

Families.

They come in all shapes and sizes. But what a blessing that God designed it that way! God gave us families—not just nuclear families but a church family. What does that mean for us?

Our summer study, **We are Family**, will help us understand how parents and the church can partner together to raise the next generation.

- **Children** – Learn why God gave us families and what it means to be part of a church family through stories, crafts, and more.
- **Parents** – No one has more potential to influence your child than you... yet you are not the only influence your children need. Learn how to partner with the faith community through the *Parenting Beyond Your Capacity* study.
- **Extended Family** (Grandparents, Aunts/Uncles, and other Adults in the Congregation) – You play a vital role in the development and faith journey of the children in your families and in our congregation. Learn more about how you can step in and encourage the children in your life through the *Playing for Keeps* study.

Each group has online resources available for free to create their own study, including videos, articles, and recommendations for experiences to put these ideas into practice.

Wait, how will this work?

For the Children's Study

The children's web page has all sorts of activities to help you, as parents, teach them about family:

- Bible stories
- Story books
- Crafts
- Activities
- Video
- Experiences

Find the ones that best fit your family and start there! You can easily do these things at home and incorporate them into your schedule. For example, do a craft once a week or read a Bible story/story book every night.

For the Parents & Extended Family Studies

You've got a bunch of great resources, too:

- Weekly Guides/Blogs
- Videos
- Additional Resources
- Experiences

You get to design how this study will work for you, but this is kind of what we envision.

Get started with the We are Family study online at www.wabashpresbyterian.com.

1. Get the information.

Read it fast, read it slow, or just watch the video. Get the information in whatever way works best for you!

2. Talk about it.

Find someone and chat about what you're learning. This could be a one-on-one, a small group, or you and your spouse. Talk once, talk every week, or talk once a month. Find whatever works for you!

3. Practice it.

Identify times and places where you can invest in intergenerational relationships. Each study has great ideas to help you put these things into motion.

I Still Have Questions...

Why are we all studying the same thing? Because family is important. Important enough for us all to take a closer look at it. **Kids** need to learn they have a church family to care for them even as their parents take the primary role in raising them. **Parents** need to know they have the church supporting them as they raise their kids. And as a **church**, we've already made it quite clear we value intergenerational relationships. The church family will have this study as another opportunity to learn how we can come alongside the kids and parents in our congregation and in our community.

So, is this a small group thing or a "do it yourself" thing or what? Honestly, whatever works best for you! We understand that everyone learns differently and everyone has different schedules. So study it on your own or with your spouse. Or get together with some friends. If you *do* choose to study it alone, we still hope you'll talk to someone else at some point so you can share what you're learning and get more ideas!

Want a small group? If you want to join up with other WPC'ers for a study, let the church office know. We'll compile a list and allow you to set your time and place.

Don't go online? That's okay! The book for parents is *Parenting Beyond Your Capacity* by Reggie Joiner and Carey Nieuwhof. The book for extended family is *Playing for Keeps* by Reggie Joiner and Kristen Ivy. Each one has discussion questions included.

A Few More Things

Facebook

We'll be posting quotes, questions, and more on Facebook throughout the summer, so make sure you "like" our page and have selected to see our updates in your feed.

Fall Celebration

Our Fall Picnic will serve as an end to this study (though we hope the "practicing" part will continue forever!). We look forward to hearing what you and your family have learned and experienced through this study.



A Summer Study from WPC June-August 2016

"[Moses] speaks to the entire nation and calls everyone to be responsible for how the next generation will be raised."

Reggie Joiner & Carey Nieuwhof



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