

Faith Builders

Objective: To help develop a foundation for an active and developing faith in the lives of our pre-teens (5th grade and younger) through reading, praying, studying, and activities designed to pass the faith from parents and adults to the children in our youth ministry.

FaithQuest: A quarterly activity designed around teaching a spiritual point while learning a skill for a physical activity. First of all, the life lessons that we would like to pass along to our pre-teens will be chosen. After that, we will select activities that will help teach these lessons most effectively. The activities will occur approximately once a quarter.

FaithintheWord: A program designed to take the pre-teens (mainly 3rd-5th graders) through the New Testament through the year. The program will include helpful schedules and other tools to help the pre-teens keep up with the daily readings. At the monthly devotionals we will recognize the pre-teens who have read the outlined reading for the month (after checking with their parents) to help encourage them in the reading and reinforce that this is something that is important for them to do. One of the strengths of this program is that the reading will occur in the home. This places the development within the context of the parents and the family, which is the primary place where faith development should occur. This also gives the parents opportunities to share their faith through discussing what the youth read each day.

FaithFacts: A program designed to help the pre-teens learn some of the basic facts of the Bible, especially involving the reading that they are doing for the month. The level of facts will be adjusted for the grade level, so that there will be different levels of difficulty for learning. In addition, the different levels will allow for pre-teens to study the facts year after year and not memorize the same facts over and over again. Those choosing to do faith facts will work on their assigned questions and answers during the month at home, again reinforcing that faith is passed along in the home. At the monthly devotionals, participating pre-teens will be grouped according to grade level. Then, an adult will ask a question from the reading and allow pre-teens to raise their hand to respond to the question. The adult will call on one of the pre-teens who raised their hand. If the individual answers correctly, then they will move from the question "circle" to the completion circle (several ways you could do this). If the question is answered incorrectly, then the individual will be given the opportunity to answer another question at a later point. The adult could attempt to ask easier questions on the second and third attempts and try to ensure success by the third question. At the end, all of the individuals will be recognized for their efforts and encouraged by the adults. The focus of this program is to help the pre-teens learn facts about the Bible and help create an environment setting the pre-teens up for success with the hopes of keeping the individual involved in the program for their pre-teen years for continued development.

FaithinMemory: This program will be focused on helping the pre-teens commit scriptures to memory. One avenue to implement this program could be to have a set of scriptures for each month that the pre-teens will memorize for the monthly devotionals. During the monthly devotionals, the pre-teens will go to a designated adult or teen and recite their memory verse(s) without having to say them “in front” of all of the adults. Participants will be recognized for their efforts, and those who get “stage fright” or have trouble with their verses may have the opportunity to successfully recite their verses when they are ready to one of the adults during the month. An alternative/additional plan to implement this program would be for the individual to memorize a set number of scriptures (25, 50, 100, etc.) and recite them when they are ready (possibly at the monthly devotional).

FaithinSong: This is a part of the “Faith Builders” program that is focused on helping our pre-teens see their expression of faith through singing. While the singing will be part of the regular monthly devotionals, the aspect of teaching faith through song will be emphasized through singing.

FaithUpFront: This program will give our pre-teen boys the opportunity to participate in the monthly devotionals through leading songs, reading scriptures, and leading prayers. While leadership in the church is not confined to helping lead worship services, this program will help prepare them to lead worship services both now and for the future. One aspect such as leading songs or reading scripture will be selected for certain monthly devotionals, and the boys will be given the opportunity to prepare and help in leading that part of the devotional period.

FaithWorks: This program is designed for the pre-teens to develop their faith through acts of service to others. The activities could include visiting people, some basic manual work, or participating in some other type of project. These events could possibly occur once a quarter or once a semester. These events would not only allow the pre-teens to participate in acts of service to others, but to see and work along other parents and adults who are modeling this service as well.

Although this list can serve as a basis for this Faith Builders program, it is not intended to be an exhaustive list. The program will be modified as it progresses to best achieve the intended goal...developing a foundation of faith in the pre-teenagers of our church ministry.

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