

children's ministry

mission...

To provide a nurturing environment and practical plan which will introduce children and their families to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their relationship with him through worship, prayer, discipleship and service.

value statements...

- Lifepath's Children's Ministry will share the love of Jesus with children and families.
- Lifepath's Children's Ministry will teach children and their families how to worship God through praise, prayer and practice.
- Lifepath's Children's Ministry will provide a pathway through education and example that empowers families to study and grow in Christ together.
- Lifepath's Children's Ministry will teach and instill God's word into the hearts of children and families.
- Lifepath's Children's Ministry will equip children and families to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their spheres of influence and in the community.

goals 2010...

- Take Home Sheet from Children's Small Group Teachers for parents to reinforce weekly small group lessons.
- Family Night: One Sunday evening during the fall and spring we will host a family night where we will eat together, participate in a time of directed family discussion, then spend some time playing games and mingling with other families.
- Fall 2010 Family Retreat: We will offer an opportunity each fall for families to go away together for a weekend of fellowship, family discipleship and lots of fun!
- Implement Lifepath's comprehensive discipleship plan.

"And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deut. 6:5-9

student ministry

mission...

To connect students to each other and to the living God and to help them grow their relationship with Him through worship, prayer, discipleship and service.

value statements...

- Lifepath's Student Ministry is focused on building a strong spiritual foundation for the students of Lifepath Church.
- Programming for all Lifepath student activities are organized and executed with this discipleship focus in mind.
- Lifepath's Student Ministry will grow relationships between students, foster spiritual growth and encourage ownership in the Student Ministry.
- Lifepath's Student Ministry will use fun, elaborate games and interesting, engaging discussion to develop specific events and programs aimed at attracting unchurched students.

goals 2010...

- Include more small and large group devotional and Bible study time, as well as frequent worship opportunities in all Sunday evening activities.
- Create a mentoring program to match Jr. High and Sr. High students for one year or longer and provide opportunities for students to participate in Bible study, general discussion, games and other activities together.
- Encourage Lifepath students to invite friends to all activities.
- Record and review attendance at all Student Ministry functions. Students who are absent will be contacted by other students.
- Implement Lifepath's comprehensive discipleship plan.

"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12

lifepath church

adult discipleship

purpose...

- To create environments that provide people with intentional time and space to have their hearts, attitudes, actions and beliefs shaped by Jesus Christ.
- To connect people relationally to help them grow spiritually.

"Emotional health and spiritual health are inseparable. It is not possible for a Christian to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature."

Peter Scazzero
author, *The Emotionally Healthy Church*

"People do not drift into full devotion to Christ. It requires intention and effort."

John Ortberg
author and pastor

goals 2010...

- Reach people inside Lifepath
 - Create 2 new home groups
 - Recruit for new groups, current groups, and Sunday adult classes this spring
 - Help people choose a small group by providing a visual map and photos of each small group
- Reach people outside Lifepath
 - Encourage groups with space to recruit friends outside the church to fill these spaces
 - Challenge each home group to add one couple (or 2 individuals) who do not attend church to their group each year
 - Create 3 new groups solely outreach-oriented: group leaders create their groups by inviting friends and neighbors
 - Make evangelism curriculum available to small groups
- Group support
 - Make small group training material available to all groups
 - Meet quarterly as group leaders
 - Make curriculum list available

"This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ."

Ephesians 4:13

lifepath church

worship arts

purpose...

To embrace and proclaim the greatness of God, in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit in our corporate gatherings.

slogan...

One heart, one voice, proclaiming Jesus Christ.

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

goals 2010...

- Emphasize a growing relationship with Christ, small group time and praying together.
- Teach a clear and unified understanding of what worship is and how we grow as worshippers. How do we love God more?
- Craft corporate worship times that combine God's Word with music, encouraging Lifepath to proclaim the gospel, experience God's presence, and live for God's glory.
- Encourage our congregation (of three distinct worship styles) to pray for the unity of our church, seek opportunities to fellowship with others outside of their particular service (i.e., combined worship services, fellowships, church-wide events), and learn how to more fully love one another as Jesus taught and commanded us. (John 15:12)
- Grow outside of our own comfort zone to take advantage of opportunities to touch others not only with our music, but our lives.
- Create more open door opportunities of service within our ministry to help meet growth goals. Examples: a multimedia team, a praise choir that will sing every 4-6 weeks.

1 heart voice

Paul describes a life worthy of the gospel like this: "standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel." Throughout Scripture an undeniable connection exists between worship and unity. Our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ clearly affect our relationship with God.

from *The Missing Element of Worship*, by Tom Kraeuter

COMPREHENSIVE DISCIPLESHIP PLAN (Birth through 12th Grade)

INFANTS

Prayer:

- The people that take care of me pray for me

Worship:

- I am hearing songs and music which talk about God's love for me

Discipleship:

- I know God loves me because the people who care for me love me and love God

Service:

- People take care of me

TODDLERS

Prayer:

- We should talk to God everyday through prayer
- We share our needs with God through prayer

Worship:

- God created the things around me
- God loves me

Discipleship:

- I Listen to Bible Stories
- I associate the Bible with God

Service:

- I am learning about obedience and sharing

PRESCHOOL (ages 3-5)

Prayer:

- My prayers begin to turn from an inward focus (i.e. self and family) to include an outward focus (friends and relatives in need)

Worship:

- I understand we attend church to celebrate, learn about, and follow God
- I am developing a sense of trusting God to take care of me and others
- I am beginning to memorize simple Bible verses

Discipleship:

- I Know God is real, God loves me, Jesus is God's son, and Jesus died on the cross
- I am learning Bible truths
- I am becoming familiar with stories in the Bible.

Service:

- I understand there are people who do not have as much as I do
- I want to share God's love with others
- I want to help others

KINDER/1ST GRADE

Prayer:

- Prayer is one means to strengthen my relationship with Jesus
- I am praying for those in my community and in the world

Worship:

- Worship is one means to strengthen my relationship with Jesus
- I have begun participating in the Church worship service
- I am building Christian friendships (participating in small groups)

Discipleship:

- I can have a personal relationship with Jesus and that relationship is strengthened through study, prayer, worship and practice.
- I understand Jesus died for me- conceptualizing sin, atonement, and forgiveness
- I am memorizing scripture regularly and starting to make application as to how those verses apply in my life
- I am learning about the fruits of the spirit
- I am developing a basic knowledge of eternal life (death/life afterward)
- I am learning the 10 commandments and understand they were given for our good

Service:

- I can strengthen my personal relationship with Jesus through service
- I am learning service is a way of sharing Jesus with others and can include giving money, participating in a drive, doing something for someone who can't do it for themselves and praying for others
- I am participating in acts of service alongside my family

2nd/3rd GRADE

Prayer:

- I am developing a deeper prayer life- beginning to self-initiate prayer time
- I am getting comfortable praying out loud

Worship:

- I understand worship is an expression of our love for God
- I understand the elements of the worship service (The Lord's Supper, The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Apostle's Creed, tithing, etc.)

Discipleship:

- I am developing an understanding of how the Bible fits together and how it pertains to our lives
- I am learning the books of the Bible
- I am comfortable looking for answers in the Bible and using it as a reference
- I am continuing to memorize scripture and am learning to pray those scriptures in my prayer time

Service:

- I am participating in monthly service projects
- I am starting to develop a sense of concern for others and desiring to know how God wants to use me to help others
- I am starting to understand how God used Jesus to serve others

4th/5th GRADE

Prayer:

- I understand that God wants me to pray for myself as well as those outside of my direct sphere of influence
- I am comfortable leading prayer in a group of my family or my friends
- I am developing a daily quiet time

Worship:

- I am participating with my family in elements of the worship service (prayer, music, communion, etc.)

- I am beginning to participate in the offering and understand the difference between tithing and making an offering
- I choose to be at church because that is where I come to enter into God's presence and fellowship with like minded believers
- Fellowship with other Christians is becoming a strong sense of my identity
- I understand that a shared worship experience develops accountability among believers

Discipleship:

- I understand that Jesus is the only way to God
- I understand that God made me special, I was created for a purpose and that I have spiritual gifts
- I understand that following Jesus is a choice
- I have made a decision to follow Jesus and understand this requires daily obedience and submission

Service:

- I am conceptualizing serving others and the place that has in the kingdom of God
- I want to share Christ's love and purposes with others

6th/7th GRADE

Prayer:

- I see prayer as a vital part of my personal relationship with God
- I am make prayer a part of my daily life

Worship:

- I participate in all the elements of the worship service, including receiving the message
- I participate in the offering with some regularity
- I am beginning to approach worship as a personal responsibility

Discipleship:

- I understand that Jesus is the only way to God
- I am beginning to seek out my spiritual gifts
- I am beginning to take more responsibility for my own spiritual growth
- I am beginning to look for God's guidance in the decisions I make

Service:

- I see that I have a place in the service of the people of this world
- I participate in occasional service opportunities

8th/9th GRADE

Prayer:

- I seek new ways to expand my prayer life
- I am beginning to see prayer as relational instead of ritual

Worship:

- I participate in worship as my own choice, not just because my family does
- I participate in the offering with regularity
- I am beginning to see worship as a lifestyle

Discipleship:

- I have a better understanding of the Bible as God's story
- I am beginning to understand and utilize my spiritual gifts
- I see my spiritual growth as one of the most important parts of my life
- I am comfortable discussing my faith with my unchurched friends
- I actively seek God's will in my decision-making

Service:

- I am beginning to see that God is using me to heal the world

- I participate in service opportunities and look for new ways for God to use me

10th/11th GRADE

Prayer:

- I am comfortable leading prayer in small or large groups
- I am beginning to see prayer affecting change in my life and the lives of others

Worship:

- I see worshipping in community as an important part of my life
- I understand worship is about seeking God and is not about me

Discipleship:

- I understand that I am part of God's greater story
- I am beginning to truly understand and recognize God's grace
- I am seeking to bring my unchurched friends to Christ
- My relationship with Christ is the primary factor in the decisions I make

Service:

- I am familiar with the needs of the community and look for ways to serve
- I am beginning to make serving a part of my daily life

12th GRADE and BEYOND

Prayer:

- I work to keep up a daily quiet prayer time despite a busy schedule
- I use prayer daily to affect change in the world
- I use prayer daily to better connect with God

Worship:

- I am dedicated to attending a weekly worship service
- I tithe

Discipleship:

- I understand that I am an active member of the body of Christ
- I understand and utilize my spiritual gifts to further God's kingdom
- I am seeking to expand the body of believers in Christ
- My life reflects the choice I've made to follow Jesus

Service:

- I look to my community and beyond for ways to serve
- I make serving part of my daily life
- I make decisions with the needs of the community in mind

FAMILY GATHERINGS

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 "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 upon 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."

May 2010: Prayer for End of School Year Activities

Prayer during the 11:09 service for proms, graduation ceremonies, etc.

June 2010: Next Steps

To be held on a Sunday afternoon- Nicholas and Vinessa will host a lunch for students who will enter junior high in August 2010 and their parents.

August 2010: Family Talk

A document/brochure/booklet to aid families in discovering opportunities to engage in real talk about God's Word and how it applies today.

August 15, 2010: Prayer for Students and Parents

We will pray over all students (elementary to college age) returning to school

August 29, 2010: Promotion Sunday

Parents of 2nd graders will present their 2nd graders with new Bibles during the 11:09 worship service. Once all of the kids have received their Bibles, we will pray over them.

Fall 2010: Family Night

One Sunday evening during the fall we will host a family night where we will eat together, participate in a time of directed family discussion, then spend some time playing games and mingling with other families.

Fall 2010: Family Retreat

We will offer an opportunity each fall for families to go away together for a weekend of fellowship, family discipleship, and lots of fun!

January 2011: Spiritual Goal Setting for the Family

This is something we did for the first time in Family Worship this past January. We will do it again in January 2011, but will promote the material so it is available for all families in the church.

Spring 2011: Prayer for Students During the TAKS Testing Season

We will pick one Sunday during the Spring to pray for all students who will be taking the TAKS test.

Spring 2011: Family Night

One Sunday evening during the spring we will host a family night where we will eat together, participate in a time of directed family discussion, then spend some time playing games and mingling with other families.

ONGOING:

- New Members to Lifepath will receive the full discipleship plan covering infants to teens.
- Parents will receive a copy of the age-specific discipleship plan for their child/student as their child/student enters a new stage/phase of the plan.
- The full discipleship plan will be available on the website

On the Horizon: Our plans for events/resources in the next 2-3 years

- a spiritual milestone booklet that will help parents document, celebrate, and talk about spiritual milestones with their kids.
- handouts for parents centered on topics to help parents through transitional periods in their child's life and sometimes difficult coming-of-age transitions.
- additional Next Step events such as college prep workshops for parents and teens, junior high prep workshops, high school prep workshops, etc.