

Welcome to Family Fun Day. We here at Believer Church love families! And yes, families and kids are messy, but they are well worth it! How many of you agree with me on that?

**Believers Church is about Authentic Christianity Expressed in Love, Acceptance, and Forgiveness.**

Our church is made up of all types of families, and if we are going to be an authentic church we need to be made up of authentic families. God wants to help us do that and he gave us some guidelines to family authenticity which we call our GPS - God’s Positioning System.



### GPS - GOD’S POSITIONING SYSTEM

**GOD - Ephesians 5:1-2 Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children<sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

God is like the sun that the family orbits around. Let God be the center point.

- An authentic relationship with Jesus is the best gift parents can give their children
- Parents, put God first. Love Him with all your heart, soul, and mind.

**MARRIAGE – Ephesians 5:21-23 and 25 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

**22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.**

**25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.**

- The second-best gift you can give to your child is a healthy relationship with your spouse.
- Single parents? You have to lean that much harder into your relationship with Jesus to fulfill your needs and be your help.
  - The best gift you can give your child is a healthy “you.”
  - Build some pure and Godly relationships with people who build you up and encourage you.

**CHILDREN – Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.**

**2 “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—**

**3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”**

Notice, in our GPS, that the children are the outer circle. They are not the center.

### THE GOAL OF PARENTING

**The biblical goal of parenting is the process of teaching and training your children to leave and live a God honoring life.**

**The Teaching Element: Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.**

**The Training Element: Proverbs 22:6. “Train up a child in the way he should...,” what? “Go!”** So, we have got to train kids to go, not stay. Parenting is teaching and training your kids to go, to leave. **Genesis 2:24. “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh....”** The newly formed marriage is now the primary relationship. God’s authority, GPS, is established in this new home. All the other relationships, even parental, become secondary.

## Seek God's Vision for an Authentic Family

GPS- God, marriage, and kids. "But, Scott the kids are running the show. My life revolves around them."

**Proverbs 29:18** Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law. (NAS) / (NLT) When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

- If your children don't know the vision, they will be unrestrained. So, cast your vision!

## The Vision for Your Family is Found in the Word of God

**Joshua 24:15** But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

It's pretty simple. Joshua didn't take a vote. He didn't consult Robert's Rules of Order. He didn't put together a focus group, think tank, or committee. Basically, he said, *"I'm the parent and this is what we're going to do. We're going to follow the Lord. We're going to seek Him."*

## Deal With Your Real Kids Using K.I.D.S.

### "K" stands for "Knowledge"

- Because we know more than our kids know, we have to help them with decisions as they try to negotiate the maze of life. Deuteronomy 6 (Teach your children)

### "I" stands for "Intentional Intimacy"

Do you realize the more children you have the less intimacy that you have?

Know what some people say KIDS stands for? **Keeping Intimacy at a Distance Successfully.**

**B-52** Your Marriage! B stands for "Break," and 52 stands for **52 weeks** out of the year. Date night! Dates don't have to be expensive! It could be a walk around the block with a cup of coffee.

- The best thing parents can do for their children is to have a great marriage.

### "D" stands for "Discipline"

- Discipline is Correction Driven by Love. **Hebrews 12:5-6** And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, **WHY? 6** because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." (NIV)
- Discipline Isn't Something You Do To Your Children, But For Your Children. **Proverbs 19:18** Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death!
- Two plans for a child's life. **John 10:10** "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. Help your family **CHOOSE LIFE!**
  - Parenting is not a popularity contest. We're going to have to discipline.
  - Kids cry out for discipline. They cry out for boundaries.

### "S" stands for "Structure That Is Strategic"

Our families need structure because we are created in the image of God and God is a God of order.

- And we have this desire, this yearning for order and our kids do as well.

A lot of your families are so unstructured, so "off the wall," that your kids are just screaming for structure. They're saying, "I want it! I want it!" Parents, give it to them!

### **Authentic Families Worship Together**

I hope every family is trying to make time to worship together. This doesn't just mean coming to church and BC Kids, but this includes worshiping and studying the Word of God together at home.

Devotionals/ BC Kids /PromiseLand both provide take home or Online material / Family Devotional Questions (in your sermon notes) Teachable Moments / Singing together / Dancing unto Jesus together!

The promise: **Matthew 18:20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them**

### **Authentic Families Pray Together**

Prayer will bring a family a sense of connectedness, not only to God, but to each other as well.

Kids love to be prayed for, but they also love to pray. **Matthew 18:19 Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.** Families have a house full of "Prayer Partners" ready and available to agree in prayer!

### **Authentic Families Serve Together**

**Matthew 25:23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' (NIV) (NKJ) Enter into the joy of your lord.' // (NLT) Let's celebrate together!'**

There is such joy in serving others. This is something that we want our families to experience together!

- There is such a bonding process that takes place when families serve together.
- Serving others promotes humility, sharing, compassion, and a new intimacy in marriage and family.

### **Authentic Families Partner with The Church**

A Core Belief at Believers: Nothing is more important than a child's relationship with God. Therefore, the most powerful thing we can do for our children is for parents and the Church to partner together to raise Godly children.

**Matthew 18:5-6 And whoever welcomes (receives) one such child in my name welcomes me. 6 "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of these of the sea.**

**Matthew 25:40 (NLT) "... 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'**

**At Believers, we are ALL called to partner with the parents to help raise Godly children.**

(THIS MEANS EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH, children's volunteer or not.)

- We believe that it is ultimately the parents' responsibility to train children up in the ways of the Lord, so, we want to help you train your children up in the ways of the Lord.
- We will synchronize with what you are already doing.
- We are called to help you become an Authentic Family.