

The background of the cover features a sepia-toned, high-angle photograph of a classical church building with a prominent steeple. The building's facade is embossed with the words "FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH". The text "VINTAGE CHURCH" is centered over the image. "VINTAGE" is in a black, serif font with decorative flourishes on either side. "CHURCH" is in a large, colorful, stained-glass style font. At the bottom of the cover, there is a horizontal strip of a colorful stained-glass pattern.

VINTAGE
CHURCH

A sermon series at First Baptist Church

A note from Pastor Jimmy

In February, we will be launching a brand new series called “Vintage Church.” During the next several months, we will be discussing the centrality of the church in God’s plan to rescue and redeem lost sinners. I am personally excited to share with you what the Bible has to say about critical doctrines such as baptism, the Lord’s Supper, membership, spiritual gifts, the work of Christ, and God’s mission. Most of all, I hope that this series will challenge you to engage with and love FBC West Palm in a fresh way this year as we seek to be a community of Christ-followers who are on mission with God to reach the world for Christ.

Additionally, we have created this family discussion guide as a resource for you to unpack the lessons taught on Sunday morning. As a reminder, our goal is for parents to teach their own children to love Jesus and walk with him all the days of their lives (Deuteronomy 6). We hope that you will carve out at least a few minutes each week to pray, read the Bible together, and discuss how your family can be a part of God’s mission to redeem the world through His Church.

I love you and am blessed to be your pastor. I look forward to what God will teach ALL of us during the coming months.

With Much Love,
Pastor Jimmy

Tips for Family Devotions

Our goal at FBC West Palm is for parents (particularly dads where possible) to lead their families in a time of bible reading and prayer at least once a week. While this concept sounds good in theory, we hear from people all the time who struggle to find ways to do regular family devotions with multiple children of different ages and attention spans. If that is you, let us suggest a simple method for promoting an effectively weekly devotion: the dinner table.

Engaging in biblical discussions over dinner works for several reasons. First, the dinner table sparks some really insightful conversations as the younger kids, especially the boys, seem to be able to handle longer and more reflective discussions when their hands are busy as they eat. Second, with the casual conversation over dinner everyone gets an opportunity to speak as you take turns chewing your food, and your dinners last longer than they had before because everyone is engaged.

The following steps are offered as guidelines based on personal experiences with dinner devotions. These steps are intended to help direct theological discussions between parents and their children as they unpack Sunday’s message and apply it to their own family context.

- Step 1.* Eat dinner with your entire family regularly.
- Step 2.* Mom and Dad sit next to one another to lead the family discussion.
- Step 3.* Open the meal by asking if there is anyone or anything to pray for.
- Step 4.* Someone opens in prayer and covers any requests. This task should be rotated among family members so that different people take turns learning to pray aloud.
- Step 5.* Start eating and discuss how everyone’s day went.
- Step 6.* Have a Bible in front of the parents in a translation that is age appropriate for the kids’ reading level. Have someone (parent or child) open the Bible to the assigned text and read it aloud while everyone is eating and listening.
- Step 7.* A parent then announces the lesson’s “Big Idea,” paraphrasing the meaning at an age-appropriate level.
- Step 8.* Ask the discussion questions written for each day’s lesson.
- Step 9.* Let the conversation happen naturally, listen carefully to the kids, let them answer the questions, and fill in whatever they miss or lovingly and gently correct whatever they get wrong so as to help them.
- Step 10.* If the Scriptures convict you of sin, repent as you need to your family, and share appropriately honest parts of your life story so the kids can see Jesus’ work in your life and your need for him too, which demonstrates gospel humility.
- Step 11.* At the end of dinner, ask the kids if they have any questions for you.

The following discussion questions are offered in hopes of helping you and your children grow in relationship with each other and Jesus. They are meant to be supportive and not constraining. Therefore, do not feel bound by any questions or pressured to follow the steps too rigidly. Follow the Spirit's leading and don't be a religious parent who is rigidly inflexible, thereby making this sort of thing something they must be do in duty rather than something they get to do in delight.

If you miss a night, or if conversation gets off track, or if your family occasionally just wants to talk about something else, don't stress—it's inevitable. For your children, the point is to learn what they are thinking about God, to help them know and love Jesus as God and Savior, and to teach them how to articulate and explain their Christian faith. For parents, the point is to lovingly instruct children and each other, thereby creating a family culture in which every member freely and naturally talks about God and prays to him together. In short, the goal is simply that your family would open the Bible and grow in love for Jesus, one another, your church, and the world.

Finally, remember that family Bible study requires a sense of humor, so make sure to have some fun, enjoy some laughs, and build some memories. Discussing God's plan for the church is a wonderful way to see into the heart of your children, and to reveal your heart for them and Jesus' heart for you all.

Week 1 Family Discussion

Matthew 16:13-20 WHAT IS A CHURCH?

BIG IDEA

A church is a community of baptized believers, organized under qualified leadership, who gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, are unified by the Spirit, are disciplined for holiness, and scatter to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God's glory and their joy.

DISCUSSION

Why is the local church central to God's rescue plan for sinners?

EXPLANATION

- Who did people think Jesus was? A prophet (John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah)
- Who did Peter say Jesus was? The Christ, the Son of the living God
- What was the rock upon which Jesus would build his church? The teaching and preaching of the apostles as recorded in Scripture that Jesus Christ is Lord
- Who builds the church? Jesus
- What opposition will the church face? The full wrath and fury of Satan & hell
- Who ultimately wins? Jesus and His Church

APPLICATION

The church is the primary mechanism through which God accomplishes his plan of redemption in this world. Jesus builds his church by calling believers to himself through faith and uniting them to one another through local churches in order that they might accomplish his purpose. Although it sometimes doesn't seem like it, the church will ultimately triumph over Satan, sin, death, and hell. This should give us confidence as we live out God's mission, but it should also remind us that we can't do it alone. We need a community of believers walking alongside us.

This week, take some time as a family to discuss different ideas about what it means to be a church. What makes the church different than a parachurch (FCA, Compassion, etc) organization or informal Bible study? Discuss the definition of a church given above and why it is important for Christians to have a proper perspective on the church.

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 16:18 - *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*



Week 2 Family Discussion

Romans 6:1-4 BAPTISM

BIG IDEA

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a declaration to the spiritual principalities & powers to one's faith in the final resurrection of the dead.

DISCUSSION

What is the significance of baptism in the life of a believer and the church?

EXPLANATION

- Who is Paul talking to in this passage? Believers in the church at Rome
- Who should be baptized? Only people who have put their faith in Jesus Christ (believers)
- How should we be baptized? By immersion, under the water (cf. "buried with Christ")
- In what context should we be baptized (cf. 1 Cor. 12:13)? In (or under the authority) of a local church
- What does it mean to be baptized "into his death?" Christian baptism declares the believer's faith in and identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. In Christ, we die to our old way of life.
- What does Jesus' resurrection have to do with baptism? Baptism is God's promise to us of new life and the resurrection to come
- Does baptism make a person right with God? No, it's the first step of obedience in the life of a Christian. (However, if a person claims to be a Christian but adamantly refuses to be baptized, they may need to consider what that says about their loyalty to Jesus.)

APPLICATION

Jesus commanded all Christians to be baptized (Matthew 28:18-20). Baptism is an incredible picture of the gospel and is the only biblical entry point for Christian believers into membership in a local church. Spend some time explaining how you (parents) were saved and when you got baptized. If you or your believing children are not currently baptized, this would be a great time to begin that process. For questions or more information on FBC West Palm Beach's process for baptism, please email (questions@fbcwpb.org) or call us at the office (561.650.7400).

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 28:19 - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Week 3 Family Discussion

Romans 12:1-8 MEMBERSHIP

BIG IDEA

Every Christian is expected to be a contributing member of a local church. Membership matters because the church is the primary context for growth and service in the life of a Christian.

DISCUSSION

Why does church membership matter?

EXPLANATION

- What happens to Christians without churches? Proudful, self-focused
- What metaphor is used in this passage to describe the church? A body
- Does each member perform the same function in the body? No
- Who decides what role we play in the body? God
- Who are we members of? One another/other Christians in our church
- Why does church membership matter? Because everyone has a part to play

APPLICATION

As Christians, it is absolutely essential that we commit ourselves to a church through membership. Being a church member is really about being part of a family. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way they collaborate in loving God, loving other Christians, and loving the world. A Christian without a church is a spiritual orphan.

If you are a member, talk to your family about how and why you became and remain a member of this church. If you are not a church member, discuss as a family some steps you might need to take in 2010 to move that direction. If you would like more information about becoming a member at FBC West Palm Beach, please email us info@fbcwpb.org or call our church office (561-650-7400)

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 12:5 – *So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*



Week 4 Family Discussion

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 THE LORD'S SUPPER

BIG IDEA

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

DISCUSSION

What is the significance of the Lord's Supper and who should take it?

EXPLANATION

- Who gave the instructions for the Lord's Supper? Jesus
- What is the context for taking the Lord's Supper? With our church family
- What does the bread represent? The broken body of Christ on the cross
- What does the cup represent? The blood Jesus shed on the cross
- What is the significance of these two elements? Someone has to die to pay the penalty for our sins – either we die and suffer, or Christ suffers as a sacrifice on our behalf. Genesis 9 also says that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sins. Lord's Supper points back to Passover celebration found in Exodus 12.
- What do we proclaim when we take the Lord's Supper? Second coming of Jesus
- What does it mean to take the Lord's Supper in an “unworthy manner?” Failure to examine ourselves to ensure that, to the best of our knowledge, we are in right fellowship with God and our church. This means at a minimum:
 - We are believers in Jesus Christ
 - We have confessed all known sin against God & other believers
 - We have been Scripturally baptized (by immersion as believers)
 - We are members of a bible-believing & teaching local church (somewhere)
- What happened to people at Corinth who took the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner? Some people had gotten sick and some had even died

APPLICATION

The Lord's Supper is a great teachable moment for families – the ritual is not intended to exclude anyone, but rather to invite people to participate in a family celebration of what Christ has done and will do for believers through the gospel. In this sense, it is truly a “family meal.” Take some time to explain the significance of the Lord's Supper to your family. Discuss what your kids saw, felt, heard, and experienced as we took the Lord's Supper this past Sunday. Spend some one-on-one time with your spouse and children making sure that each one is right with God and other believers as much as it depends on them. Celebrate together the second coming of King Jesus and talk about his victory over sin, death, & Satan.

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 11:26 - *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

Week 5 Family Discussion

Matthew 18:15-20 CHURCH DISCIPLINE

BIG IDEA

Jesus commands churches to discipline unrepentant believers (i.e. those who refuse to confess & turn from self-destructive patterns of sin). The process for church discipline is clearly articulated by Jesus in Matthew 18. The purpose of church discipline is always redemptive – that believers would turn from sin, turn to Jesus, and be restored to their church family.

DISCUSSION

How should we deal with sin in our own lives and our church family?

EXPLANATION

- Before dealing with others, we know that we sin against God & others every day. What should the normal process be for dealing with sin in our own lives? Conviction of sin, confession to God (specific), repentance, restitution, reconciliation
- When someone sins against us, what should be our first response? First, search our own hearts for sin & confess that to God. Second, we go alone to that person and try to make things right.
- If the offender responds to this personal appeal, what should our response be? Immediate forgiveness & reconciliation
- If a personal appeal isn't effective, what is the next step? Take 2 or 3 mature Christians who are close to the situation with you to help mediate the conflict.
- If the offender refuses to repent, what happens next? Take it to the church family via the appropriate chain of command (leadership and/or pastoral staff)
- If the offender still persists, what is the final step of church discipline? Unrepentant person is removed from church membership & excluded from participating in church ordinances and/or leadership positions.
- How does Jesus affirm the church discipline process? When the church gathers, Jesus promises that he is there with them empowering their decision to discipline
- At any point in this process, what happens if a person repents? Immediate forgiveness, restoration & reconciliation

APPLICATION

Church discipline is a necessary process enacted by Jesus to promote holiness in the church both individually and corporately. Our attitude throughout these painful times should be prayerful, conciliatory, somber, and restorative, not judgmental, vindictive, or punitive. Spend some time this week repenting of sin in your own life, and commit to making any known offenses right with those you have either sinned against or who have sinned against you. Also, pray for those struggling with sin & spiritual warfare – for their repentance & reconciliation with both Jesus and His church.

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 12:10 – *He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.*



Week 6 Family Discussion

1 Peter 3:10-11 SPIRITUAL GIFTS

BIG IDEA

God gives gifts to his children (believers) so that they can serve his church.

DISCUSSION

What are spiritual gifts and how should they be used to serve God?

EXPLANATION

- Who is Paul writing this passage to? The church at Corinth
- Does everyone have the same gift? No, there are a variety of gifts
- How does a person come to possess a spiritual gift? Given by God through the Holy Spirit at the moment you are saved (become a Christian)
- How are spiritual gifts to be used? To equip the church for ministry (“for the common good”)
- Make a list of the gifts mentioned here and 1 Corinthians 12. General categories are speaking gifts (teaching, wisdom, knowledge, prophecy), serving gifts (helping, administrating), sign gifts (healing, miracles, tongues, interpretation)
- Are the sign gifts still in operation today? We are “open but cautious” about this issue at our church. On the one hand, we believe that God can and does use miraculous signs to demonstrate His power in this world (particularly in pioneer mission areas). On the other hand, we are cautious regarding the regular practice of these gifts in the church as these can be abused. Therefore, we ask attendees at FBC to refrain from the exercise of the sign gifts in our Sunday morning worship services.

APPLICATION

God is a good and gracious God who generously gives spiritual gifts to his children. At FBC, we don't want to waste time debating the various issues related to the subject of spiritual gifts. For us, this is a “Level 3” issue (meaning we can agree to disagree). Rather, we want parents to focus on the simple fact that we should be overjoyed and thankful that in his grace God has chosen to give us gifts so that we can serve him effectively and joyfully. Spend some time talking about our responsibility to discover and use the gifts God has given us to serve him and his church.

Note: A basic sports analogy may help make the point here – a good coach gives his team the tools they need to win (practice, instruction, equipment, etc).

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 4:10 – *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace*

Week 7 Family Discussion

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 SPIRITUAL GIFTS 2

BIG IDEA

God gives gifts to his children (believers) so that they can serve his church.

DISCUSSION

How can I use the gifts God has given me to serve the church?

EXPLANATION

- Who is Paul writing this passage to? The church at Corinth
- Who decides what gifts each believer gets? God through the Holy Spirit
- Why does God give spiritual gifts? For the common good of the church
- What are some of the gifts listed in this passage?

APPLICATION

A healthy church functions properly when each member is exercising his or her spiritual gifts for the benefit of the whole body. Spend some time this week talking with your family about their spiritual gifts. Encourage your children by pointing out how you think God has equipped them to serve the church. Additionally (especially for older children), discuss some ways your children can get involved serving in the church. One of the ways we discover our gifts is by serving and allowing those in the church to affirm or redirect the gifts we think are evident in our lives. True gifts build up the church and are recognized by others in the church.

For more information about how you can get involved serving at FBC West Palm Beach, visit our website at <http://www.fbcwpb.org/Serve/index.html>

MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 12:7 - *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*



Week 8 Family Discussion

Isaiah 53:4-6 CRUCIFIXION

BIG IDEA

Jesus Christ died on the cross in our place for our sins according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:4). This doctrine is known as “penal substitutionary atonement,” which literally means that Jesus took our penalty by substituting his life for ours, thereby atoning (satisfying God’s wrath) for our sins and freely offering forgiveness to anyone who would believe.

DISCUSSION

Why did Jesus have to die?

EXPLANATION

- Who is this prophecy pointing towards? Jesus (cf. Acts 8:30-35)
- Whose plan was it for Jesus to suffer? God the Father
- How was Jesus wounded and crushed? Beatings and crucifixion
- Who was Jesus enduring this pain for? Us (the world)
- Why did Jesus have to die? All humans have turned away from God to follow their own way. This disobedience is called sin, iniquity, or transgression. This is why Jesus died – to deal with our sin problem.
- On whom did God lay our sins? Jesus
- What are the results of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross? Healing (forgiveness of sins) & peace with God (no longer enemies but friends)

APPLICATION

God sent his son Jesus into the world for one purpose – to die on the cross for the sins of the world (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2). The cross is absolutely necessary because we are sinners and God is holy (perfect/set apart). The holiness and wrath of God demand a punishment for sin. Christ bore the penalty for our sins to make a way for salvation.

For your family devotion time this week, read the crucifixion story from Luke 23. Pray and thank Jesus for dying on the cross in our place for our sins.

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Week 9 Family Discussion

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 RESURRECTION

BIG IDEA

Jesus died, was buried, and rose again according to the Scriptures. Jesus’ death on the cross saved us from something (sin, death, hell), while Jesus’ resurrection saves us to something (life, mission, ministry).

DISCUSSION

Why is Jesus’ resurrection important for Christians?

EXPLANATION

- What is the gospel? That Jesus died, was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures
- After he died, did Jesus stay dead and buried? No, he rose on the third day
- How do we know Jesus rose from the dead? The Bible tells us so
- Who saw Jesus after he was resurrected? Peter, the 12 apostles, 500 other believers, James, and Paul
- Read v.17 – If Christ did not rise from the dead, what does this mean for us? Our faith is in vain and we are still in our sins
- Why is the resurrection important for Christians? Points to our own resurrection and gives us purpose – God saved us to life of service and mission (Eph. 2:10; John 10:10)

APPLICATION

The resurrection of Jesus is the hinge on which everything else in Christianity turns. If there was no resurrection, then God is a liar and we are still in our sins. However, if the resurrection is true, then Jesus is who he said he was and his promise of salvation for all who believe can be trusted.

Discuss as a family some ways the resurrection should impact the way we live. Some potential applications could include: hope, confidence, boldness, purpose, courage during times of suffering/illness/death.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*



Week 10 Family Discussion

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 MISSION

BIG IDEA

God invites the church to participate in his rescue mission for the world.

DISCUSSION

How can I participate in God's mission?

EXPLANATION

- What is the motivation for God's mission? The love of Christ
- Who did Jesus die for? All (the whole world)
- Why did Jesus die? So that we would live on mission for Christ
- What happens when God rescues someone? They become a new creation in Christ – old habits, desires, life is gone. . .replaced by new heart, habits, desires, life.
- Whose idea was the rescue? God's
- What does it mean to be reconciled to God? Take two things that are separated and bring them together (i.e. former enemies are now friends)
- Who is now responsible for God's rescue mission? Believers in Christ (the church)
- What is an ambassador? Someone who speaks/acts on behalf of another person or nation. We are now Christ's ambassadors, speaking & acting on his behalf as messengers of the gospel to our neighborhoods, communities, cities, and the world.

APPLICATION

God's mission was to rescue sinners like us by sending his son Jesus to die on the cross. God's mission is now the church's mission as we speak and act on his behalf in our neighborhoods, communities, cities, and the world. Gospel mission first and foremost involves words (sharing the gospel), but also includes deeds (justice, mercy, serving, adoption) as a tangible demonstration of God's love for people created in his image.

This week, talk to your family about your role as an ambassador for Christ in your community, city, and the world. It's not by accident that God has placed you in your neighborhood, job, athletic team, school, and social network (Acts 17:26). How can your family utilize the platforms God has given you to participate in God's rescue mission for the world? How can your family serve your community in the name of Jesus? Make a list of people that you need to share the gospel with this week.

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:20 - *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

*Resources:



Vintage Church by Mark Driscoll

This study grows out of the vintage concept of taking timeless truths from Scripture—truths about church leadership, preaching, baptism, communion, and more—and blending them with aspects of contemporary culture, such as multi-campus churches and the latest forms of technology, to reach people with the gospel.



Why We Love the Church by Kevin DeYoung & Ted Kluck

Why We Love the Church presents the case for loving the local church. It paints a picture of the local church in all its biblical and real life guts, gaffes, and glory in an effort to edify local congregations and entice the disaffected back to the fold. It also provides a solid biblical mandate to love and be part of the body of Christ.



Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die by John Piper

The central issue of Jesus' death is not the cause, but the meaning—God's meaning. That is what this book is about. John Piper has gathered from the New Testament fifty reasons. Not fifty causes, but fifty purposes—in answer to the most important question that each of us must face: What did God achieve for sinners like us in sending his Son to die?



Death by Love by Mark Driscoll

Following the model of the biblical epistles, Driscoll writes letters to his congregation—individuals who have come to him for pastoral counsel through the years of his ministry. He writes letters to address their issues in light of the gospel and the cross of Christ.



Let the Nations Be Glad! by John Piper

Since its publication a decade ago, Let the Nations Be Glad! has provided thousands of seminary students, missionaries, and pastors with a sound theological foundation for missions.

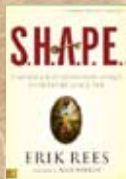


Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper

Millions of people are wasting their lives pursuing dreams of happiness that don't rise above a good marriage, nice kids, a successful career, a nice car, fun vacations, nice friends, a fun retirement, a painless death, and (hopefully) no hell. John Piper calls this a tragedy in the making. He argues that we were created for joy. We were designed to have one passion.



Out of the Salt Shaker & Into the World by Rebecca Pippert
Evangelism is a lifestyle, not a program. Through stories, biblical insight and plain common sense, Pippert helps us feel relaxed and enthusiastic about sharing our faith.



S.H.A.P.E. (tool for spiritual gifts) by Erik Rees
Rick Warren's bestselling book, The Purpose Driven® Life, described God's five purposes for every Christian. Now Erik Rees helps you discover God's unique purpose for your life based on the way God has shaped you. He made you marvelously unique for a reason.



Shepherding a Child's Heart and Instructing a Child's Heart by Ted Tripp
Written for parents with children of any age, this insightful book provides perspectives and procedures for shepherding your child's heart into the paths of life. Shepherding a Child's Heart gives fresh biblical approaches to child rearing.



Apparent Privilege by Steve Wright
Parents have the greatest privilege of their lives literally in front of them everyday: their children. Pointing their children to Christ, modeling faith, encouraging with words, and showing unfailing love isn't a burden. It is a privilege. Apparent Privilege will arm parents with biblical understanding and up-to-the-minute research to show them the unparalleled opportunity they have to be the primary influence of their children.