

Partnering with the Home

- **Teach families about the “Four Keys” and the “Faith Five”.** Host a Faith-at-Home workshop or seminar. Publish articles. Promote a sermon series. Build instruction into baptismal preparation and confirmation parent events. Model these practices for parents wherever possible.
- **Promote good faith-at-home resources to parents** – devotional aids, books, e-newsletters, websites, FaithTalk cards.
- **Build parent components into existing ministry events or offer parallel experiences** – use these opportunities to dialogue with parents about passing on faith in the home.
- **Host congregational events designed for whole households.** Use these opportunities for teaching and encouragement.
- **Build a “Home Moment” into your weekly worship services** – a two minute slot to highlight a “faith at home” principle, idea or resource.
- **Develop “at home” pieces connected with the content of your childrens ministry** e.g. conversation starters, project or craft ideas, devotional suggestions.
- **Give your households brochures with common prayers and blessings.**
- **Request parental involvement in childrens ministry activities.** Give parents simple things to do e.g. preparing and serving snacks, reading a story, helping with craft activities.
- **Host seasonal workshops to help households celebrate different parts of the church year together.** Aim to assist households to prepare for at-home observances and activities.
- **Offer a “Toolbox Parenting” group through your congregation.**
- **Plan service activities that whole households can participate in together.**
- **Encourage the idea of “Family Nights” or “TV Free Nights”.** Select dates and advertise them. Create a pool of resources that households can use for these times.
- **Set up a Congregational Grandparent system.**
- **Do Godparent follow-up** – send out reminders, encouragements and suggestions to help godparents nurture their godchildren.
- **Hold a Grandparent training event** – give grandparents help and advice on how to be positive faith influences in the lives of their grandchildren.
- **Explore ways of actively connecting seniors and children within your congregation** e.g. service activities, a buddy program, prayer partners.
- **Introduce a mentoring program into Confirmation ministry.**
- **Develop a library of resources from which parents can borrow.**
- **Form a “Faith-at-Home Team” to develop this area of your congregation’s ministry.** Research. Read. Listen. Pray. Pray some more. Then do something practical that can make a difference.