



OCTOBER 2014

Purposeful Parenting
Connecting Church and Family
Deut.6:7

Loving Kids Well

I believe in the ministry that Jesus Christ accomplishes through the family ministries at Fellowship Bible Church. As a sophomore in high school, I was largely unchurched. Under the leadership of some influential men, I grew in my capacity to understand the gospel, apply it to my life, and seek to help others do the same. I was discipled! Now, after spending more than ten years serving in various youth ministry capacities, I've learned (as we all do, by trial and error) a few things about loving kids well.

1. **Ask questions.** My wife should be an investigative journalist. She'll ask questions that get the most reserved people chatting for hours. Practice asking your kids questions. Don't just ask about the things you are worried about (grades, relationships, etc.). Ask about anything! Or everything! Training them to know that you are listening, and that you care, means that when they need to talk, they will. Giving them room to talk when they want to leaves them room to talk when they need to. The most meaningful family conversations probably won't come during family devotionals. They'll come at dinner, in the car, standing in line at the supermarket - in the everyday spaces of life. (If you aren't already following these, check out our DinnertimeDive series, where helpful conversation prompts are posted every Thursday to our social media accounts.)
2. **Assume you're wrong.** Too many times, I've begun disciplining, gotten angry or frustrated, and the fault was my not my child's, but my own. If your child isn't obeying, perhaps they haven't understood. Say it another way. If it is a task you can model, show them. I can't believe the number of times that I have thought I've been clear as day, but even my wife hasn't understood what I'd just said!
3. **Don't be too proud!** Now I'm not saying everyone has the Matt Newman gifting (see photo at [this link](#)), but I am saying that kids respond well to vulnerability. Make a joke. Wear something silly. Play a game you know you're too old for. If you're unwilling to engage them in the silly, will they believe you when you try to engage them in the serious?
4. **Say yes!** We spend so much time saying "no" to things we must ("No, you can hit your sister." "You're only 7 years old. No, you cannot drive on the highway." "No, you can't hold fire." "I know you're a dragon, but no, you cannot bite your brother.") So when you have the opportunity to say yes, do! (Yes, you can have ice cream before dinner. Yes, we can play outside right now. Yes, we can stay up past bedtime tonight.) You won't always be able to, but sometimes an unexpected "yes" can go a long way.
5. **Pray.** Pray all the time, for any and every reason. Pray aloud for school days, for meals, for friends, for sad things. Practice thankfulness by praying aloud often. Create an environment where prayer is comfortable, prayer is normal, and prayer is needed. Cultivate in your children a desire to talk to God often. Nothing else you can do will go as far or mean as much.

Fellowship, we love your family and we love your kids. See you this weekend.

Matt Noetzel, Mosaic Elementary Team

Mosaic Family,

Have you had the chance yet to meet our new 1st-6th grade team leader? As of July 1st, Matt Noetzel has joined the family team and we are thrilled to have him! He brings with him a ton of student ministry experience as he worked full time for several years with our para church partner, Camp War Eagle. Matt way outdid himself when he married the wonderful Kara Noetzel. They also have two lovely kids named Dewey (3) and Ruthie (1), with another one on the way in April named Melchizedek (at least that's what I'm rooting for). The Noetzel's have that unique gift mix where they constantly balance silly and serious, crazy and deep. We are so blessed to have them, and confident God will use them to bring our families to incredible places they have never been before. Make sure you go out of your way to meet them!



-Matt Newman, Family Pastor

What's Happening?

Calendar of Events: October

October 4: **Next Gen**, 7th-12th grade students worship with families, 5:00 & 6:45pm, Worship Ctr.
October 18: **Parenting Principles**, 5:00 - 7:30 pm, Family Center Auditorium
October 29: **StreetFest**, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, The Jones Center in Springdale

Stay Connected



[Early Childhood](#) / [Elementary](#) / [Students](#)

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- Deuteronomy 6:7