

# HAM LANE FLN

## FAMILY LIFE NEWSLETTER

### MEET GENERATION ALPHA

Move over Gen Z, there's a new generation in town...Alpha! I know it sounds a bit presumptuous to call them Alpha, but where possibly could it have gone after Z? But the good news is that this new generation (those born from 2010-2025) is young and hungry for God. And that means we, the church, need to get busy making room for these new believers! Here are a few things that make this new generation distinct:

- They crave connection and spirituality, but often find it difficult to get out of their comfort zone...the house.
- They are closer than ever to their parents and relatives as a result of extra time together during the pandemic. That means they trust family over every other source.
- They feel judged by adults. They are wary of people who have all the answers to life and would rather someone just listen and get to know them.

There is a huge opportunity to reach this next generation for Christ if we can show them the care and compassion of Jesus, through the love of a united Church. Let's get to it!

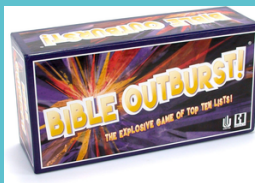


### FALL FAMILY POWERPAKS!

Our quarterly Family Powerpaks will be ready on the 13<sup>th</sup>, just in time to kick off the fall season! Titled "Take Courage," this PowerPak helps families spend quality time together, laugh together, and bravely begin this new season together. Through engaging activities, powerful devotions, and hands-on experiences, families will find confidence that comes from knowing God is always with them. In other words, they'll take courage! Pick them up in the Family Room.

### SOMETHING WE LIKE

A blast from the past...Outburst! Bible edition. We played a couple rounds around the dinner table and then again at the last Family Night. Gameplay is simple and you don't even need official teams to enjoy shouting out answers to each topic. Plus, there's such a wide range in difficulty that even the biggest Bible wiz will find it challenging.



### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP: DON'T GIVE IN TO FEAR!

Adapted from: *Influencing Generation Alpha*. Written By: Shane Pruitt & Shelly Melia  
<https://d6family.com/influencing-generation-alpha/>

The window is open for parents to influence Generation Alpha. We are in the "exchange zone" in this race of faith. So, what keeps parents from stepping into their God-given role of passing the baton of faith to their kids?

1. **They feel inadequate.** With all the specialization in professional ministry positions, they may wonder if what they do could be effective. Or, maybe they tried family devotions or family worship, and it felt like a failure because it was less than what they had imagined it would be like.
2. **They focus on the product rather than the process.** Discipleship is hard work with many challenges and surprises. There is no "silver bullet" or shortcut to discipleship. The Shema (Deuteronomy 6) was process-focused. Moses outlined discipleship as a lifestyle and process to embrace, taking captive teachable moments in all settings and times.

(continued on page 2)

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

3. **They had no role model to follow.** Many parents and guardians today are attempting to do something for their kids that was never modeled for them. It's nearly impossible to be a disciple-maker to your kids if no one has ever disciplined you.

4. **They are not just busy, they are overwhelmed.** There is an old leadership principle that is absolutely true in parenting as well: if you don't manage your calendar, your calendar will manage you. Remember, God created and ordained the day. He will strategically give you sufficient time to make disciples of your kids. However, many times we choose to use our time on less important things.

5. **They feel unworthy or disqualified because of their own struggles.** Perfect parents do not exist, and kids are not served well by parents who push a perfectionist mindset, particularly in faith matters. Your kids will learn by watching how you make mistakes and learn from them, and it will take the pressure off them to always be perfect for you.

Never forget, your kids don't need you to be perfect; they just need you to follow a perfect Savior named Jesus. As a parent or guardian, lean into the gospel of Jesus Christ for yourself, and be led by His Spirit. He loves your kids even more than you do. So, let the Spirit take the lead in discipling your kids and passing on the faith to them.



## S'MORE FAMILY TIME, PLEASE!

It may have been a hot summer day, but there's no time that's not a good time for s'mores! If you haven't found time in your schedule to join us for Family Night, you're missing out! July was pictionary and s'mores, August was slime and brain breaks! Join us for the next fun time in September. The kids can play, and you can join in, or just relax and enjoy a good visit.

## FAITH CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What was the highlight of your day?
- Was there a low-point in your day?
- What's one thing you're thankful to God for today?
- Who do you think knows you best?
- Where do you feel the most comfortable?
- Where do you feel least comfortable?
- What's one thing you worry about?
- What's one thing you're sure of?

## COMING UP SOON!



Bring a Friend to Church Sunday is coming up on Sunday, Sept. 20. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, family member, coworker, or someone you know who may be looking for a church home or simply needs some encouragement. Let's make September 20 a special day of welcome, worship, and connection!



Games, movies, video games, snacks, and awesome church family, what more could you ask for!! Always the last Friday of the month at 7pm. See you there!

## MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock."  
—Isaiah 26:4