



Lesson 3 & 4

Ten Pillars of Faith in Family Ministry

Outline

- Pillar of Faith #1 - Dedication
- Pillar of Faith #2 - Salvation
- Pillar of Faith #3 - Character
- Pillar of Faith #4 - Purity
- Pillar of Faith #5 - Dependence
- Pillar of Faith #6 - Convictions
- Pillar of Faith #7 - Mission
- Pillar of Faith #8 - Devotion
- Pillar of Faith #9 - Companionship
- Pillar of Faith #10 - Legacy



This pillar is a foundational time for parents who have children between birth and one year of age. Parents are called upon to dedicate themselves as the primary faith-trainers for their children. The church family dedicates itself to the parents to help equip, encourage, and support them in this task. It also dedicates itself to the children to pray for and pour the Word of God over them.

Responding to God's Character – Glory

Key Scriptures – 1 Corinthians 10:31, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:4

Foundational Principle – Parents as Primary Faith-Trainers

Church Family Event – Parent/Baby Dedication

Parent Seminar – This teaching will cover the following topics:

- Understanding the significance of family discipleship.
- The father as key faith-trainer.
- Parents as primary faith-trainers.
- Understanding the significance of parent/baby dedication.
- Early childhood development.
- Ways to bless your child.
- Building biblical foundations.



This pillar is the most significant of the ten pillars of faith. Though God is the initiator and finisher of our salvation, He uses parents and the church as vessels of grace in the lives of children. Between Pillar #1 and Pillar #2, we stand together with parents in helping guide their children to respond in faith to God's redemptive work and calling. Parents and the church give themselves to pouring the Gospel over the children consistently in the home and in every church gathering.

Responding to God's Character – Mercy, Grace, Wrath, Patience, Goodness

Key Scriptures – Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:4-7

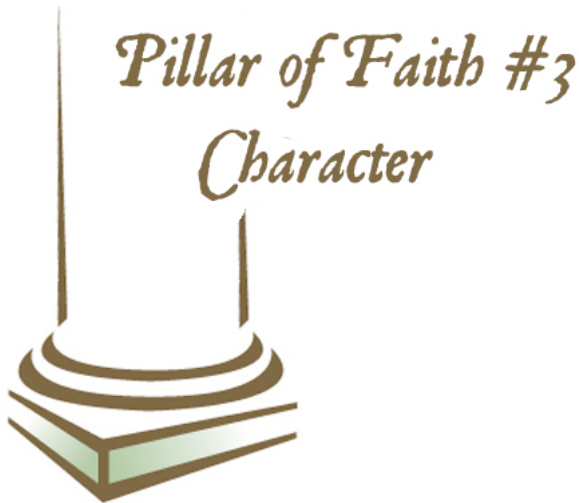
Foundational Principles – God's Redemptive Story, Jesus as Substitutionary Sacrifice, Faith and Belief, Sin and Depravity, Repentance, Salvation, and Baptism

Church Family Event – Baptism

Family Celebration – Spiritual Birthday Celebration. Invite family, friends, and those who had a spiritual influence in your child's life to the baptism and to a special celebration after the worship service giving thanks for God's work in the life of your child. This celebration can occur at a special restaurant or in the home.

Parent Seminar – This teaching will cover the following topics:

- Seeing God's work of salvation in your child.
- Decision-based conversion or fruit-based conversion.
- Biblical truth about salvation and baptism.
- Faith talks, faith walks, faith bookends, and faith remembrances; a Gospel-saturated home.



This pillar is important as children prepare for the spiritual, emotional, and physical changes that occur in adolescence. Adolescence is not a biblical term but rather a 13th century Latin term referring to a stage of growing toward maturity. We continually seek to guide our children toward maturity reinforcing biblical foundations of character development. Children need to be taught the importance of identity in Christ through the development of spiritual disciplines.

Responding to God's Character – Beauty, Perfection, Wisdom

Key Scriptures – Ephesians 2:10, Psalm 100:3, Philippians 3:12-14

Foundational Principles – Identity in Christ, Spiritual Disciplines, and Healthy Relationships Part 1

Church Family Event – 4th and 5th Grade Retreat

Family Celebration – Special Road Trip

Parent Seminar – This teaching will equip parents to use James Dobson's CD series, "Preparing for Adolescence: How to Survive the Coming Years of Change." It will also cover the following topics:

- Spiritual disciplines.
- Identity in Christ: overcoming self-esteem and identity issues.
- The importance of genuine relationships.
- Physical changes are coming.
- Questions kids want answered.



This pillar focuses upon God's design for sex. The student ministry partners with parents in teaching their children about the importance of accountability, healthy relationships, and biblical standards for purity. Though the church will give support to this topic, the parents again are the primary faith-trainers in teaching and modeling biblical purity to their children. The church will help equip parents to focus on these issues in family devotions and intentional conversations throughout the 6th-8th grade years.

Responding to God's Character – Holiness, Righteousness/Justice, Jealousy, Invisibility

Key Scriptures – 1 Peter 1:13-16, 1 Peter 2:5, Ephesians 1:3-4, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Foundational Principles – Biblical Purity, Biblical Sex, Accountability, and Healthy Relationships Part 2

Church Family Event – Purity for Life Weekend

Family Celebration – Purity Ring Celebration

Parent Seminar – This teaching will cover the following topics:

- The biblical standard for purity.
- Accountability: guarding the heart and mind.
- Healthy relationships.
- When is it okay to begin dating?
- How to communicate with your teenager.



This pillar points to the importance of the passage from childhood to adulthood. The age of 16 is a significant time of independence and freedom in our culture. It is more than gaining a driver's license; it is becoming a man or woman after God. As one gains independence, he or she must learn greater dependence upon God. Parents will also learn how to host a Rite of Passage ceremony as part of their discipling process for their child during his or her sixteenth year of life.

Responding to God's Character – Independence, Freedom

Key Scriptures – Hebrews 6:1, Ephesians 4:13-16, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Acts 2:42-47, 1 Corinthians 13:11

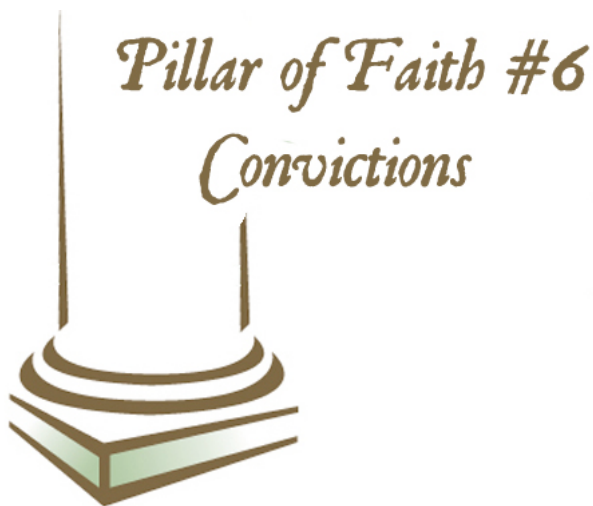
Foundational Principles – Dependence Upon God, Spiritual Gifts, Spiritual Influence and Leadership, and Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

Church Family Event – Man-Up and Ladies First Event

Family Celebration – Rite of Passage Ceremony

Parent Seminar – This teaching will cover the following topics:

- Biblical roles of men and women.
- Affirming and implementing spiritual gifts.
- Independence versus dependence.
- Challenging youth to take roles of influence and leadership.
- Ecclesiology 101.
- How to lead a Rite of Passage Ceremony with your teenager.



High school graduation is a tremendous milestone in a child's life. The time between Pillar #5 and Pillar #6 is key to preparing your child to leave home. Parents and their children must seek to develop the practical and spiritual skills that will enable the transition into the college or work scene to be strong and biblically secure. The church and the families celebrate the accomplishment of high school graduation.

Responding to God's Character – Immutability, Sovereignty (Omnipresence, Omnipotence, and Omniscience)

Key Scriptures – 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Ephesians 1:15-23, Philippians 1:9, Colossians 1:9-12, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Foundational Principles – Worldviews, Apologetics, Dating and Marriage, Inductive Bible Study, and Life Skills

Church Family Event – Senior Summit

Family Celebration – A Written Spiritual Blessing

Parent Seminar – This teaching will cover the following topics:

- How to write a spiritual blessing for your graduate.
- Guiding your teenager through topics such as worldviews, apologetics, and Bible study methods.
- Developing life skills.
- Respecting authority while standing upon biblical convictions.



This pillar is geared for the college student and young adult. After high school graduation, college students and young adults begin considering how they will spend the rest of their lives outside of their parent's home. Career choices, financial decisions, relationship commitments, and many other significant decisions can be overwhelming. The church and the college student or young adult will journey together in discovering God's ultimate mission and purpose for his or her life.

Responding to God's Character – Faithfulness, Will

Key Scriptures – 1 John 2:15-17, Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 3:8-11, 4:8-9, Romans 1:14-16, Acts 1:8

Foundational Principles – Discerning the Will of God, Being on Mission for God, Biblical Finances, and Living a Gospel-Centered Life

Church Family Event – Adopt-a-Hog and Young Mentor Luncheon

Seminar – This teaching will cover the following topics:

- How to discern the will of God.
- Setting biblical priorities.
- What a life in Christ looks like.
- Understanding and implementing biblical finances.
- Being on mission for God.
- Treasuring Christ above all and in all.



This pillar represents the lifelong journey of growing in Christ. Part of this pillar is reviewing the previous seven pillars and renewing the ongoing growth of all the foundational principles. For example, we give special focus upon God's holiness and our response in purity during the 6th-8th grade years, yet, we continually seek to live in purity before a holy God. The other part of this pillar is giving great attention to becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ through gospel saturation and fruit-bearing.

Responding to God's Character – Spirituality, Truthfulness

Key Scriptures – Galatians 5:16-23, John 15:4-8, Matthew 16:24-25, Luke 14:26-27, John 4:23-24

Foundational Principles – Scripture, Prayer, Worship, Fruit-Bearing, Disciple-Making, Giving, Serving, Mentoring, and Living in Community, Ecclesiology 201

Church Family Events – Bible Study, Worship, LifeGroups, Spiritual Formation Weekend, and other events.

Seminar – This teaching will cover the following topics:

- Going deeper in the Word.
- Fervency in prayer.
- Worshiping in spirit and truth.
- Fruit inspection.
- Making disciples is a command.
- How to become a mentor.
- The importance of living in community.



This pillar is for those who are in serious relationships, who are engaged, who are newly married, or who are in their early years of marriage. Companionship is about relationships and marriages lived for the glory of God. Marriage is designed to mirror the gospel. In giving priority to family ministry, we want to help couples lay a strong foundation for marriage and companionship.

Responding to God's Character – Love, Unity

Key Scriptures – Ephesians 5:1-2, 22-26, Colossians 3:12-19, 1 Peter 3:1-9, Philippians 2:1-11, Romans 12:9-21

Foundational Principles – Marriage Lived for the Glory of God

Church Family Event – Premarital Counseling, Marriage Enrichment Weekend

Seminar – The teaching will cover the following topics:

- Marriage lived for the glory of God.
- Headship and submission.
- Moving toward oneness or isolation.
- The gift of companionship.
- Communication and conflict resolution.
- Starting a family and adoption.



This last pillar is for the median to senior adult as well as new grandparents. Once children leave the house, the responsibility for discipling changes but does not end. Discipleship is a lifelong journey. Though you may not have the day-to-day opportunities of influence, there are still many occasions to shape your children's lives for God's glory. Grandparents also have unique and influential role in discipleship.

Responding to God's Character – Eternity, Blessedness, Peace

Key Scriptures – Deuteronomy 4:9, Proverbs 13:22, Psalm 71:18, 78:4

Foundational Principle – Leaving a Legacy

Seminar – The teaching will cover the following topics:

- Our nest is empty – what now?
- The changing roles and responsibilities of discipleship.
- The powerful impact grandparents can make.
- Sharing the family history.
- Passing the baton.
- Blessed to be a blessing.

Attributes of God

The following definitions are taken from Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*.

Beauty – God is the sum of all desirable qualities.

Blessedness – God delights fully in Himself and in all that reflects His character.

Eternity – God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in His own being, and He sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time.

Faithfulness – God will always do what He has said and fulfill what He has promised.

Freedom – God does whatever He pleases.

Glory – The created brightness that surrounds God's revelation of Himself. Also, God's honor or excellent reputation.

Goodness – God is the final standard of good; all that He is and does is worthy of approval.

Grace – God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.

Holiness – God is separated from sin and devoted to seeking His own honor.

Independence – God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify Him and bring Him joy.

Invisibility – God's total essence, all of His spiritual being, will never be able to be seen by us, yet God still shows Himself to us through visible, created things.

Jealousy – God continually seeks to protect His own honor.

Love – God eternally gives of himself to others.

Mercy – God's goodness toward those in misery and distress.

Omnipotence – God is able to do all His holy will.

Omnipresence – God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with His whole being, yet God acts differently in different places.

Omniscience – God fully knows Himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act.

Patience – God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.

Peace – In God’s being and in His actions, He is separate from all confusion and disorder, yet He is continually active in innumerable well-ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions.

Perfection – God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for Him.

Righteousness/Justice – God always acts in accordance with what is right and is Himself the final standard of what is right.

Spirituality – God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily senses, and is more excellent than any other kind of existence.

Truthfulness – God is the true God, and His knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.

Unchangeableness – God is unchanging in His being, perfections, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and He acts and feels differently in response to different situations.

Unity – God is not divided into parts, yet we see different attributes of God emphasized at different times.

Will – God approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of Himself and all creation.

Wisdom – God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.

Wrath – God intensely hates all sin.