

PHASE =
A TIME FRAME
IN A KID'S LIFE
WHEN YOU CAN
LEVERAGE
DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES
TO INFLUENCE
THEIR FUTURE.

FAITH
PHASES
FOR FAMILIES

Choctaw UMC's Birth-Grad Plan



DID YOU KNOW???

From the time your child is born until the time they graduate, you only have 936 weeks with them.

We want to walk alongside your family and provide you with resources, so you can make the most of your time with your kids!



1

CONSIDER THE WAY EACH AGE GROUP THINKS

PRESCHOOLERS
think like an **artist**.



Artists experience the world through activities that stimulate the five senses. Preschoolers blend reality with imagination and learn through participation.

ELEMENTARY KIDS
think like a **scientist**.



Scientists understand the world through concrete evidence they can test repeatedly. Elementary-age kids discover how things work through repetition and clear application.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
think like an **engineer**.



Engineers solve problems by connecting concepts so they work together. Middle schoolers personalize abstract concepts by connecting ideas.

HIGH SCHOOLERS
think like a **philosopher**.



Philosophers seek to understand what is unseen and what cannot be measured. High schoolers want to discover meaning and learn best by processing out loud.

2

CONSIDER THE WAY EACH AGE GROUP IS MOTIVATED: PART 1 - QUESTIONS THEY ASK

PRESCHOOLERS
Motivated by **SAFETY**



Am I safe? (0-1)
Am I able? (1-2)
Am I okay? (3-4)

ELEMENTARY KIDS
Motivated by **FUN**



Do I have your attention? (K-1st)
Do I have what it takes? (2nd-3rd)
Do I have friends? (4th-5th)

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
Motivated by **ACCEPTANCE**



Who do I like? (6th)
Who am I? (7th-8th)

HIGH SCHOOLERS
Motivated by **FREEDOM**



Where do I belong? (9th)
Why should I believe? (10th)
How can I matter? (11th)
What will I do? (12th)

3

CONSIDER THE WAY EACH AGE GROUP IS MOTIVATED: PART 2 - HOW YOU CAN HELP

PRESCHOOLERS
Motivated by **SAFETY**



Give them consistent boundaries & a loving relationship.

ELEMENTARY KIDS
Motivated by **FUN**



Introduce transferable principles that will help them win in life and friendship.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
Motivated by **ACCEPTANCE**



Listen frequently. Encourage specifically. Guide patiently.

HIGH SCHOOLERS
Motivated by **FREEDOM**



Collaborate on boundaries and give them opportunities to prove they can be trusted.

4

CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN LEVERAGE YOUR INFLUENCE: PART 1

PRESCHOOLERS
EMBRACE
THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS



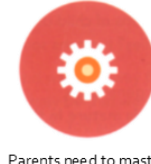
Parents must learn to **EMBRACE** their child's tangible needs so they can begin to *establish physical trust*.

ELEMENTARY KIDS
ENGAGE
THEIR INTERESTS



Parents should take a crash course in storytelling and play so they can **ENGAGE** the interest of their child. This will be the best time to *earn relational credit*.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
AFFIRM
THEIR PERSONAL JOURNEY



Parents need to master the skill of never freaking out. This is when they learn to **AFFIRM** the personal journey of their pre-teen/teen. During this time they will have plenty of opportunities to *prove relational commitment*.

HIGH SCHOOLERS
MOBILIZE
THEIR POTENTIAL



Parents start mastering the art of negotiating. At 9th grade, they have approximately 200 weeks left to **MOBILIZE** their kid toward a better future. So they need to *leverage their relational influence*.

5

CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN LEVERAGE YOUR INFLUENCE: PART 2

PRESCHOOLERS
EMBRACE
THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS



When you **EMBRACE** their physical needs, you help a preschooler *know God's love and meet God's family*.

ELEMENTARY KIDS
ENGAGE
THEIR INTERESTS



When you **ENGAGE** their interests, you help a kid *trust God's character and experience God's family*.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
AFFIRM
THEIR PERSONAL JOURNEY



When you **AFFIRM** their personal journey, you help a middle schooler *own their own faith and value faith community*.

HIGH SCHOOLERS
MOBILIZE
THEIR POTENTIAL



When you **MOBILIZE** their potential, you help a high schooler *keep pursuing authentic faith and discover their personal mission*.