



Parents (grandparents, guardians...), have you ever felt unqualified to teach your children about faith? Have you ever struggled talking about Jesus with them and just decided to leave it to those who “know what they’re talking about?” Well, you are not alone! Yet, despite these feelings of inadequacy, you are called to be the primary faith nurturers in your kid’s lives. Check out this passage from Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Martin Luther also taps into this idea when he writes, “Most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the gospel.”

Finally, research also confirms what the bible and history teach. Based on a nationwide study of more than three thousand youth, Dr. Christian Smith from the University of Notre Dame concluded that, “the most important social influence in shaping young people’s religious lives is the religious life modeled and taught to them by their parents.” Dr. Chap Clark, sums up these findings nicely when he says, “When it comes to kids’ faith, parents get what they are.”

Given the sense of inadequacy that most parents feel in this area, these findings can seem daunting. This is where St. Paul’s wants to come alongside to engage and equip you for your high calling. We’re doing this through a new ministry called GIFT. GIFT—**Generations In Faith Together**—believes that passing on the Christian faith involves a partnership of generations, individuals, and families. It will do this by providing opportunities, “GIFT NIGHTS,” for people of all ages to explore God’s love for them. Through shared experiences and take-home ideas, these nights will engage and equip you for the task of passing on the faith to your children.

I hope you can join us for this new adventure here at St. Paul’s!

Sincerely,

Pastor Shawn

*PS: Because we believe this ministry is of the utmost importance, the Christian Education Committee will be devoting all its energy to getting it off the ground. As a result, **we will not be offering Sunday School on Sunday mornings.***