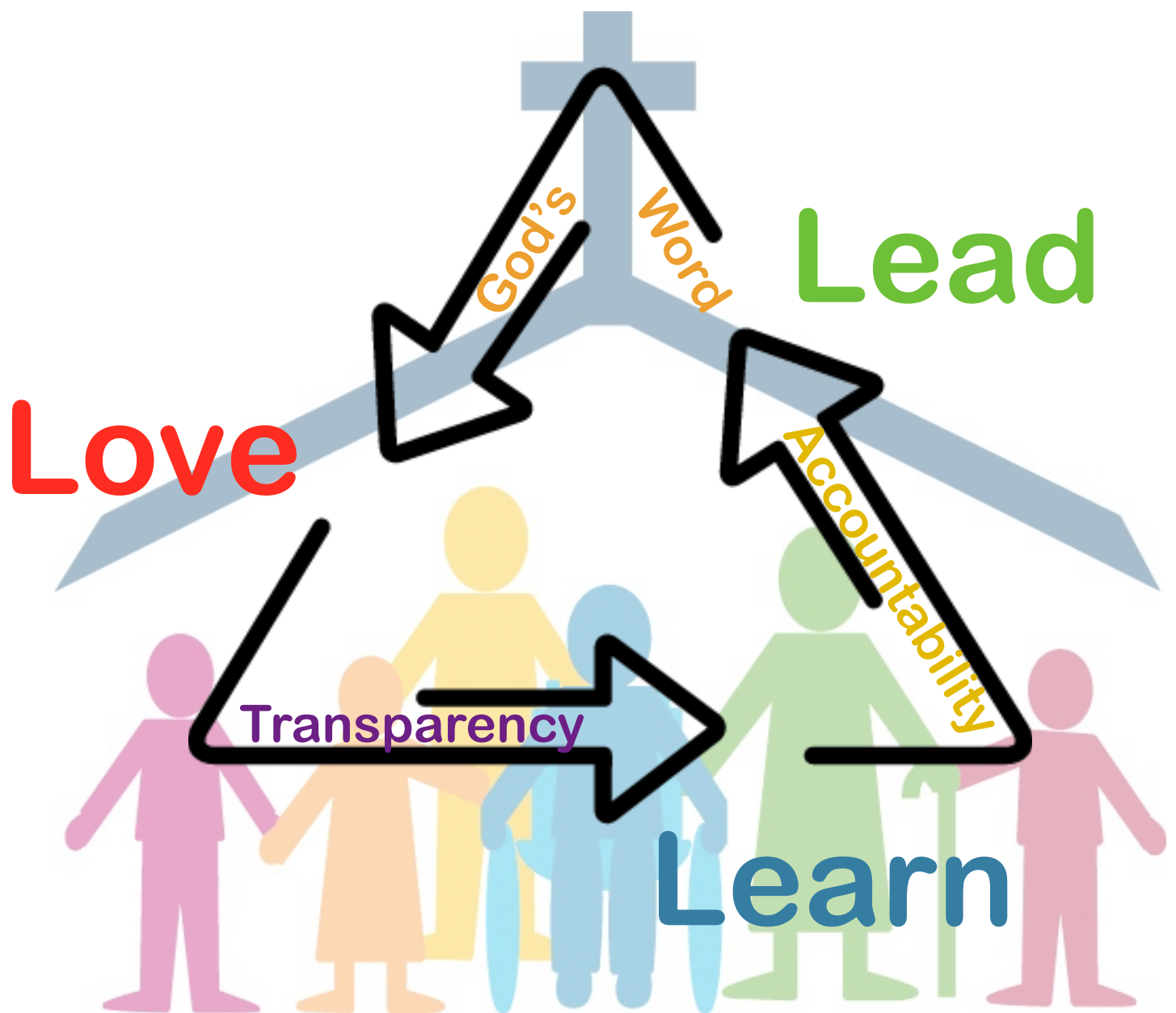


Garriott Road church of Christ

Family Ministry Plan



Introduction

I want to thank you for taking the time to read through our Family Ministry Plan. The heart behind this document is that you as a parent, or a soon to be parent, will know exactly how we as a church will help in the discipleship of your children. It is my prayer that through the process of discipleship that takes place in their lives and in your homes that they will eventually give their lives to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

At Garriott Road we believe that our congregation can only be as strong as the families that it is comprised of. We want to have families that are strong in their love for God, their love for each other, and their love for sharing their faith. We want to help you in your relationship with God, in your marriage, and in your relationships with your children so that you and your children will one day spend eternity together with Jesus.

At Garriott Road we also want to be mission minded here in Enid and in the communities where the families of Garriott Road live and work. There are two primary mission fields that every family is a part of: the first is the family. Parents are charged by God to disciple their children, raising them to love and follow Him. The second is the communities that are a part of our families lives.

This means that you and your family are a vital part of God's work. That God wants you to first and foremost disciple your children, and then disciple others, helping all to develop a meaningful, living, and active relationship with Jesus. This can seem to be a daunting task and we can sometimes feel that the challenge is too much for us. Questions arise: What does that mean? What does that look like? Where do I even begin?

Know that these questions are natural and that you are not alone. Here at Garriott Road we want to help you and your family in your life long journey of discipleship to Jesus Christ. Some important concepts and basic information are provided here to help you understand what we mean by this. I am glad that you are here at Garriott Road and I am excited about us taking this journey together. If I can help you in any way please let me know.

In His Service,

Jonathan Crowell

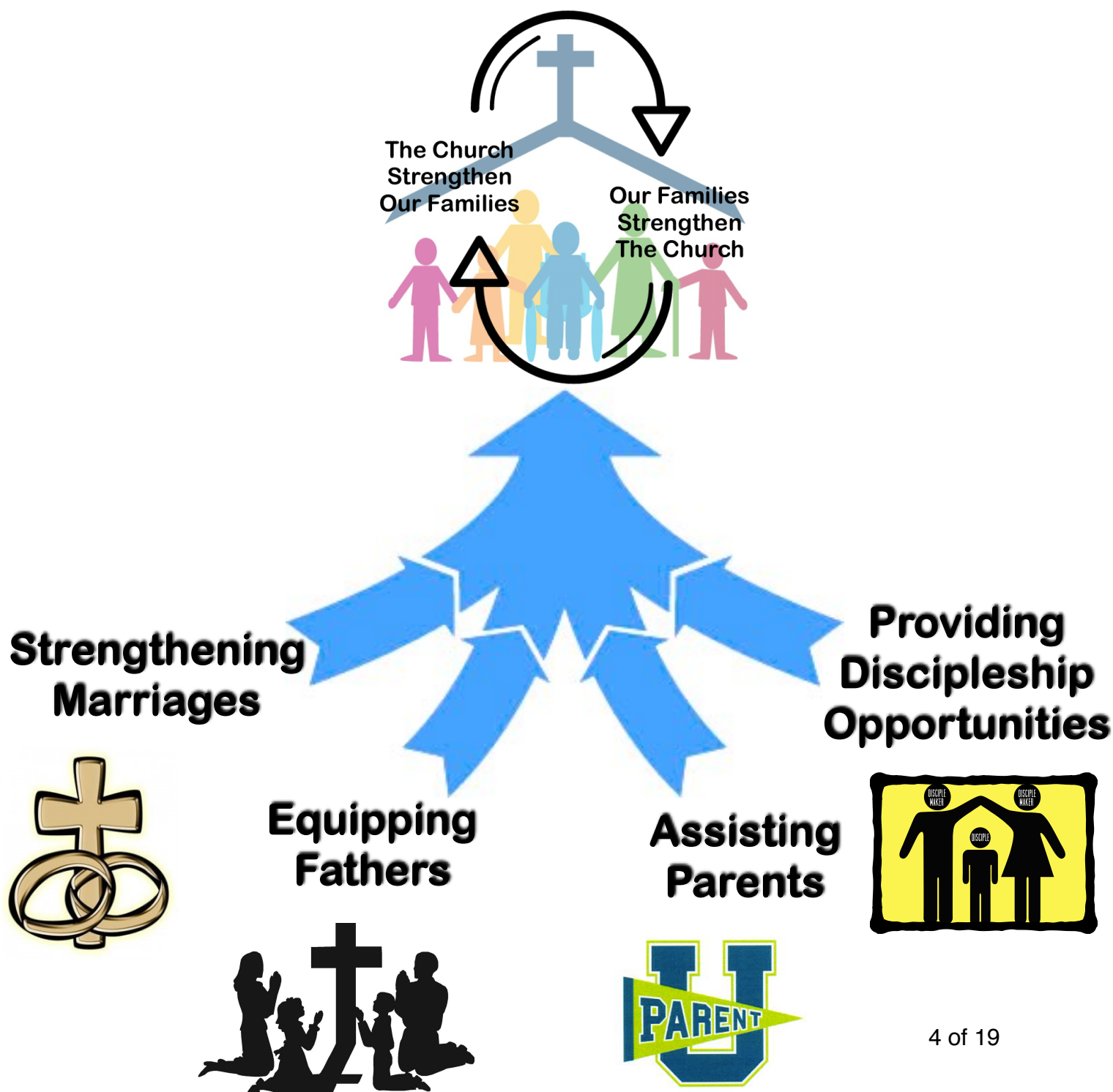
Vision: (Where we want to get to)

To have a church culture where the church as a whole is helping our families to be equipped in raising their children to be faithful disciples and the families strive to strengthen the church by being active in their growth with God, with each other, and with the efforts of the church to reach the lost.



Mission: (The way we plan to get there)

To equip the families of our congregation to follow the plan laid out for them in God's word by: strengthening the marriages of our families; equipping the fathers to be able to lead their families spiritually; assisting the parents as they disciple their children; and providing opportunities for our families to serve & grow in their discipleship.



Strengthening Marriages

We believe that the relationship between husband and wife in a family unit is key to determining the strength of that family unit. In order to grow this relationship we want to have a class or seminar every year that is geared toward strengthening this relationship, in addition to providing marriage counseling for those who want it.



Equipping Fathers



We believe that the majority of spiritual leadership in the home should come from the father (Eph. 5:22-6:4; Col. 3:18-21). So we want to strengthen and train the fathers in the congregation so that they feel more confident fulfilling

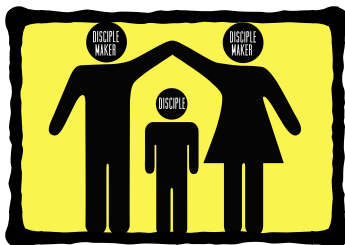
God's role for them in the family.

Assisting Parents

We believe that children are a blessing from God intended to be sent out into the world to serve and honor Him (Ps. 127:3-5). Preparing our children to do this makes parenting a major responsibility given by God (Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20-21). We want to help our parents be equipped to get their children ready for the challenges that they will face in this world through offering materials and yearly classes or seminars.



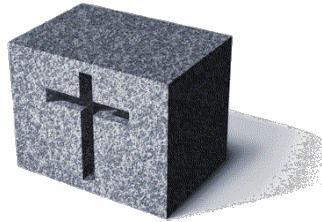
Providing Discipleship Opportunities



We believe that God intends for the primary discipling of children to be done by their parents. However in our current culture many times this is a challenge. So as a church we want to provide some specific opportunities throughout the year where parents can engage in this process with their children.

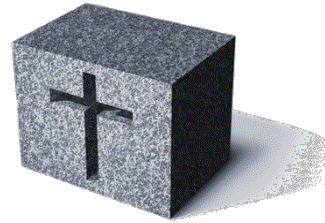
Values: (The principles that guide us)

On the surface level discipleship can be summed up in three terms: Loving, Learning, and Leading. Loving God and others. Learning to follow God's word to the best of my ability. Leading others to a deeper relationship with God. However at a deeper level there are three other concepts that drive the discipling process: Transparency, Accountability, and a Foundation of God's Word. It is our belief that holding to all six of these values will be the most beneficial in helping us achieve our vision and accomplish our mission. We commit to following these values and will strive to implement them in all that we do.



Following God's Word

As God's people we believe that the core of our discipleship is a commitment to follow God's word. We believe that God's word is truth (John 17:17) and as such God's word should serve as the foundation of all of our decisions regarding our families, our priorities, and our relationships with others.



Loving

As God's people we believe that in order for us to grow in our discipleship our love should be directed first toward God and then toward others (Matt. 22:36-40). In an effort to follow what Jesus taught about this we strive to show others with our attitudes and our actions that our love for God comes first in our lives and in the lives of our families.



Then growing out of our love for God comes a love for others that again is demonstrated by our attitudes and actions towards one another.

Learning

As God's people following the instructions of Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20) we believe learning to observe all He said is a vital part of our discipleship process. Recognizing that discipleship is a life long process, we strive to develop an attitude of continuous learning, in ourselves and in our children. We do this by taking every opportunity that we can to grow in our knowledge of God's word and how to better show Christ in our lives.



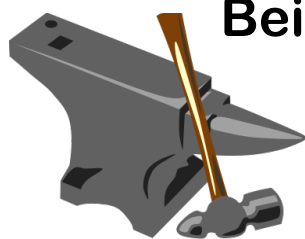
Being Transparent



As God's people we recognize that in order for us to truly grow in our discipleship it requires more than just learning His word, it requires us to live according to it. We can't do this as long as we keep our struggles and sins a secret. This is why the scriptures teach us the importance of sharing our struggles and of going to our brethren when we see them struggling. We believe that being open and transparent with each other about our struggles and our sins will allow us to receive the encouragement and correction we need to live a truly Christ like life (Matt. 18:15-17; James 5:16).

Leading

As God's people we recognize that part of our discipleship is learning to lead others to a deeper relationship with Christ (Matt. 5:14-16). Whether we are teaching them the gospel or how to live out the gospel in their lives we know that they will not need to just be told, but guided by us leading them with our own lives.



Being Accountable

As God's people we recognize that a key part of discipleship is being accountable for our choices. We know that there will be times that we will struggle to fulfill our commitments to our families, and that sometimes we will fall short of God's will. At these times we need our brothers and sisters to hold us accountable in love (Prov. 27:17; Gal. 6:1-4). We will strive to be open to correction from each other. We will also allow our brethren to hold us accountable for repentance and making the necessary changes.

Goals: (The steps we will take)



Discipleship is meant to be a life long journey that brings one closer to God. This means that at times our growth in our discipleship will be faster or slower than others. While we recognize these truths, as those leading Garriott Road we still want to do our best to ensure that opportunities for growth are being offered and utilized. We recognize that the concepts we have outlined are meant to be a process that takes place over the years. This can make it hard to determine whether or not we are achieving our mission and our vision. So we want to outline some specific steps we will be taking to move in that direction in each area. We have tried to make these straightforward using the S.M.A.R.T. method (which is seen above) so that we can evaluate our progress as we go. As you read on you will see our goals for each area followed by some ways that each goal will be evaluated.



Strengthening Marriages

1. A marriage seminar or class will be scheduled for the fall/winter quarter of 2017.

- Congregational participation: 20 couples
- Evangelistic participation: 5 couples
- A survey for participants about the seminar or class

2. Start and develop a list of resources about strengthening marriages on the church website.

- Create by October 2017
- Add at least 2 resources per year
- Get one copy of these resources to add to the church library
- Put one resource in the hands of our couples per year

3. Have a sermon series given on the family with lessons specifically addressing each role of the marriage relationship.

- To be delivered by Ray or Jonathan by the end of 2017
- Other retreats or seminars on marriage from other congregations will be announced

4. Ensure that the congregation is aware that counseling is available to those who want it.

- Develop a handout for this by October 2017
- Announce and spread awareness during marriage seminar or class
- Jonathan and Lacy will seek out and attend at least 1 training every 2 years in order to develop their abilities to counsel couples

Equipping Fathers



1. Start and implement a quarterly men's breakfast starting in the fall quarter of 2017.
 - Have overall attendance of 50% of men
 - A survey and suggestion form at the end of the year

2. Start a quarter long small group study specifically for the fathers of the congregation starting January of 2018.
 - Have overall attendance of 50% of fathers in the congregation
 - Strive to have at least three fathers who are not members of the congregation attending by fall quarter of 2018
 - A survey and suggestion form at the end of the year

3. Have classes to strengthen the confidence of our fathers in their ability to lead their family spiritually. First one scheduled for spring quarter 2018.
 - Have 1 class per year geared toward equipping fathers to be the spiritual leaders of the home
 - Have overall attendance of 50% of fathers in the congregation
 - Ensure that 5-10 fathers who are not members of the congregation are invited and encouraged regularly to attend
 - A survey and suggestion form at the end of the year

4. Start and develop a list of resources about spiritual leadership on the church website.
 - Create by October 2017.
 - Add at least 2 resources per year
 - Get one copy of these resources to add to the church library
 - Put one resource in the hands of our fathers per year



Assisting Parents

1. A parenting seminar or class will be scheduled every year. First one by Fall Quarter 2018

- Congregational participation: 10 couples
- Evangelistic participation: 3 couples
- A survey for participants about the seminar or class

2. Start and develop a list of resources about parenting on the church website.

- Create by October
- Add at least 2 resources per year
- Get one copy of these resources to add to the church library
- Put one resource in the hands of our parents per year

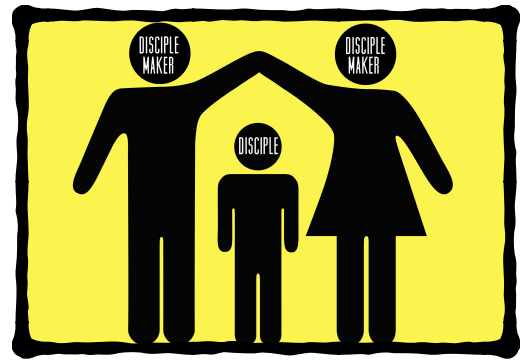
3. Have a sermon series given on the family with lessons specifically addressing the parent child relationship.

- To be delivered by Ray or Jonathan by the end of the year
- Other retreats or seminars on parenting from other congregations will be announced

4. Implement Family Minister Chats (FMC's).

- Develop a handout for this by Family Ministry Kickoff
- Announce and spread awareness during Family Ministry Kickoff
- Jonathan will have first meetings with all parents by the end of the year.

Providing Discipleship Opportunities



1. Quarterly Service Projects.

- Have one service project per quarter designed to allow parents to disciple their children
- First one to be in the fall quarter 2017
- Have overall participation of 75% of parents and teens in the congregation
- A survey and suggestion form at the end of the year

2. Family Mission Trips

- Have one short term mission trip per year designed for family participation
- Have overall participation of 60% of parents and teens in the congregation
- A survey and suggestion form at the end of the year

3. Have combined parent and teen classes.

- Have one class per year geared toward facilitating parents and their teens doing family bible study at home
- Have overall attendance of 50% of parents in the congregation with their teens
- A survey and suggestion form at the end of the class

4. Family Devotionals

- At least once a quarter there will be a devotional designed for the families of the Jr. Youth group and the families of the Youth Group.
- Have overall participation of 75% of families in the congregation

5. Start and develop a list of resources for family bible study/ devotionals on the church website.

- Create by October
- Add at least 2 resources per year
- Get one copy of these resources to add to the church library
- Put one resource in the hands of our families per year



In addition to strengthening our families we know that our children need peer relationships and opportunities to develop their faith independently from their parents. Here are some the opportunities that we will give them to do just this. Knowing that most of a child's discipleship and faith formation takes place in the home, please understand that these activities are meant to **SUPPLEMENT** what you are **ALREADY DOING** as a family and what we are doing as a church family. These activities by themselves are **NOT** enough to adequately disciple our children and are **NOT** meant as a replacement for role of parents in the discipleship process.

Faith Builder Activities:

Monthly Jr. Youth Group Activities

Every month our Jr. Youth Group (K - 6th Grade) gets together for some kind of activity. Sometimes these activities are fun outings and sometimes they are age appropriate service projects. Parents are invited to come and participate with their children.



Teen Devotionals

Twice a month our teens get together for a devotional that is hosted by one of the families of the youth group. It is a time where they sing, have a time of study from God's word, and enjoy time together just having fun.

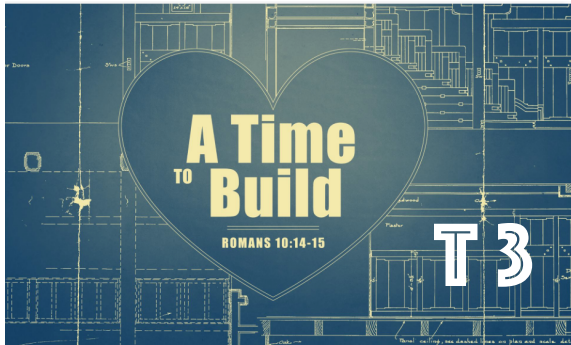
Area Wide Teen Gatherings

Once a month during the school year and at various times during the summer the teens from Garriott Road will get together with teens from other congregations throughout the area for a combined worship service and other various activities.



Teach The Truth Commission

This is a weekend seminar held by the Lewisville church of Christ every February designed specifically for teens. The format and lessons are geared toward equipping teens to not only know the truth of God's word but also be able to "Teach The Truth" (T3) to their friends.



Vacation Bible School

Each summer Garriott Road holds a V.B.S. for our children and for our community. It is a time where the Word of God is taught to people of all ages. There are songs, skits, age appropriate classes, and crafts all centered on a topic or theme.





Preacher Training Camp

This is week where young men go to the Lewisville church of Christ and stay on campus. While here they learn to prepare and deliver sermons, enjoy fellowship with other Christian young men, and have some fun too!

Future Teacher Training Camp

This is a week where the young ladies go to the Owasso church of Christ and stay on campus. While here they learn to prepare bible class lessons, make visual aides, learn how to teach various ages of bible classes, and learn how to prepare lessons for ladies events. They have a great time of fellowship and fun while they are at it!

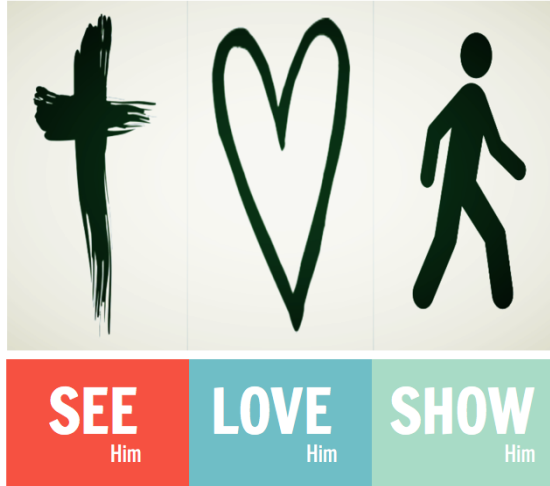


Horizons

Horizons is a week-long spiritual experience for Christian leaders in grades 7-12 held each summer on the campus of Freed-Hardeman University. Daily classes provide insight and excellent instruction on Christian leadership, service, spiritual growth and current issues.

Church Camps





The Garriott Road congregation has a long standing relationship with the Lariat Creek Christian Camp near Geary, OK. There are two main sessions that our families attend at this camp: Extreme Week & Oasis. You are invited to join us at either of these sessions.

Some may choose to attend another session of camp and that is fine. We do recommend that before you send your children to any camp session that you contact the director of the session and visit with them about how they run their session and what will be taught.



Ideas for the Future: (Looking 2-6 years out)



Marriage Mentors

We believe that the marriage relationship is so vital to a families stability and well being. We also know that there are many adjustments and changes that come with entering into the marriage relationship that can be hard to adjust to. Ask any older couple and they will tell you how they have adjusted to each other over the years. So in order to help the marriages here at Garriott Road start and STAY strong, we want to pair our newly weds up with a couple who has demonstrated that they have a Godly marriage.

A marriage mentor couple would be assigned to each couple who desired to get married. This paring would parallel a couple's premarital counseling as well as continue for at least one year after the couple is married. The marriage mentors would walk alongside the couple during their marriage preparation and offer any counsel and wisdom they can from their years of marriage. The marriage mentors commit to praying for the couple. After the wedding day, these marriage mentors are committing to walk with the newly married couple for their first year.

Mission Groups

These groups are designed to with the goal of families to host a Garriott Road crew at their home that is made of families from their neighborhood or that they have a relationship with from school or other activities. They are to make a concentrated effort to invite others from these connections to these gatherings. The groups will meet for a time of fun and an intentional time in God's Word to make connections and share the gospel with other families who need to hear it.



Parent Mentors



For many new parents, this is a time of excitement and anxiety that is unmatched in life. We recognize that the the calling God has placed on parents is one that carries a lot of weight, and that it can sometimes feel like an overwhelming and daunting task. The great news though is that God has not left us alone, He is with us and He has provided the body of Christ to help us as well.

At Garriott Road we believe that the home and the church are partnering together in the discipling of children. Therefore, it is our commitment to provide parenting mentors who will walk alongside a new couple for a minimum of one year to help provide prayer, support, encouragement, meet practical needs, etc. for the new parents. This is offered to those who are new to the congregation, to new parents or to parents who have special circumstances with their children that may need special attention.

Rite of Passage Experiences Series (R.O.P.E.S.)



We see a lot of parents of teenagers doing an amazing job encouraging their teenager physically. The emphasis on sports and fitness in our society is amazing. We see a lot parents of teenagers doing an excellent job setting their teenagers up for success academically. They are focused on sharpening the mind of their teenager. When it comes to the teenager's soul, we see a lot of parents who want to see their son or daughter become who God has called them to be but just don't know how to help get them there. Here are Garriott Road we want to help in this process of passing down your faith with a plan called the Rites of Passage Experience Series (ROPES for short). The Rites of Passage Experience is an annual activity for you and your teen that will maximize your influence as a parent. For each Rite of Passage, we will provide preplanned, creative, and fun activities to help you and your student learn from the experience being highlighted that year.