



Rooted: Discovering the Gospel Together

COMMITMENT 2

Foster a Robust Partnership Between Church and Home

There is comfort in knowing that the biblical responsibility we bear individually for passing our faith to the next generation is not a weight we bear alone. It is a beautiful means of God's grace for local churches and homes to partner together in their discipleship efforts. The combined influences of church and home can make a powerful impact on the lives of children beyond what either institution can fully do on its own. It is a gift when parents can be a part of a church congregation that offers encouragement, training, and support. It is also a tremendous asset to the next-generation ministry in the church when parents are actively engaged in the discipleship of their children. A robust partnership born out of zeal with biblical vision is what God has called both the church and home to pursue together. (David Michael)



2 TIMOTHY 1:5 · ESV

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well."

2 TIMOTHY 3:14–15 · ESV

"¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Life with God Kids

This is how what you do at home and what we do in our ministries fit together — the same nine practices as the adult Life with God primer, so your family hears one shared language from the nursery through gathered worship.

Welcome **Worship** Word **Witness**

01 Hospitality WELCOME

We practice hospitality because God has welcomed us into his family.

AT HOME

- Eat meals together — the family table is the practice of hospitality in miniature.
- Teach respect for people and property.

IN OUR MINISTRIES

- We provide a safe, welcoming, age-appropriate environment for your child.
- We welcome you to sit in and observe any classroom, anytime.
- We accommodate special needs, disabilities, or behavioral challenges in partnership with you.
- We keep class transitions consistent and predictable, with advance notice.
- We screen and train every teacher for safety and for theological soundness.
- We speak directly with you when an issue arises, weighing your child's needs and the class's together.
- We ask for your feedback regularly, and adjust our programming in response.
- We hold your knowledge of your own child with humility — you know them better than we do.
- We measure our programming by one standard: does this help you disciple your child?

02 Spiritual Friendship WELCOME

We cultivate spiritual friendships because God in Christ has reconciled us.

AT HOME

- Don't parent alone — lean on other parents, mentors, and the church community.
- Help your kids choose friends wisely — friendships that will help them grow toward Christ, not away from him.
- Model the life-giving friendships you're developing, and invite your children into them — let them see what real spiritual friendship looks like.

IN OUR MINISTRIES

- We pair kids and teens with prayer partners for mentorship and intergenerational relationship.
- We offer pastoral care and crisis support when your family is walking through something hard.

03 Rest & Renewal WORSHIP

We participate in rhythms of rest and renewal because God has rested.

AT HOME

- Begin your preparation for Sunday morning Worship on Saturday evening.
- Set aside one day, ideally the Lord's Day, as substantially different from the other six — the first day of your weekend. Mark it for worship, Scripture, fellowship, and hospitality.
- Enjoy free play.

IN OUR MINISTRIES

- We keep our ministry calendar right-sized, so programming doesn't compete with your family's rest.
- We take Sunday morning, Lord's Day preparation with the utmost seriousness, so its preparation and excellence are commensurate with the day's significance.

04 Worship WORSHIP

We worship God because he is worthy.

"The greatest gift you can give your children is your sense of wonder that the real Jesus loves the real you. Your amazement will rub off on your kids without your even trying."

— Jani Ortlund

AT HOME

- Make Sunday morning special.
- Keep a family-worship rhythm of song, prayer, and Scripture — this can be part of mealtime, or its own separate time.

IN OUR MINISTRIES

- We give children regular chances to worship alongside you in the gathered service.
- We involve the whole congregation in the vows made at baptism and profession of faith.

05 Prayer WORSHIP

We spend time with God in prayer because he is listening.

AT HOME

- Pray before and after meals.
- Teach your child to pray in their own words, not only to recite.
- Share prayer requests with each other.
- Share answers to prayer.
- Be transparent about the things you are praying about.

IN OUR MINISTRIES

- We pray for your children and your family, by name.

06 Generosity WORSHIP

We give generously because God gives good gifts.

AT HOME

- Teach stewardship and giving, including your child's own money and time.
- Show your children what it means to practice generosity, at church and toward other kingdom causes. Teach them how giving at church works.
- For teenagers, show them the congregational meeting and budget when the time comes, so they understand what's involved in leading a ministry.

IN OUR MINISTRIES

- We practice fiscal responsibility, transparency, and congregational partnership in all our budgeting and stewardship.

07 Word WORD

We hear and respond to God's word because he is speaking.

Make it obvious that the Word of God is your family's dearest treasure. Be decisive about the Bible's place in your home. Make the Word of God an enriching presence in your family culture.

AT HOME

- Dedicate yourselves to a program of Scripture memory.
- Understand the gospel/law distinction.
- Distinguish the root from the fruit — behavior is the fruit; what the heart worships, loves, and trusts is the root.
- Use the full range of communication: encouragement, correction, rebuke, entreaty, instruction, warning, teaching, appeal to conscience.
- Treasure good books.
- Catechize.

IN OUR MINISTRIES

- We give you written procedures, expectations, behavioral guidelines, contact information, and curriculum notes.
- We hold to a clear philosophy of ministry: support and reinforcement of what happens at home, never a substitute for it.
- We coordinate curriculum across age groups and with family discipleship.
- We name you — from the pulpit, in membership classes, in prayers of blessing during Walk Out Worship — as your child's primary spiritual teacher.
- We coordinate correction and discipline with your own standards, communicating proactively.
- We teach theologically sound, age-appropriate Bible lessons, in a class structure built to maximize spiritual instruction.
- We send take-home sheets and discussion questions tied to each week's lesson.
- We equip you directly to lead family devotions and gospel conversations.

- We give our volunteer teachers ongoing doctrinal training.

08 Witness WITNESS

We share the gospel because Jesus is good news.

AT HOME

- Give grace — "if you want your children to really believe God is gracious, let them see his grace in you" (Jani Ortlund).
- Model repentance: when wrongs are done, either by them or by you, show the pattern of sorrow, repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

IN OUR MINISTRIES

- We recognize you as the primary faith-formers and disciple-makers of your children. Our teachers and youth staff will never seek to take that place.
- We create low-pressure ways for kids to invite friends — to VBS, to youth group, to mission trips.
- We teach kids simple, age-appropriate language for explaining what they believe.

09 Work WITNESS

We work to the glory of God and for the good of our neighbor because God is building his kingdom.

AT HOME

- Teach hard work.
- Offer to serve the church in discipling children and youth.
- Partner with your children's ministry team.
- Require obedience and discipline (Proverbs 13:24, 19:18). Ephesians places a child's obedience alongside a worker's service to a master (6:1–9) as the same posture — "as to the Lord." A child's first work is obedience under delegated authority, and it previews every calling to come.

IN OUR MINISTRIES

- We give kids real, small responsibilities in the class and the congregation — setup, greeting, simple service.
- We include your children in your own service opportunities around church — greeting, leading worship, serving as a liturgist, set-up and take-down, making coffee.

Built around the nine Life with God practices — Welcome, Worship, Word, and Witness — the shared way of life for every family and every ministry at Second CRC.