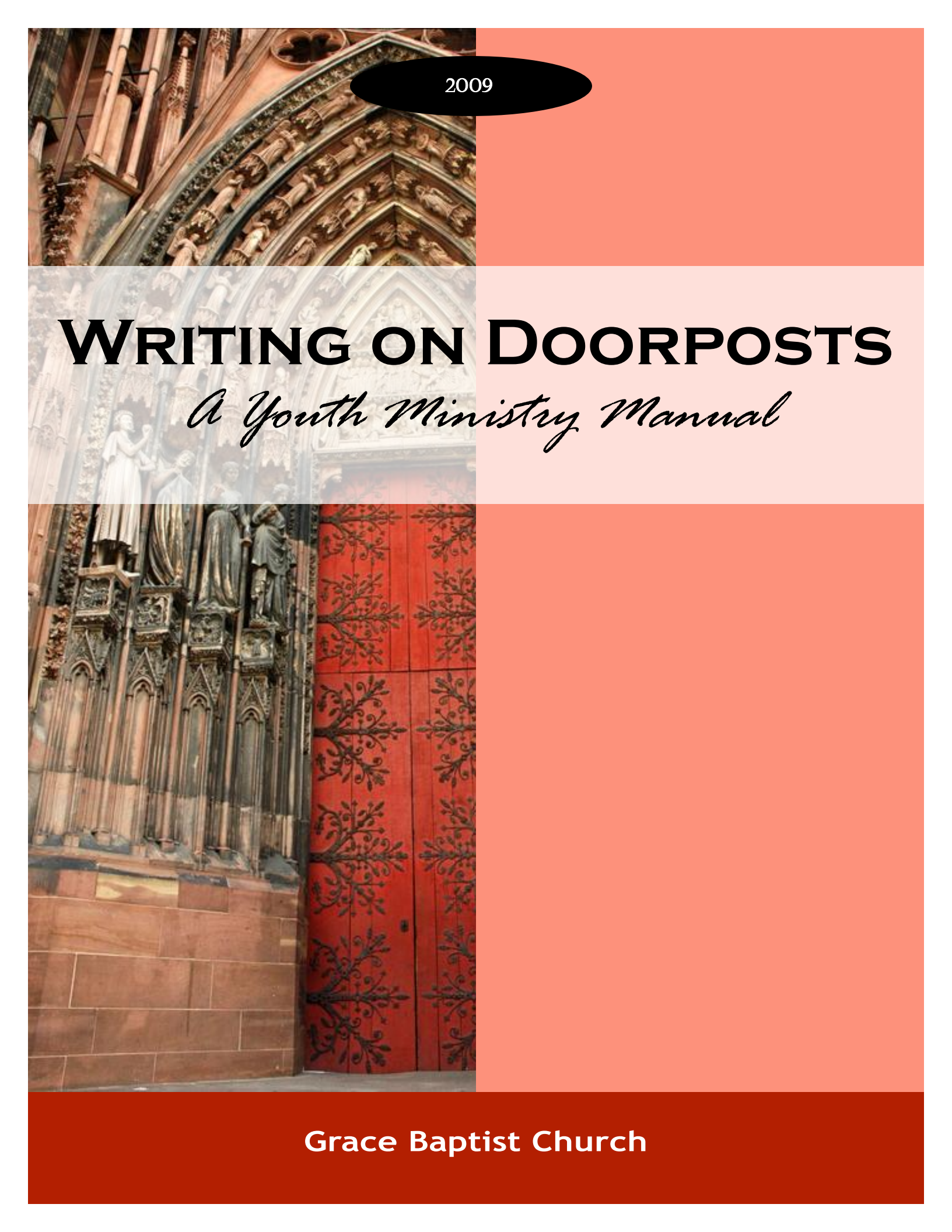




2009

WRITING ON DOORPOSTS

A Youth Ministry Manual

Grace Baptist Church

ASSUMPTIONS VALUES VISION



VISION

We desire for youth to grow in their knowledge of God, love for Christ, and obedience to the Word.

VALUES

At Grace Baptist Church, we. . .

- desire for our families and members to love the Lord their God with all of their heart, soul, and strength. [Deuteronomy 6:5]
- expect and equip parents to be the primary disciplers of their children. [Deuteronomy 6:6-9]
- recognize God's Word as absolute truth and rely on it as the foundation for our lives and ministry. [Deuteronomy 6:17]

ASSUMPTIONS

Our ministry model assumes:

- Salvation is of the Lord alone, through His Son, Jesus Christ. [John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5]
- God calls parents to be the primary disciplers of their children. The church is responsible for expecting and equipping parents to fulfill this role. [Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:18-21; Psalm 78:5; Proverbs 1:8-9; 6:20-21; Ephesians 6:4]
- The Church is called to provide "spiritual orphans" with "spiritual parents." [James 1:27; cf. Psalm 27:4, 10; Isaiah 1:17]

- Generations should be unified in the Church, not separated.
[Malachi 4:6; Luke 1:17]

THE ADOLESCENT

The sixth grade student is beginning to move from the latter developmental stages of childhood into early adolescence. This early adolescent period can be marked by particular changes which significantly impact their growth, maturity, and development. These changes can be basically broken down into the following domains: physical, cognitive, social, and emotional.

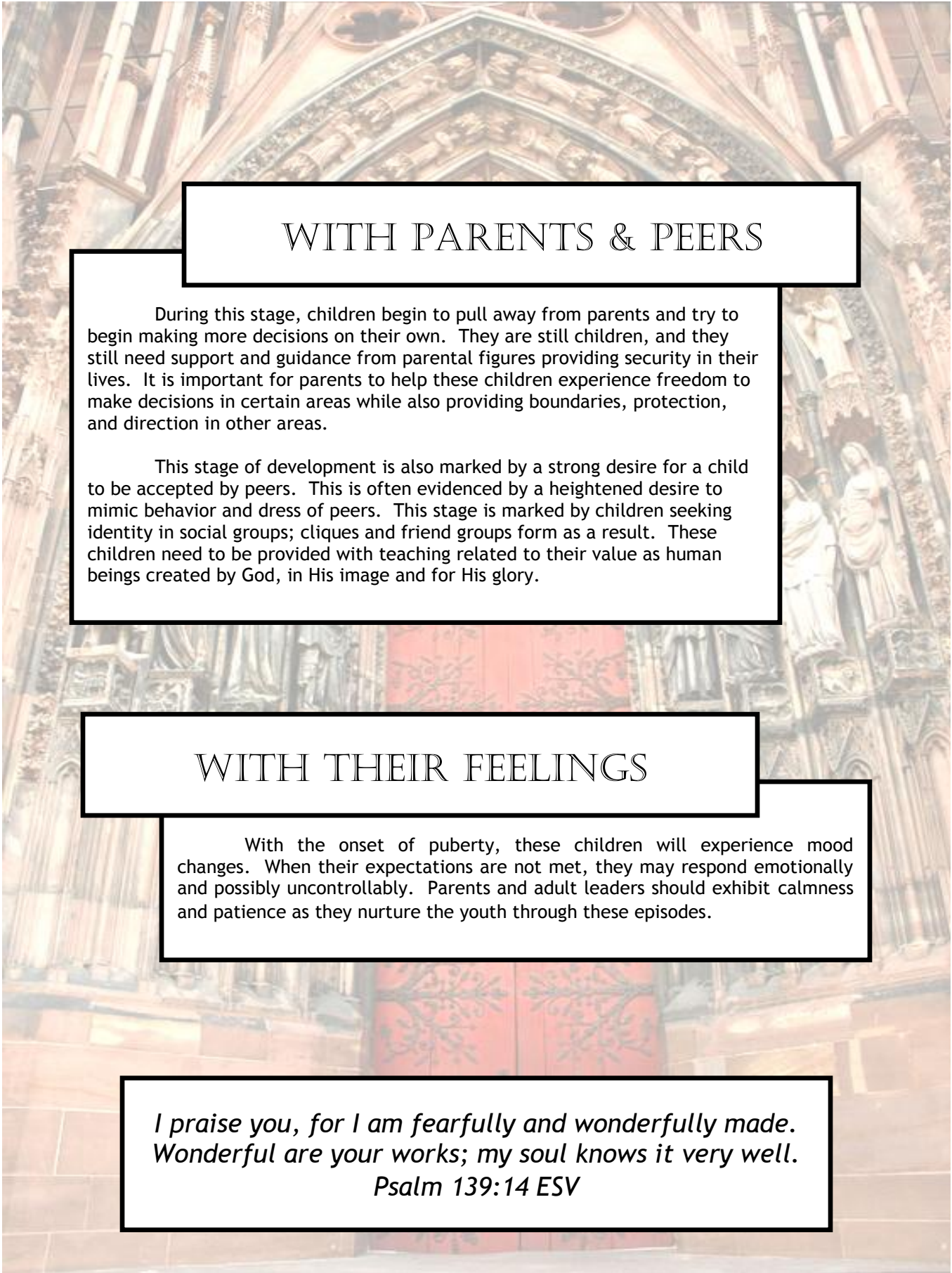
IN THE BODY

Students of this age undergo bodily changes related to entering puberty and experiencing the physical development it brings. Students need to be affirmed by their parents/influential adults during this process so that feelings of inferiority do not take root. When feelings of inferiority do take root, the student may look for affirmation from peers by exploring sexual behaviors. Girls' bodies change in this manner earlier than boys' bodies do. These children begin cultivating stronger bonds with peers of the opposite sex and need biblical direction, guidance, and boundaries as they learn to establish appropriate relationships with their peers.

IN THE BRAIN

The part of the brain related to the cultivation of passions and emotions grows significantly during this stage of development. Because this growth takes place before reasoning capabilities are established, these students have a tendency to be thrill-seeking. They do not make logical connections between their actions and the negative consequences that can result. Because of this, these children are quick to respond to dares and invitations to participate in particular behaviors. Their reasoning is not developed, and they believe that "it won't happen to me."

This increase in passion and emotion provides the opportunity for sixth graders to cultivate devotion to Jesus that is very strong during this stage of development. It is important to address appropriate patterns of behavior with these children, but it is also very important to provide strong and clear communication of the Gospel so that love for Jesus can grow deep roots within the heart, soul, and spirit of these children.



WITH PARENTS & PEERS

During this stage, children begin to pull away from parents and try to begin making more decisions on their own. They are still children, and they still need support and guidance from parental figures providing security in their lives. It is important for parents to help these children experience freedom to make decisions in certain areas while also providing boundaries, protection, and direction in other areas.

This stage of development is also marked by a strong desire for a child to be accepted by peers. This is often evidenced by a heightened desire to mimic behavior and dress of peers. This stage is marked by children seeking identity in social groups; cliques and friend groups form as a result. These children need to be provided with teaching related to their value as human beings created by God, in His image and for His glory.

WITH THEIR FEELINGS

With the onset of puberty, these children will experience mood changes. When their expectations are not met, they may respond emotionally and possibly uncontrollably. Parents and adult leaders should exhibit calmness and patience as they nurture the youth through these episodes.

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*

Psalms 139:14 ESV

OUR FAMILY COVENANT

By the grace of God, we will:

- Love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, and strength.
[Deuteronomy 6:5]
- Love one another in the example of Christ.
[John 13:34]
- Disciple and be discipled in the statutes of God.
[Deuteronomy 6:6-9]
- Recognize God's Word as absolute truth and rely on it as the foundation for our lives.
[Deuteronomy 6:17]
- Worship the Lord together daily, through His Word and in song.
[Colossians 3:16]





STRATEGY

For Leaders...

Leaders within the church will equip parents on how to begin family worship times, praying for their families, journaling for their children and how to handle everyday parenting questions. These mentoring groups will provide accountability and stability as parents take on their role of primary discipler.

Youth in the church without discipling parents will meet one-on-one once a week with an older, mature Christian leader. The leader will disciple the youth and will participate in family-oriented events alongside them.

Entering sixth grade is a monumental event for many adolescents. Many of them will even switch to a different school building. It can be a very stressful and vulnerable time for them in their lives. This event seeks to nurture students as they start out on this tumultuous journey. The event is a retreat for youth and their parents to begin a solid biblical foundation as they enter into middle school.

Leaders will teach sessions on what to expect in middle school and how God's Word responds to it. Parents will teach their children how to have quiet times one-on-one during this event as well.

Once a year families will be invited to go on a mission trip with their youth. The teenager will work alongside the parent as they serve and minister to God's people together.

The commitment of leaders has changed from leading a small group of youth once or twice a week to becoming an integral part of the child's life and family. Leaders will need to be prepared to not only spend quality, but quantity time with their students and parents.

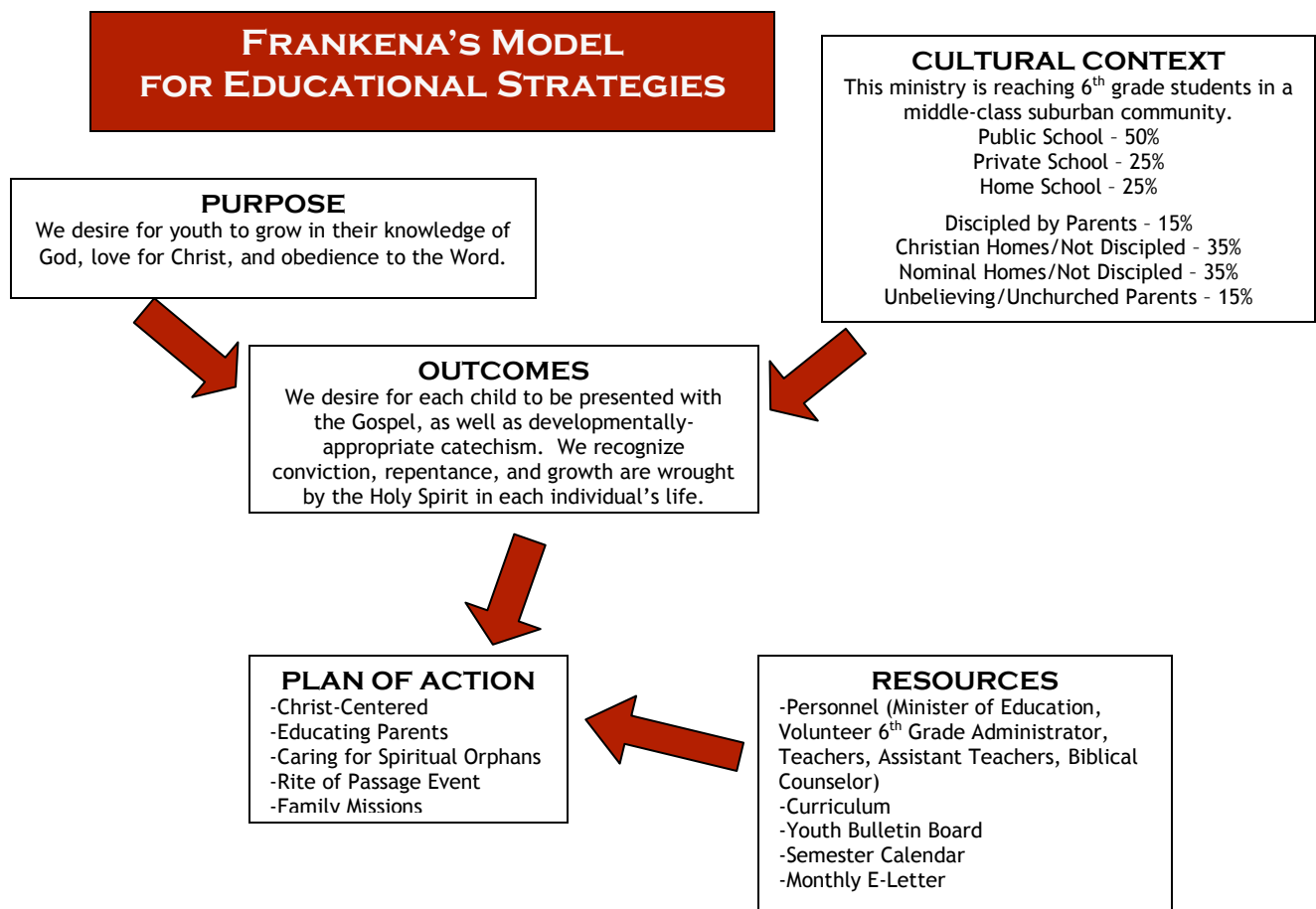
For Parents...

Meet daily as a family to disciple your children in family worship. The key elements of this time are reading Scripture and prayer. Teach your children God's Word and pray over the issues that are affecting them. This is a time to focus on God. Our goal is to love Him completely, and for our children to love Him, they must first know Him.

Pray daily for your child's needs - spiritual, physical, emotional, social and future needs.

One of the best things you can do for your children is model Christ's character. This gives them a tangible example of the Scriptures lived out. Take the appropriate measures to ensure a healthy marriage.

Make Christ your first priority. He will take care of your family and their needs. This is the most crucial element of having a family-focused vision. You will never lead your children where you haven't been yourself.





BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Values and Assumptions that Undergird Ministry to Adolescents

1. The Bible is the foundation for youth ministry and the great commission is the goal of youth ministry (2 Tim 3:16-17; Mt 28:19-20).
2. The Bible recognizes that each youth is a gift from God and has great dignity in his sight (Gn 1:27; Ps 139:16).
3. Each youth has great potential for a powerful witness for Christ if he or she is walking in the Lord (1 Timothy 4:12).
4. The first task of church youth ministry is to empower parents to help bring their youth to faith in Christ. Once this is done, it is the task of church youth ministry to help the parents disciple their youth in the Lord (Deut 6:6-10; 11:18-21; Eph 4:12; 6:4).
5. Each youth struggles with identity and with the tendency to go back to the sinful nature lifestyle (Rom 7:14-25). They should be exhorted to flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness (2 Tim 2:22). Therefore, the young men and women need to be patiently guided through this season of tremendous change and temptation.

6. Proverbs gives important specifics on how the parents can exhort their youth on how to follow the way of wisdom.
 - a. God calls youth to heed the advice of wisdom and follow in its ways (Prov 8:32-36).
 - b. Youth are to fear the Lord first and seek after living a life that is pleasing to the Lord (Prov 1:7).
 - c. Youth are strongly warned about following the way of evil and following the ways of the adulteress—sexual promiscuity (Prov 1:10-19; Prov 7).
 - d. God promises to guard and preserve the way of the one who follows wisdom so that all a person's paths are kept from the deceit of evil living (Prov 2:7-12).
 - e. Youth are encouraged to be kind and to seek the truth of the Lord. They are called to make the ways of God a part of their everyday life (Prov 3:3-4).
 - f. When youth follow wisdom, God promises them good favor, prosperity, wealth, and healing (Prov 3).
7. The way of wisdom and faith in helping adolescents grow in Christ must be founded upon the parents guiding them toward life transformation as the church provides contexts, encouragement, and training for this parental discipleship.
8. Effective student ministry to adolescents co-champions the family and the church (Acts 2:42-47).

Vision

1. To see stronger families.
2. To see youth witness for Christ among their friends at school.
3. To see youth who are theologically stable and passionate about Jesus so that they may be enabled to walk with Christ during the college years and beyond.



PARENT ACRONYM

A Family Focused Model of Discipleship of Youth

PARENTS IN LEADERSHIP

- We will involve parents in the leadership, planning, and decisions of the youth group.

ACCEPT YOUTH

- For youth who do not have Christian parents, we will seek to pair them with healthy families for growth while actively seeking the salvation of their parents.

RELEVANT YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- We will provide events and programs where the youth can have fun, relevant, and God-centered fellowship.

EVENTS FOR FAMILIES

- We will have event where parents can disciple their youth and where families can relate in positive ways.

NETWORK WITH THE CHURCH

- We will encourage relationship with church members and youth.

TRAINING FOR PARENTS

- We will equip parents to disciple their teenagers at home.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

LEADERS

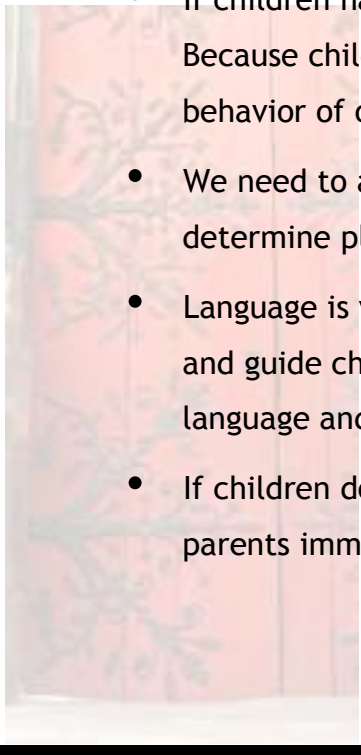
- The Church needs check his or her background. It is very that important to know what kind of person they are. Moreover, the Church needs to check at least 10 years into his or her background.
- The administration needs to send the documents to the city police department to receive a report from there.
- During the interview time we have to make sure they do not drink or smoke. They should be clean. If we discover they do, we should take disciplinary action.
- The teacher behavior issues are very important. The have to have good character. It is very important to protect the children. If something happens to the kids, the church will face a big lawsuit.
- Before we give the privilege to teach Sunday School or lead, the Church needs to know how long since his or her baptism and how many years he or she has been a believer.
- If we hire people who already have children, they might handle children better than other people with less experience.
- It is very important that each teacher can speak English well. Children are in the learning process, and they need to understand well because they minds are under -construction. If we teach them good stories they will never forget for the rest of their life.
- A Sunday School teacher needs training before he starts teaching. If he does not have any experience it is very difficult to teach and very difficult for

children to understand what she is saying. A Sunday school teacher needs to know Bible stories well and know how to teach them.

ROOM PROTOCOL

- The Sunday School room needs to be open so anyone might be able to see.
- We need put more than two adults in the class, in case something happens. Then we have great evidence. We know that a lot of churches face big lawsuits because of a lack of evidence and negligence. Before those situations happen, we all have to be aware of and deal with that incident, so the church is not damaged. If you lose members of the church, we are losing more people and it will have far reaching effects upon the church.

DISCIPLINE

- Parents and children will know the explicit expectations for youth activities and classes. Parents will also be expected to support these expectations.
 - Before putting the children in the Sunday School class, we must know their health issues.
 - If children have behavior issues we should not put with the good children. Because children are always learning, they will catch on very fast to the bad behavior of other children.
 - We need to ask the parents how the child acts at the home and school to determine placement.
 - Language is very important in the Sunday School class. We need to monitor and guide children in how they speak. Children must have appropriate language and respect each other.
 - If children do not listen to the teacher we must address the issue with their parents immediately.
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