

VICTORY AT HOME

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Everyone loves to hear good news! In fact, the term "NEWS" comes from information that was previously unknown, it's "NEW" information and from there its become "NEWS". Unfortunately, with a 24 hour news-cycle and unlimited capacity to get information, we are often bombarded with information that is new but not always "good" in nature. Aren't you thankful for the real **Good News?**

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV), *"There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people."*

There are over 75 million people age 20-35 in the U.S. - **Half do not believe in Jesus.**

In the end times, the Bible says that men will be lovers of self. Does that sound familiar? In our culture today, there is more self-love than there has ever been in the history of the world. We are witnessing the biggest mass change in global morality like never before.

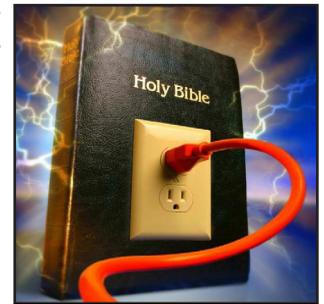
Among 75 million Millennials (ages 20 -35) in the U.S., almost half of them are Atheist. Only 19% of polled Millennials consider themselves to be evangelical. That means 81% are not. Consensus on moral principles has waned and a new moral landscape has started to take shape. For children born after 2010, that's mostly our kids, we now find ourselves faced with questions that challenge us in every area of our lives.

Have you found yourself asking:

- ***My parents didn't know how to raise me so how am I expected to become a good parent myself?***
- ***I bring my kids to church so they can teach them about Jesus. Thats the end of my spiritual responsibility, right?***
- ***How do I pass my faith to the next generation? Help please!***
- ***How do I equip my children to become fully committed disciples of Jesus, if I'm still figuring out my own discipleship journey?***
- ***At home, do I model a lifestyle to my family and kids that reflects what I believe to be true about the Gospel?***

So, let's start there. What do you believe about the Scriptures? Have you settled that they are the inerrant Words of God? Did your parents have trouble in communicating the power of the Gospel to you?

Times may have changed, but the Word of God remains true. It reflects the character and nature of God and as such, according to 2 Timothy 3:1-5, this is why there is such an attack on our faith. The world says one thing and the Bible says the complete opposite.



Being a parent is the greatest calling in life, but also the most challenging. There is a saying that tells us "calm waters don't need good sailors." Training our children according to the precepts of the Scriptures requires that we are well versed in what is communicated in the Bible. When a life question comes our way, we need to be ready to give an answer with Godly wisdom or humble enough to say "I don't know, but lets find out!"

The power of the Gospel is transformative. It was 2000 years ago and still is to this day. Every generation since that time has been looking for something or **someone** to believe in. The past four generations have been no different. The world has some things to offer, but little substance to make a lasting change in the lives of those we love. Our kids, this generation, are still looking for answers and we are the ones that must point them to the ultimate answer - Jesus Christ.

When it comes to establishing and setting a moral compass for our families, understanding of the Scriptures and awareness of the times we live in are critical. The centrality of "self" as the moral arbiter is high among young people under age twenty. Our mission as the primary faith trainers is to ensure our children have a Biblical view of right and wrong, rooted in the absoluteness of God's Word. We are to walk through life with a "newspaper in one hand and God's Word in the other", - weighing everything we read about culture and whats happening in the world against the Gospel.

So here are some great suggestions to help equip you as you lead your family:

1. **Daily Time in God's Word** - it doesn't have to be hours, but it needs to be a consistent practice. You need to know where to look for answers.
2. **Be sensitive to what God is doing and saying.** Don't be afraid to say - "I think God is telling me..." This one phrase speaks humility and reliance on His direction.
3. **Talk with your kids about what God is saying to them.** Help **them** hear the voice of their Shepherd and make decisions with His help.
4. **Worship together.** There is nothing more powerful for a family than to have a shared worship experience. When it is scheduled - take everyone to THIRST!

24% of Gen Z (1996 - 2010) strongly agree that what is right and wrong changes over time based on society. - Barna Research

I CAN WORSHIP THE LORD!

PRESCHOOL

WEEK 1

KING SOLOMON & THE ISRAELITES WORSHIPED GOD - PSALM 29:2

Read Psalm 29:2 This week in VicKids we learned King Solomon worshiped God and asked Him for wisdom.

Explore Together - Talk with your child about wisdom. Explain that wisdom is knowing what is true and right. Emphasize to your child that wisdom comes from God. Take a few minutes to share some hypothetical choices. If the choice is wise, your child should hold up three fingers, making a W. If the choice is not wise, your child should give you two thumbs-down. A few examples might be: obeying, being unkind, helping someone. Close your time in a family prayer asking God to help each of you make wise choices.

Pray: *God, Thank You for being a good God who helps us know what is true and right. We love You, in Jesus name, Amen!*

WEEK 2

KING SOLOMON BEGAN BUILDING A TEMPLE - 2 CHRONICLES 2:1-18

Read 2 Chronicles 2:1-18 This week in VicKids we learned King Solomon wanted to show God love by building Him a temple.

Explore Together - Make a musical instrument to use for worshiping the Lord. Remind your child that worshiping God means showing Him love. Re-purpose a water bottle by filling it with dried beans or corn. Put the lid on tightly, and allow your child to add ribbons and stickers to their shaker. Choose a song to sing together as a family while your child adds his or her instrument to the worship time. Enjoy this family time, and take the opportunity to pray together, thanking God for being worthy of our praise.

Pray: *God, Thank You for being a great God! Help us worship You in a way that is pleasing to You! We love You, in Jesus name, Amen!*

WEEK 3

KING SOLOMON GAVE GOD HIS BEST - 2 CHRONICLES 3-4

Read 2 Chronicles 3-4 This week in VicKids we learned that Solomon gave the Lord his very best when building the Temple.

Explore Together - Read 2 Chronicles 2:5 in an easy-to-understand version of the Bible. Explain to your child King Solomon wanted to give his very best to God. Discuss a few ways that you can give your very best. Provide examples for your child, and allow your child to give you a thumbs-up for very best and a thumbs-down for not the very best. (Examples: not obeying right away, helping a friend, only picking up a few toys when you are asked to clean your room, offering to help someone without being asked).

Pray: *God, thank You for helping us give You our very best, just like King Solomon did. We love You, in Jesus name, Amen!*

WEEK 4

THE TEMPLE IS COMPLETED - 2 CHRONICLES 5:1-14

Read 2 Chronicles 5:1-14 This week in Vickids, we learned the people worshiped God in the Temple, and He appeared in a form of a cloud.

Explore Together - Discuss ways you can worship God. Remind your child that worshiping God means showing Him that we love Him. One way we can show God love is by thanking Him for who He is and all He does. Take a few minutes and allow each family member to share a couple reasons he or she is thankful to God. Close your time together in prayer, thanking Him for the specific things everyone shared.

Pray: *God, thank You for being powerful! Help us show You we love You in how we worship You. We love You, in Jesus Name, Amen.*

WEEK 5

KING SOLOMON WORSHIPED THE LORD - 2 CHRONICLES 6-7

Read 2 Chronicles 6-7 This week in VicKids your child learned that King Solomon worshiped God through prayer.

Explore Together - Gather one picture of each family member that lives in your home. Remind your child that we can worship, or show God we love Him, by praying. Allow everyone to choose a picture, making sure he or she does not pick his or her own. Everyone should place his or her picture in a visible spot as a reminder to pray for that person every day. Close your time together in prayer, thanking God for the gift of prayer and the gift of family. Ask the Lord to help each of you be faithful in praying and worshiping Him.

Pray: *God, thank You for hearing our prayers. Thank You for Your wisdom. Help us worship You with all that we have and give You the very best of us. We love You, in Jesus name, Amen!*

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GOSPEL

ELEMENTARY

BAD CONSEQUENCES COME WHEN I DON'T OBEY - 2 KINGS 25:1-21

WEEK 1

Read 2 Kings 25:1-21 - This week in VicKids your student studied the consequences that resulted because of the sinful choices and actions made by Zedekiah and God's people. They were reminded that disobedience brings bad consequences, but obedience brings blessings. Your student was encouraged to choose obedience and avoid bad consequences.

Explore Together - Ask your family members to share one specific instance when they can recall being disobedient in some way. These examples may range from stealing a piece of bubble gum to staying out past curfew. After each member shares, ask, "What was the result of your disobedience? Were you caught or found out? If so, what was the punishment? Did the 'punishment' fit the 'crime'?" (Note: this is not to glorify the actions but instead to focus on the resulting consequences.) When everyone has shared their stories, ask, "What stands out to you about the stories shared? What do each of these stories have in common?"

Pray - Father, we thank you for being a loving and gracious God. We repent for any disobedience that has prevented us from walking in the righteousness You have called us to. My family and I pray that we would be able to turn from our sin and choose Your way instead of our own. In the name of Jesus, Amen!

THE GOSPEL IS POWERFUL - ROMANS 1:16-17, GALATIANS 3:1-14

WEEK 2

Read: Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 3:1-14, 23-29; 1 Corinthians 1:18—2:5. Today your student learned the Gospel of Jesus Christ is powerful and is for anyone who believes. The Gospel does not change, but it has the power to change people. He or she was challenged to be aware of the ways the power of the Gospel is working in his or her life.

Explore Together - With your family, take some time to talk about why it is important the Gospel is full of God's supernatural power. It has the same message for every man, woman and child. We are all called to share the Gospel and declare His glory. Talk with your child about their favorite superhero. What powers do they have? Just as superheroes have awesome powers, so does God. God uses His power to transform lives through the power of the Gospel.

Pray - Lord we love You and we thank you so much today for your love and grace. We pray that you would help us remember that the Gospel is for all people, not just the people who are most like you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - MATTHEW 28:18-20, ACTS 9

WEEK 3

Read: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 9; Romans 10:8-17. Today your student learned how Jesus instructed His disciples to share the Gospel with others. We are to share the Gospel with those around us as well. The Holy Spirit will give us the strength, encouragement, and words to say. Your child was challenged to look for ways to share the Gospel through words and actions in their everyday lives.

Explore Together - This week with your family take some time to talk about why it is important to share the Good news of Jesus. Sometimes it can be scary when you think about talking to other people about Jesus. However, all Christians are called to evangelize. Pray with your child about looking for opportunities to share Jesus with friends at school. Find a missionary card at your church or online and put it on your fridge. Pray with your child for that family as they are daily sharing the Gospel with those around the world.

Pray - Heavenly Father, we come to you today and ask that you would reveal to us how to share the Gospel as a normal part of our life and worship. We pray that my family and I will be aware of the daily opportunities and have courage to share the Gospel with others. In Jesus name, we pray, Amen.

THE GOSPEL CHANGES LIVES - ACTS 9:1-31

WEEK 4

Read: Acts 9:1-31 NLT. Today your student learned how powerful the Gospel is and how it can drastically change a person's life as they studied the transformation of Saul.

Explore Together - Take some time to talk with your family about the importance of Jesus and the truth of the Gospel. Only Jesus has the power to change lives, so we have to be careful to present Him just as He is, to others. Come up with two truths about yourself and then come up with a lie that is close to the truth, maybe one word off. Have your children try to guess which statement is the lie. Talk about how hard it was to tell the difference between the truth and the lie. Remind your children that this is why it is important to make sure that you are always speaking the truth about Jesus and the Gospel.

Pray - Jesus we thank you today as we come to you as a family. We ask that you would show us how to present You to the world **exactly as You are**. We pray that we would spend daily time with You so that we would be able to know and share the truth about Your word with others. In the mighty name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

THE GOSPEL CHANGES CULTURE - 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11

WEEK 5

Read: John 3:16-17; Proverbs 23:7; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-9. Today your student learned that God used prophets and judges to change the culture in the Old Testament and Jesus changed the culture in the New Testament. We are to influence the culture around us by being the light of Jesus.

Explore Together - Take some time to talk about why it is important to share the Good News. Put a white flower (daisy, baby's breath, carnation, or even a celery stick!) in a vase. Ask your children to put a few drops of food coloring in the water for the flower, then watch the flower over the next few days. The food coloring will begin to tint the flower or celery. The Good News of the Gospel will begin to change the community around it just like the food coloring changes the water and then the vegetation. The gospel is powerful to make good changes in our world.

Pray - Lord we are so thankful for today. Show us how to draw and stay near to You. We seek Your strength to live a godly life and to declare life-changing truths. Help us as a family to be "thermostats" instead of "thermometers" in our culture. Help us to be the ones to make a difference in our community. In Jesus name we pray, Amen!

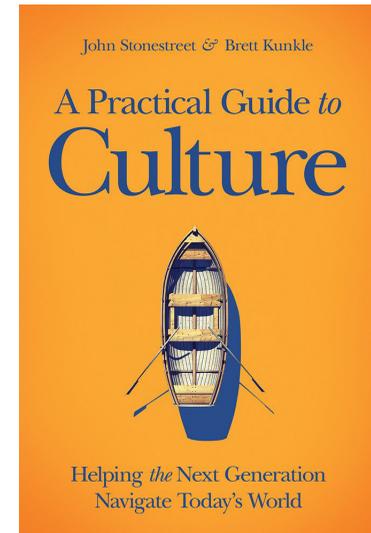
WHAT IS A CHANGE AGENT?

AND HOW DO I BECOME ONE?

By definition, a **CHANGE AGENT** is someone who promotes and enables change within an organization, group or social structure. It is an **INFLUENCER**. An agent of change uses their understanding of the status quo and uses that to affect change to a desired outcome. **Jesus Christ** was the greatest change agent of all time.

John Stonestreet is a respected authority on Christian worldview, culture and education. In 2017, he published an amazing book entitled "**A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World**".

Using illustrations, data from extensive research and ideas formed from leading youth and young adults for years, Stonestreet and his co-author Brett Kunkle help us to identify what culture is, what it does to us and how we (Christians) must be the ones to help shape and form it. If we choose to be like Jesus and become change agents, we must be equipped and understand the times we live in. This book will help you navigate the choppy waters of current societal trends (pornography, gender identity and sexual orientation, addictions and more) and give you tools to speak in a language that is relevant and meaningful. You can find it on Amazon, your local bookstore or at the Norcross lobby bookstore.



Campus Calendar

NORCROSS

09/04 - Vickids Orientation - Lower V3 Auditorium
09/14 - LEAD WELL Rally

HAMILTON MILL

09/14 - LEAD WELL Rally - NORCROSS CAMPUS
09/22 - Dedication Workshop
09/29 - VicKids Orientation

MIDTOWN

09/14 - LEAD WELL Rally - NORCROSS CAMPUS
09/25 - FORWARD

ROMANS 12:1-2

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. **Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.** Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

The problem of leading a Christian life in a non-Christian society is now very present to us...And as for the Christian who is not conscious of his dilemma—and he is in the majority—he is becoming more and more de-Christianized by all sorts of unconscious pressure: paganism holds all the most valuable advertising space.
T.S. Eliot - *The Idea of a Christian Society* - published 1939

No, the Bible isn't a book of rules or a book of heroes.
The Bible is most of all a Story...[and] the best thing about this Story is—it's true. **Sally Lloyd-Jones, The Jesus Storybook Bible**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes".
Romans 1:16 NLT

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Additional Resources

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