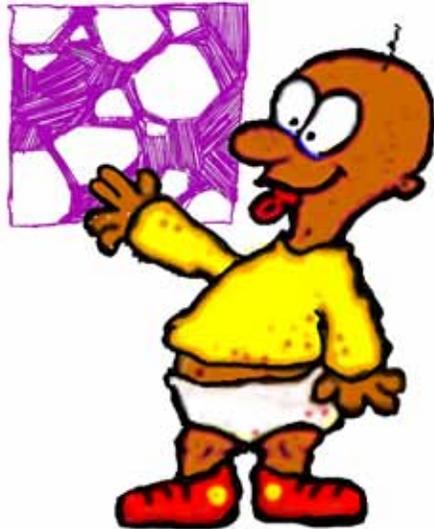


Faith Stepping Stones

Introduce FAITH5 and help parents become confident, effective faith mentors for their child.



CHRISTIAN PARENTING & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

that celebrate eight crucial passages in the faith life and development of the child and family from cradle to graduation. Faith Stepping Stones provides practical tools and easy, non-threatening nightly faith rituals to help parents become confident, effective faith mentors for their child... Every Night in Every Home™

EACH STEPPING STONE COURSE INCLUDES:

- The simple yet powerful FAITH5 nightly faith practice
- Teaching resources including PowerPoint presentations and small group discussion handouts, plus support materials to help you prepare and present each lesson
- Blessing service for inclusion in regular worship

FAITH STEPPING STONES OVERVIEW

Faith Stepping Stones are eight short courses designed to help congregations help parents at eight critical moments in family faith development. Any Stone can be used alone as the basis for a terrific Christian parenting course. However, using all eight Stones as a comprehensive family ministry program will carry your families through all stages of parenting, giving them new tools and age-appropriate resources at each stage.



Incubating Faith: One Step at a Time

Starting earlier, lasting longer, and involving parents as partners.

Boiling Eggs & Frying Faith

You can boil an egg in two minutes. You can fry an egg in two minutes. You can't incubate an egg in two minutes. Faith incubation takes time, care, attention to detail, warmth, nurture—and common sense. Incubation is a process that takes a whole system working at it. If any essentials are left out of the system, or you try to rush incubation, eggs will not hatch.

Biblical witness, personal experience, and research all indicate that faith incubation happens best when parents are involved throughout the process. Faith incubation doesn't happen best in an artificial structure (i.e., the church). It happens best in the home. But how do you get busy parents to say "yes" to being the prime faith incubators when the primary faith incubation systems in the

church make it easy for them to drop their children at the door and have someone else teach them faith?

Eight Steps From Cradle to Graduation

Faith Inkubators has designed the Faith Stepping Stones system to grow natural support groups among people at common moments in parenting. This approach stresses the concept that the church is the reinforcement for—not the replacement of—parents in the faith education of their children. The underlying goal of Faith Stepping Stones is to provide parents not only with this support, but with the tools to create and sustain a faith incubation system at home. We have chosen to focus on eight steps from cradle to graduation where the church has an opportunity to bless the child, gift the family and call parents to the

promises of baptism. Each Stepping Stone stands on its own as a powerful event in the life of the family. Wire all eight together and you have the beginnings of a unifying principle for inreach, outreach, evangelism, stewardship and Christian education.

Faith Stepping Stones Families

What is the result of Faith Stepping Stones? Churches offering Faith Stepping Stones found increased involvement of parents in the faith life of their children as well as increased family communication and care. Involvement of families in worship increased, too. In short: Faith Stepping Stones families learned what it means to be a family that incubates faith at church *and* at home.

Resources and Membership

The eight Faith Stepping

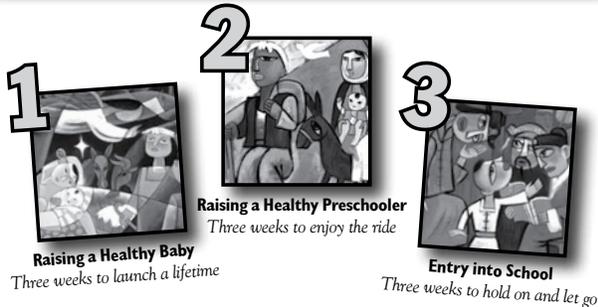
Stones courses are available to congregations, schools, and small group ministries on an annual membership basis. Groups that become members receive access to the parenting courses, handouts, PowerPoint presentations, music, art and much more! Faith Inkubators' goal is to put the best family ministry system and resources into your hands so *you* can challenge, empower and support parents in being the primary faith mentors for their children. Care to join in? For more information go to the Faith Inkubators website www.faithink.com.

“Faith incubation must start a whole lot earlier and last a whole lot longer if it is to happen at all. And incubating the parents' faith during the whole process is the key.”

The Eight Stepping Stones

Christian parenting at eight powerful passages in a child's faith life

Early Parenting Stones 1 - 3



The first three Faith Stepping Stones courses, *Raising a Healthy Baby*, *Raising a Healthy Preschooler*, and *Entry into School*, are designed to provide practical parenting advice at each stage of early family life. These courses help parents understand the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of young children.

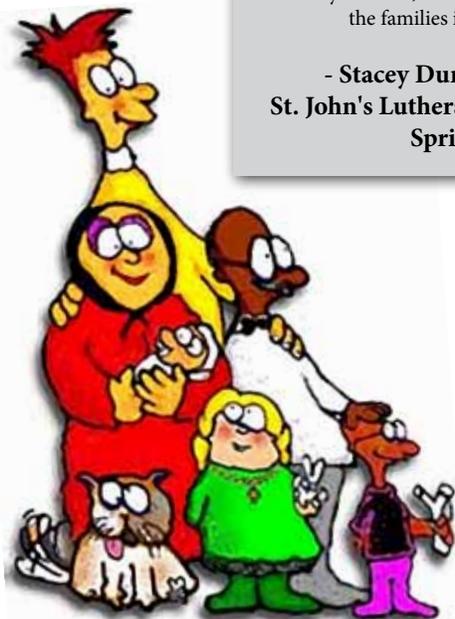
Parents add a simple faith practice to the nightly bedtime routine at each step, learning to bless their babies, pray with their preschoolers, and share highs and lows each night with kindergartners. These three-week mini-courses can also be used to initiate the formation of small group ministries for young families who may or may not currently be members of the church.

Our five-year goals for Faith Stepping Stones have been reached and surpassed, and we're only three years in. Now a whole new can of worms is being opened up. The whole church is talking discipleship and alignment.

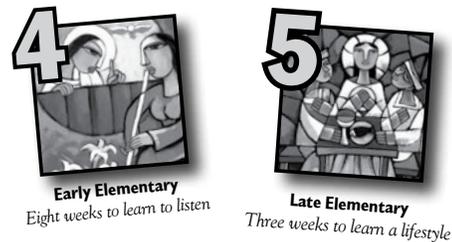
- Angie Witmer
Minister of Small Groups
Plymouth UCC, Des Moines, IA

This is one of the best curriculums that I have had the opportunity to use. Everything is so well organized and easy to teach, and is brought to the families in such a way that it sticks!

- Stacey Duncan, DCE
St. John's Lutheran Church
Springfield, IL



Elementary Family Faith Practices Stones 4 & 5



In the fourth Faith Stepping Stone, young readers highlight verses in their new Bibles and add a verse from God's Word to their nightly bedtime routine.

The practice of living a forgiven, forgiving life is explored in the fifth stone, earlier or later ages can use Stone 5 as a family preview/review, as well as a way to introduce an "I'm sorry" ritual every night. Confession and forgiveness is a great practice to get started before adolescence!

Pre-teen through Graduation Stones 6 - 8



On the doorstep of adolescence, offer the families in your community the *Surviving Adolescence* Faith Stepping Stone. Families spend three sessions looking ahead at the years to come. They study pressures teens are facing today, dream together about how they want their relationship to develop, and learn to place the nightly Scripture and their Highs & Lows together to ask, "What is God saying to me tonight?"

Confirmation, the seventh Stepping Stone takes parents and their children on a journey through three basic understandings: reviewing the basics of Christian faith, affirming what they believe, and articulating their beliefs through identifying a ministry they feel called to serve in through their teenage years.

The final Faith Stepping Stone, *Graduation*, includes a look back at the blessings and gifts youth have been given by their families, as well as a look ahead at the calling God has for both parent and young adult. It ends with a blessing at the altar, a quilt presentation (a real tear-jerker), and a blessing brunch.