
Equipping the Next Generation (and the Leaders who Serve Them) – Week 2

A BLUEPRINT FOR EQUIPPING THE NEXT GENERATION

How our Church Partners with Parents to Raise the Rising Generation

By Rod MacIlvaine

Introduction: This is week two in our series called *Equipping the Next Generation – and the Leaders who Serve Them*. In this series, we’re standing on a Jesus’ promise in Matthew 16:18. Jesus said, “On this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” When you look at our culture today, it seems as if the “gates of hell” have been unleashed on all that is decent and good, and kids are often the target. Parents are rightly concerned about the forces that lure their children away from childhood innocence and into things that bring them confusion and pain. Our aim – *as a church* – is to serve as a contrast community within our broader culture so that families can thrive. To do this, our aim is to *be a family* that partners with *families* so that kids build a strong foundation. But our ultimate desire is that kids will go the distance with Jesus as adults. We see this vision in places like Proverbs 22:6 – *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it*. However, this raises a question: What does it mean to disciple a child? What are the steps? And what does it look like in action? This morning I want to present a biblical model for discipling a child. As we raise children and grandchildren...as we mentor kids and youth...this model provides a roadmap to equipping kids to grow.

1. ***Seven keys*** – When we look at the Bible broadly, we see 7-foundational principles for equipping kids for life in God.

2. ***Idea*** –

3. *Takeaways* –