

Hello Parents,

I hope in your time of being a part of Midland Reformed Family Ministry, whether it has been many years or just a few visits, that you have come to see that we believe that the most important factor in a young person's faith development is parental involvement. We at MRC are blessed to be a part of your child's life for a couple of hours each week, and mainly only during the school year. These can be important times for their faith walk but it is the many, many hours that they spend with you, their parents, that truly have the biggest impact on who they will grow up to be. Church programs can be and are very important to the spiritual life of a child, and I'm proud of all the great work our many leaders and helpers do to love and teach your children, but young people with a faith that lasts a lifetime often have a common ingredient in their lives - a home where faith is valued and lived out day to day. Some of this happens naturally as you walk with Christ; they will absorb or catch that light so to speak, but there also has to be times of intentionality where you, as a parent, instruct and nurture your child's growing faith.

In that spirit of intentionality, I want to let you know of how MRC's Family Ministry hopes to be a resource for you and partner with you as you strive to raise up your children to be followers of Jesus. We have been and will continue to provide quality age appropriate programs with loving leaders who are here to be a positive influence in your child's life.

One area that we hope to improve our impact is in the area of providing tools and resources for you that will help you in the many, many hours of parenting that you do outside of the church. A resource that we have partnered with to help us do this is ParentMinistry.net. By partnering with them, we are better able to provide you with resources that will help empower and encourage you in your parenting. You can find a link to their website on our youth and children's pages.

I know we live in a time where hours and minutes are precious, and so just having more resources doesn't necessarily make you jump for joy, but I hope you will at least see what might work for you and consider if there are a few ways, or even just one way, that you can be more intentional about the messages of faith that you are passing on to the young people in your home. I am always available to talk and answer questions the best I can so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Blessings on your families,

Pastor Brad
vanderwaal02@hotmail.com
989-835-4000