

HomeGrown Faith Experiment

*"These are things we learned from our ancestors,
and we will tell them to the next generation. We
won't keep secret the glorious deeds and the
mighty miracles of the Lord."*

Psalm 78:3-4 (CEV)



Call it an experiment, a three-week pilot project . . .

... because the regular practice of Christian disciplines is not something most Christ-followers do on a regular basis. You are asking them to change their behavior. Not many of us like that word. Change is scary! Change moves us out of our comfort zone. Change? Who wants to change? Calling your change opportunity an "experiment" gives people permission to try change without threatening their status quo. It's a way of easing people into changing how they "do" Christianity.

Begin . . .

... with the end result in mind. Begin with a vision of every family in your congregation practicing the spiritual disciplines contained in the *Five Faith Promises* as a normal part of their family routine. This was called a Rule for Living by early Christians. It was a routine as well as belief that Christians must, if they want to participate in all that God has for them, develop a pattern of practicing spiritual disciplines in their daily lives.

... with prayer. Pray for God's wisdom as you plan your ministry. Pray for God's help in conducting your experiment. Pray for God's touch on the people in your congregation who will be doing the *Five Faith Promises*.

... with yourself. Pray for God's wisdom as you plan your experiment. Participate in the experiment yourself. Model the practice of the spiritual disciplines in your own life. Your life will be transformed. Count on it!

.. with influential parents/grandparents. Invite two to five parents/grandparents who are strong influencers in your congregation. Contact them each individually by e-mail, phone or face-to-face. You can begin with an email, followed by a phone call or face-to-face meeting. Ask them to try a couple of the activities from *Parenting Faith™ Thru the Year* or *Grandparenting Faith™ Thru the Year* for three weeks.

Interview those parents/grandparents . . .

... during your worship service announcement time. Ask them to provide a short endorsement of homegrown faith to encourage all parents and grandparents to practice faith formation at home, in the car, or while out for a meal.

Launch a homegrown faith initiative . . .

... with the families in your congregation.