



## BUILDING BLOCK 2 School-Age Kids

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SMRBC'S  
**BUILDING**  
**BLOCKS**  
*Where To Grow Next.*



**Staples Mill Road**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## ***What Are SMRBC's Building Blocks?***



**SMRBC's Building Blocks is an intentional progressive discipleship map for the families of Staples Mill Road Baptist Church.**

We want to enable families in our church to know the next step of spiritual growth for their children, and to equip them with the knowledge and resources to take that next step.

Parents already recognize stages of life within their family through milestones such as Baby dedication, Kindergarten graduation, coming of age, or High School graduation. We can utilize these natural stages of life by equipping parents with resources and preparation to intentionally and consistently disciple their children in both planned and unplanned opportunities, leading their children through this unique stage of life and celebrating their children's physical and spiritual growth alongside them.

For each Building Block, we have prepared essential resources including seminars and classes, books, videos, and websites. We will help families recognize physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual characteristics of each Building Block, and address the changes in relationships and challenges to faith that each stage brings.



## BUILDING BLOCK **2** School-Age Kids

### **Bible Discovery**

Building Block 2 bridges the gap between your commitment to be the primary faith trainer of your child and the time when your child begins to understand the message of the Gospel. As children reach the ages of 5 to 6 (Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup> grade) parents can begin building a foundation of biblical knowledge, Bible reading and prayer in their child's life.

The purpose of this seminar is to provide parents with the knowledge, skills and resources needed to:

- Lead a "Faith Talk" at home.
- Help children engage with the Sunday sermon.
- Develop a Biblical worldview in the lives of their children.

## ***BIBLE DISCOVERY***

*“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. – Joshua 1:8*

This passage from the book of Joshua should encourage parents of children learning to read (ages 4-6), to build a foundation of biblical knowledge, Bible study and prayer into the life of their child. Children at this age should learn that the Bible should be their guide for life. They can begin to understand what the Bible is and learn how to use it. The Bible should be one of the first books a child learns to read on their own.

### ***Building Block 2 Core Competencies – Young children can begin to:***

- Know that the Bible is God’s Word – It is TRUTH (not imaginary or fantasy).
- Learn the Books of the Bible and understand the divisions of the Bible (OT/NT, Law, History, etc.).
- Memorize Bible Verses.
- Understand that the Bible is a guidebook for daily living.
- Learn how to pray with their family, others and by themselves.
- Hear God speak in a corporate worship service.

## ***TEACHING YOUR CHILD TO KNOW THE BIBLE***

### ***Parents of young children need to:***

- Know and understand your own child's growth and development in every area.
  - Spiritual
  - Emotional/Social
  - Mental
  - Physical
- Know that the attention span of your child is brief.
- Know that your child is a concrete thinker, not an abstract thinker.

### ***Tips and Reminders:***

- Only answer the question a child is asking at his level of understanding.
- Do not use big words or be over descriptive and abstract. Don't lecture.
- Your attitude toward Bible reading and study and the atmosphere in your home about the Bible is most important. "More is caught than taught"
- Your child will learn best through relationships and TIME together.

## ***FAITH TALK***

***What does the Bible say about leading the next generation?***

### ***Deuteronomy 6:4-9***

*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”*

- Underline the action verbs.
- This command is \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.
- When do you do this? \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Proverbs 22:6**

*“Train up a child in the way he should go;  
even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

***What happens when these passages are lived out in your family?***

The American individualistic worldview argues that children need to discover what they believe on their own. They need to find themselves and not have anyone religion impressed on them. Scripture indicates that all of us have a sin nature and fall short of what God had planned and designed. According to human nature, we will seek out sin and a sinful lifestyle. Children need to be led down the path that is right, good and pleasing to God. Just as we would teach them basic life skills, we must also teach them basic spiritual life skills according to God’s Word!

# BUILDING BLOCK **2** School-Age Kids

## *What is a Faith Talk?*

- Faith Talks are \_\_\_\_\_ times set aside at least once each week for conversation around the Scripture with your family.
- Leading consistent, meaningful faith talks will leave a \_\_\_\_\_ in your children that will imprint their entire lives and their eternity.

## *How does it work?*

Faith Talks are not simply an appendage to the Building Blocks path for family discipleship. Faith Talks are the primary vehicle for leading your children along the path between each milestone. Faith Talks can prepare your child for the next milestone by teaching them core competencies related to each milestone.

- You are the primary \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ changes your child.
- Faith Talks are the \_\_\_\_\_ for walking your child from one milestone to the next, preparing the way....

## *Common Obstacles for Faith Talks:*

1. We just don't have enough \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I do not \_\_\_\_\_ to lead a Faith Talk.
3. I do not know what \_\_\_\_\_ to use for Faith Talks.
4. I do not know the answers to \_\_\_\_\_ my children might ask.
5. My kids are \_\_\_\_\_.



# BUILDING BLOCK **2** School-Age Kids

## ***Key Ingredients to a successful Faith Talk:***

Have \_\_\_\_\_.

Keep it \_\_\_\_\_.

Don't \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ it up.

Be \_\_\_\_\_.

Hold the \_\_\_\_\_.

Have \_\_\_\_\_ expectations.

Just \_\_\_\_\_ it.

## ***Planning Your Faith Talk***

Below is an outline for you to use if you so desire. Don't feel locked into any one structure. Variety will often keep things fresh and generate renewed interest. Always aim to have your children walk away with some tangible truth.

### **Topic: What is appropriate for your children?**

1. What are your children struggling with?
2. What family issues need addressing?
3. What foundational issues are appropriate?
4. What are you learning?
5. Holiday?
6. Social and cultural issues?

\*\*\*Be careful of the danger of addressing felt needs continually. One way to avoid this is to choose a path that is Scripture first, deriving the topic from the passage you are reading through.

### **Goal: What Building Block are your kids heading toward and what Core Competencies are you attempting to address?**

### **Scripture: What passages address and teach the topic?**

### **Materials: Are there any special materials needed for the Faith Talk?**



# BUILDING BLOCK School-Age Kids

## ***Family Plan I: Church ➡ Home Connection***

1. Begin with prayer. (Take turns with older children and students)
2. Teach and discuss Sunday School lesson or Pastor's sermon.
  - a. Focus: Try to make one point or theme the focus. Let this be the take – away. Utilize take home sheet, or the Gospel Project at Home resources sent out in the weekly email from Pastor Dustin. See suggested Family Activity.
  - b. Discuss: Use questions that pull them into the discussion. This is not a lecture opportunity for you to jump on your soapbox.
  - c. Memory: Use the Big Picture Question or Key Passage as a reminder.
3. Close in prayer and if desired a song.

## ***Family Plan II: Family Night***

1. Select a family activity such as a movie or board game.
2. Enjoy the family activity.
3. Pray together.
4. Read Scripture together. (Utilize a Faith Talk Resource)
5. Discuss together. Ask intentional questions.
6. Pray together.

## ***Family Plan III: Family Outing\****

1. Select an outing – Park, restaurant, donut shop, etc.
2. Pray together.
3. Read Scripture together. (Utilize a Faith Talk Resource)
4. Discuss together. Ask intentional questions.
5. Pray together.

\*Could be done with individual children or as a family.

**“God deserves to be worshiped daily in our homes by our families. This is how you do it. God made it doable. It’s simple; just read, pray and sing.”**

**- Donald Whitney, *Family Worship***

**“My goal for our family Faith Talks is to create a relational, fun experience that provides a platform....from which we can read the words of God as a family, celebrate them, and adjust our lives accordingly.”**

**-Brian Haynes, *Shift: What It Takes to Finally Reach Families Today***

## ***CORPORATE WORSHIP – PARENTING IN THE PEW***

***Where are your children more likely to see you worship and love the Lord?***

***Where are your children most likely to encounter worship of God that includes the teaching of God's Word, prayer, singing and giving?***

***What spiritual impact could your children receive from learning how to worship God with you on Sunday mornings?***

***Why should your kids sit with you on Sunday?***

### ***Catch the VISION - Psalm 145:3-4***

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.”

- Worship is the only thing we get to do forever.
- Training your children to worship can prepare your children for eternal joy.
- Worship is learned through participation, practice and patience.
- Love your children in a way that welcomes sacrifice. This sacrifice is for a season.

Guidance from Scripture: Passages on worship

Together... Speaking, Listening, Singing, and Blessing God

- Psalm 34:3
- Psalm 40: 9-10
- Psalm 42:4
- Psalm 44:1
- Psalm 57:9
- Psalm 71: 15-16
- Psalm 78: 4-7
- Psalm 84: 1-2, 4
- Psalm 105: 1-2
- Psalm 148: 11-14
- Isaiah 12: 3-6
- Romans 10: 13-17

# BUILDING BLOCK School-Age Kids

## ***Worshipping Together:***

### **Preparation:**

- “Sunday morning starts Saturday night”. Guard your Saturday nights – Especially with young kids. Bedtime should be the same as a school night.
- Layout shoes, clothes, Bibles, worship notebook, and whatever else you might need for Sunday morning.
- Build excitement and anticipation for Sunday. “We get to worship with others tomorrow!”
- Pray for Pastor Jim, Pastor Chip, Praise band, Sunday school teachers.
- Talk about the sermon series.
- Learn and sing songs that you will hear on Sunday.
- Drive to church (Try to arrive early) – pray again together for the morning. Sing worship songs.
- Use the bathroom and get water before entering the worship center.
- Teach your children to shake hands, make eye contact with greeters and ushers. Learn their names and have your children speak to these people.
- Talk about the order of service.

### **During:**

- Participation is important! Sing, offering, pray, etc. Guide them...whisper in their ear. Model the behavior.
- Sit where they will not be distracted. Think about location.
- Set rules and expectations early. This will be helpful as they get older.
- Stand and pray at expected times. Do not allow them to stay seated.
- Purpose is to encounter God not to be entertained.
  - Utilize a sermon notebook for kids. This will help and teach your children what is expected.
  - Bring 1 book, the Bible. This could be a storybook Bible for kids. Don’t bring coloring books, toys, or electronic devices. This teaches them to tune out or to be entertained.
  - Again, expect them to pay attention. Instruct by drawing pictures or taking notes yourself and encourage them to copy what you are doing.
- Instruct them that you will be asking 1, 2, or 3 questions about the sermon after church. They can use their notebook. Reward them for their efforts.
- Keep ordinances sacred - use them to teach the Gospel.
  - Lord’s Supper is always 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. Explain why they cannot participate before the service.
  - Baptisms are usually the third Sunday.

## BUILDING BLOCK School-Age Kids

### After:

- Drive home is important – ask questions or talk about the sermon. Discuss their experiences at church.
- Please do not complain about church or people in front of your children.
- Lunch or sometime afterwards pull out your sermon notes. This could be your notes or the children's notes
  - Emphasize the main point (Keep it brief with young kids).
  - Talk about one of Pastor's illustrations or personal stories.
  - Ask questions and reward behavior based on how they listened and learned from Sunday's sermon.
  - Talks about application points. How should today's sermon impact our family?

### Supportive Thoughts and Suggestions

- What age? Make it a Milestone. Birthday or completed pre-K or Kindergarten graduation.
- Discipline: Give correction privately – leave service if necessary, but do not embarrass or shame your children publicly.
- Remember that they are children, but also know that they can hear from God and will learn much more than we expect.
- Be faithful; Be consistent.
- This will require sacrifice and intentionality. Reject passivity.
- Worship or church? Remember your objective is to help your children encounter God.
- It is not always about what they receive from the sermon or the music set. What are they learning from you, the worshiper, and their parent?
- Opportunity to start a new tradition.
- Implement family worship at home.
- Pray! Pray! Pray!

## ***HELPING YOUR CHILD CONNECT TO GOD – PRAYER***

### ***Ephesians 6:18***

<sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Children can begin to learn to pray at a very young age. They will begin repeating words like “Dear, God” and “Amen” and “Thank you” as toddlers. They may not understand the words but helping them start as young as possible should be the goal of parents. As they get older, parents should begin explaining and teaching their children how to pray. Teaching your children a **Prayer Model such as the ACTS prayer model is a great place to start.**

**A - Adoration** (or simply praising God for who he is.) Use phrases like “God you are... Holy.”

**C – Confession** (confessing sin should be a regular part of prayer.)

**T – Thanksgiving** (expressing gratitude to God. “give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” 1 Thess. 5:18.)

**S - Supplication or Simply Asking** (making requests of God for ourselves and for others.)

### ***Matthew 6:9-13***

<sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread,

<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

## BUILDING BLOCK School-Age Kids

***NOTES:***

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### Recommended Bible & Faith Talk Resources

- *NIRV Adventure Bible for Early Readers* (Bible presented at Kindergarten Graduation service)
- *Long Story Short* (OT) and *Old Story New* (NT) *Ten Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God* by Marty Machowski

### Books

- *Family Worship* by Donald S. Whitney  
Whitney's practical guide reviews examples of family worship in the Bible and throughout church history; explains essential elements, including Scripture reading, prayer, and singing; and features a discussion guide and Scripture index.
- *Parenting in the Pew: Guiding Your Children into the Joy of Worship* by Robbie Castleman  
Worship, Castleman writes, is "the most important thing you can ever train your child to do." So with infectious passion, nitty-gritty advice and a touch of humor, she shows you how to help your children (from toddlers to teenagers) enter into worship.

### SMRBC Classes/Seminars

- *Building Block 2: Bible Discovery*, led by Pastor Dustin

### RightNow Media Resources (streaming video)

- *The Mr. Phil Show*, Phil Vischer, Founder of Jellyfish Labs and co-creator of the acclaimed *VeggieTales*, brings a brand new show all about the Bible. Join some familiar friends—and some new ones too—as they learn more about God's Word. Explore the Bible as a family and have fun along the way!

### Other Resources

- *Sermon Notes for Kids* (Ages 6-12) by Jill Connelly
- *What Every Child Should Know About Prayer* by Nancy Guthrie





SMRBC'S  
**BUILDING**  
BLOCKS  
*Where To Grow Next.*

***ALL BUILDING BLOCKS***



BUILDING BLOCK **1** New Child



BUILDING BLOCK **3** Salvation and Baptism



BUILDING BLOCK **5** Purity for Life



BUILDING BLOCK **7** High School Graduation



BUILDING BLOCK **2** School-Age Kids



BUILDING BLOCK **4** Preparing for Adolescence



BUILDING BLOCK **6** Passage to Adulthood