

I love this description of God’s word! The Bible enlightens us both as to where we are and to where we are going. As we read and study Scripture, we are able to see whether or not we are in a healthy place and striving in the right direction. The truth of His word shines on our soul and guides us in the way we should go. This simple and yet profound Word picture (pun

intended) sets the table for a fruitful time of discussion.

Questions:

- 1) As you read this verse today and the lamp of Scripture shines on your life, where do you find yourself? Are you headed in the right direction? Why or why not?
- 2) What are some obstacles that trip you up and cause you to get off path?
- 3) What would happen if you were trying to find your way down a road you’d never traveled in the pitch dark of night? How scared would you be? What would you want most in that scenario? (A flashlight? A friend? A guide? The Bible is all of the above!)

Activity (Optional):

Turn off all the lights in your house and try to find your way from one location to another specific spot in your home in the absence of all light. (SIDENOTE: You will probably want to make sure all breakable items are out of the way.) If it is truly dark, you will notice that even though one can be quite familiar with his home, it is still very difficult to maneuver in darkness. So then, how much more impossible is it to pursue the unpredictable future life of godliness without light and guidance from the God of the Holy Scriptures?

Prayer:

Lord, help us to see where we are and guide us in the direction we must go so that we may bring You the glory You are so worthy of. Amen.

FAITH TALK IDEA #3

Scripture

Read Matthew 4:1-4, Psalm 119:9-11

The first passage will show the importance of Scripture, even for Jesus. After fasting for 40 days and 40 nights, Jesus was obviously extremely hungry. When tempted to turn the stone into bread, Jesus reveals something quite interesting. For one, He could have performed this miracle no problem, and He would have physically enjoyed the fulfillment of food. However, He fought off temptation by quoting Scripture that He not only knew but also

believed wholeheartedly. He referenced Deuteronomy 8:3 and reminded Satan that “Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” God’s word helps us fight off temptation with truth. The second passage affirms the same idea by stating that it is scripture that helps one remain pure. God’s word is to be sought with all our heart and treasured in our innermost being.



Questions:

- 1) What truth do you most need to hear right now? When and where is temptation the greatest in your life?
- 2) What does it mean to treasure something? How can one pursue the Lord wholeheartedly? What would it even look like to chase after Christ with all your heart? How would you expect things to change? Explain.

Prayer:

God, we ask that you would help us to find the deep value and worth of Your Holy Scriptures. Lord, help us to rely on nothing more than each and every word that comes from Your mouth. Amen.

FAITH TALK IDEA #4



Scripture

Psalm 119:37 – “Turn my eyes from looking at what is worthless; give me life in Your ways.”

One tangible way we can position our children for success as they pursue purity in Christ is by helping them become aware of how they can protect their mind and ultimately, their heart. In this short verse, we see the psalmist ask to be turned from all that is vain and given the strength to follow the life-giving way of scripture. Students are constantly attacked with

images and ideas are tempting and challenging to their faith. Training our young people to turn their eyes and attention from all that is worthless is a skill and habit deserving of our time. Read the verse together and consider the following questions for discussion.

Questions:

- 1) What are some “worthless” items in your life that often get too much of your time and attention?
- 2) Can you identify some people or things that distract you from following Jesus?
- 3) Are you ever tempted or frightened by things you see? Explain.
- 4) How can we work together to help you stay focused on Christ?

Activity (Optional):

Play a few rounds of Scattergories (or any trivia-type game). It will become evident that we all know so many trivial facts about a lot of unimportant stuff.

Prayer:

Father, protect our eyes and our hearts. Give us the desire and focus to spend our time and energy on the things that matter most. May we find real, meaningful life in Your ways. Amen.

FAITH TALK IDEA #5

Scripture

2nd Timothy 2:22 – “Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

This verse identifies some important guidelines to follow as we pursue Christ. Obviously, we are to flee from sin, but we see that we are also called to run toward Jesus. In addition, we are called to do this with others that seeking Him with a pure heart.

Spend some time discussing what it means to pursue something. Then define righteousness, faith, love, and peace. As you ask the following questions, be willing to participate by sharing your own answers.



Questions:

- 1) Why do you think that there is more to the Christian life than just not doing certain things?
- 2) How can running toward Christ also help us turn from our youthful lusts? Explain.
- 3) Why is it easier to pursue the right things when we're not alone?
- 4) Who are your running buddies? Who is also chasing after Christ? Do you have other believing friends? Do you have a sense of community? If not, what are you going to do to change that?

Prayer:

God, we ask that You would lead us into relationships with others that would help us make much of You. Holy Spirit, please strengthen us that we might turn away from our sin and follow after you for all of our days. Amen.