



Launching Faith Legacy Series

Step One: Leadership Agreement

The goal of Faith Legacy Series is to create a church-wide culture that helps parents nurture faith in the home. This begins with the pastor (and staff person overseeing family ministry if there is one). The pastor does not need to be an expert in how to train parents, but he must be a champion for this cause. The church leadership should agree on this priority as well. The next key position is the volunteer Faith Legacy Team Leader. This person should be a proven leader in the church who can effectively champion the cause. He or she will invite others to be Faith Step Facilitators and help support them in their roles. Together they form the Faith Legacy Team. Though they meet only a few times a year, this team will create great energy and momentum in the cause of helping families grow spiritually in the home.

Step Two: Select Your Team of Faith Step Facilitators

It likely will take about two weeks for the pastor (or family ministry director) and Faith Legacy Team Leader to select those who will be invited to serve as Faith Step Facilitators. These should be people who demonstrate spiritual maturity and would agree on the importance of nurturing faith at home.

- In the first five steps (birth-age 8), it works well if the Step they lead is one where they have a child in that age group, since they'll be attending the sessions anyway.
- For the teen steps, where kids attend with their parents, it's better if the Step Facilitator doesn't have a child in the group. That way every teen is able to have the full attention of his/her parent(s) at the event.
- For Grandparents it's best if you select someone who is a grandparent. That way they can identify with participants and share personal stories.

A critical decision at this point is "How many faith steps do we attempt at the beginning?"

Consider these options:

- The best option is to begin with all of them. Whether you have four or fourteen, you will have the same number of meetings to enlist and train Faith Step Facilitators. But when your group is larger, your team is more easily energized. Team members see themselves as part of an exciting, vital new ministry! There are more people to encourage one another and more stories of success!
- The second best option is to begin with the first five steps. This will lay a foundation for adding the adolescent ages the following year.
- A third option is to begin with one and see how it works. It won't change the culture of the church, but will give a sample of the experience. Then the rest of

- the steps can be added the following year. If the strategy is to add one Faith Step a year, this has proven too slow to be effective in creating a church-wide culture of nurturing faith in the home.

Step Three: Prepare for an Implementation Meeting that explains the program to your Faith Step Facilitators

Gather the team of potential Faith Step Facilitators for an implementation meeting that will invite them to serve. They don't need to say "yes" to volunteering until they have seen how it is implemented and had time to pray about their decision.

A sample of this meeting is available on the Informational DVD or online at www.kidskountpublishing.com.

The biggest preparation is to print out the notebook for each Faith Step. Each Faith Step notebook has a section labeled "Getting Started." During the Implementation meeting you will refer to the following documents from this section:

- Implementation Meeting
- Sample Calendar
- Proposed Calendar
- Scope and Sequence
- Job Description for Faith Step Facilitator

Refer to the "Sample Calendar." See how Faith Steps are spread throughout the year? Now schedule your own calendar for an entire year. Use the printout: "Proposed Calendar." This will be your first draft. It might change as time goes on, but it will help you explain to others how it will be implemented in your church. Schedule the first Faith Step to begin two or three months from now.

Step Four: Training Meeting

After Faith Step Facilitators have agreed to serve invite them back for one training meeting. Follow the outline for "Training Meeting" which is included in your "Getting Started" materials.

Step Five: Maintain Support

The Church office will support the Faith Step Team Leader and Faith Step Facilitator as needed. This may include promoting when new classes are beginning, mailing or emailing invitations to parents, and scheduling the blessing events in the worship service. The Faith Step Facilitators will collect payments for blessing objects that are being ordered from church. They will be responsible for participants' handouts. Most importantly, they will personally invite parents to the Faith Step and help create a welcoming atmosphere. Gather the entire team together twice a year to celebrate what God is doing and share ideas on how the ministry can improve!