

SEVENTH BIRTHDAY

BIBLE

EASTVIEW FAMILY RESOURCES



www.eastview.church | 1500 N. Airport Rd. | Normal, IL 61761 | 309.451.5000



THIS YEAR AT A GLANCE...

One of the greatest joys and responsibilities you have as a parent is to teach your child to love God's Word in order to build a solid foundation based upon truth. At Eastview, one of our 8 Core Values is the importance of the Word of God. We teach it, preach it, believe it and live by it. We want to come alongside your family during this year of your child's life to help you find ways to encourage a love for the Bible in your home.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

- **Letter from Jason Smith**, Next Gen Pastor at Eastview.
- **A Letter To Your Child** A guide to writing a letter to your child with memories and affirmations
- **"BIBLE" Overview** Practical ways to foster a love for the Bible in your home.
- **The Bible at Home ideas** Ideas for helping your child find ways to read the Bible.
- **Fishbowl Verses** An easy way to choose what to read each day with your child.
- **This Year's Parenting Plan Checklist** A summary of this year's focus with an easy checklist.
- **Marriage Plan** Follow this simple plan to keep your family healthy beginning with your marriage.
- **Digital Resources** The Parent Cue App and RightNowMedia are two digital resources we highly recommend.



According to our records, you are celebrating a birthday in your family this month! As you celebrate your child's birth, we want to provide this booklet to help you as you guide your child on a spiritual journey to know, love and follow Jesus. This year's focus is: BIBLE

At Eastview, we believe that God designed the home to be the primary place for discipleship in a child's life. It is our privilege to come alongside you as you raise your child in the ways of the Lord. We offer this Family Ministry Map as a guide to help you raise your child one step at a time — with one annual focus each year. This certainly isn't the only parenting plan you could follow, but over the 18 years of your child's life, you will have followed a fairly comprehensive plan to raise your child in the faith.

These booklets are not intended to cover all there is to know about each topic. Sometimes parents feel overwhelmed with the responsibility of raising their child to know the Lord, and aren't sure where to start. So we have created simple steps to get you started. We also include recommended resources to

help you in your parenting journey. Visit our Family Resource Center and Eastview Bookstore where our staff and volunteers can help you with other topics and resources.

During the time that your child is in our elementary programs here at church, we will be focusing on:

SEEING ME IN GOD'S STORY

KNOWING GOD'S GRACE

CHOOSING TO FOLLOW JESUS

We are committed to being a faithful partner to you and your family. Our staff is praying for your child by name this month. If you have anything that we can pray for specifically, or if you have any questions, send me an email or call 309-451-5000.

Jason Smith,
Next Gen Pastor
jsmith@eastview.church



MY LETTER TO YOU FOR YOUR 7TH BIRTHDAY

Each year throughout the parenting plan, take time to write your child a letter. Below are some ideas of things to include that will speak life and love into your child, as well as give them an invaluable collection of insights into their upbringing and a storyline of memories to be cherished for the rest of their lives. You can write them all in a journal or write each letter as a separate piece of paper.

1. Things I've loved about you this year...
2. Important memories from this past year...
3. Some of my favorite time with you is when we...
4. Your favorite books to read are...
5. Your favorite song is...
6. Your favorite toy this year is...
7. Your favorite things to do with your friends...
8. Your favorite food this year...
9. I've been praying about this for you this year...
10. I've been praying about this for me as a parent this year...
11. What I want for you in life...
12. A scripture verse I have picked out for you this year...

**Include a photo of your family with the letter to give a year by year collection of memories all in one place.
Each year after giving your child the letter, get it back and keep them all somewhere safe.
You will give them all to your child in the 18th year for LAUNCH.**

SEVENTH BIRTHDAY: THE BIBLE

One of the greatest joys and responsibilities you have as a parent is to teach your child to love God's Word in order to build a solid foundation based upon truth. Psalm 119:11 says "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

At Eastview, one of our 8 Core Values is the importance of the Word of God. We teach it, preach it, believe it and live by it. We want to come alongside your family during this year of your child's life to help you find ways to encourage a love for the Bible in your home.

GETTING STARTED: You may already be reading the Bible together as a family, but if you haven't begun to experience that together as a family, we have included some ideas in this packet on how to get that started.

Don't be intimidated if you don't feel like you know the Bible very well. One of the great things about teaching children the Bible, or reading verses as a family, is that you will learn right along with them. It's actually a beautiful thing! We have included some practical ideas of how to make the Bible a focus of your family this year in this packet.

Here are some suggestions to keep in mind:

CHOOSE A BIBLE: Find a translation that is easy for your child to read and understand. We recommend the New International Reader's Version (NIRV) with chapters and verses for children in 2nd-5th grade, and in our Junior High and High School ministries we use the New Living Translation (NLT). In Eastview Kids PreK-1st Grade, we use a picture Bible (The Read With Me Bible by Zonderkids).

READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER: Choose a time of day that works well for your family this year. It might be dinner time (we have some ideas later in the booklet), bedtime or first thing in the morning. There might be other times that you turn to the Bible together: in making a decision, if someone is sad or discouraged, for instruction along with discipline, etc. Show the kids how you use the Bible to get help in everyday life. This will also teach them that reading the Bible doesn't only happen in a family time, quiet time or at church.

MODEL BIBLE STUDY: It will be good for your children to see you read your Bible as well. If you tend to read and study while they are in bed or at school, make sure you talk about what you are learning so they see your love for the Bible.

KEEP IT SIMPLE: Remember that your goal is to help your child LOVE the Bible. Be sensitive to their understanding level and their attention span. Longer passages doesn't always mean you're getting more done. Consider your time in the Word together kind of like a slow meandering walk through nature, where you take the time to enjoy and explore and wonder at the details. Linger a long while on something simple and let it truly soak into their soul.

INFORMATION IS GOOD BUT UNDERSTANDING IS BETTER: While it is good for your children to learn the characters and stories from the Bible, mere factual retention is not the end goal. Teach your child to meditate on verses, which is thinking about the truths God is telling them and how it applies to their lives.

BE CREATIVE: Dallas Willard once said "it is a SIN to bore kids with the Bible." Keep things fun and fresh with ideas like fun voices as you read a story; bible verse memory challenges/competitions; short enough passages to keep their attention; art projects with Bible verses, etc. Capture their imagination!

DON'T BLUFF: It's okay to not know the answer to a question your child might have. Use the opportunity to show your child how to search in God's Word for wisdom. Be authentic and tell your child you will get back to them within a certain time period so that you can study and/or ask for guidance from someone you trust.

PRAY: Ask God to give your child a love for His Word, for wisdom and understanding as they read and memorize scripture. Pray Colossians 1:9-14 over them.





THE BIBLE AT HOME

“Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.”

Colossians 3:15-17 The Message Version

Make a goal of establishing the presence of the bible in your home – let it “have the run of the house.” Other versions say let it “dwell in you richly.” Check out these simple ideas:

MIRROR VERSES: Using a dry erase marker, write a verse on the bathroom mirror so that they will see it a few times a day. You will want to change it up once in a while to keep their attention.

SCHOOL DAY VERSES: Slip a note into your child’s lunch box or backpack with a verse and an “I love you, buddy!”

LIFE VERSES: Take the verse from your birthday letter this year and place it in a frame and put it on their dresser. You might be able to find it on an item from a house décor store. Read it to them and with them on a regular basis.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: Challenge your child to memorize the books of the bible this year, so that they can be more comfortable looking up passages. Google “Books of the Bible Songs” to find the ones we use in Eastview Kids. The links are below to the actual songs we use. They’re fun!

- **Old Testament Books:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7ZtWRSCH7E>
- **New Testament Books:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppxke-s6sCA>

FISHBOWL VERSES: An easy way to build Bible reading into your family's daily rhythm is to fill a bowl full of slips of paper with verses on them. Each night at bedtime or after dinner, have one of the kids draw a slip of paper. Look it up together and have someone read the Scripture that is chosen. Our list below is a good start. Put single verses on different colored paper than the longer passages, and choose which one fits the moment well.

SHORT ONES:

EPHESIANS 4:29	ISAIAH 48:17	PROVERBS 22:9	MATTHEW 5:16	EPHESIANS 6:1-4
PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7	JOSHUA 1:9	PSALM 86:15	EPHESIANS 4:2	MATTHEW 28:18-20
GALATIANS 5:22-23	ISAIAH 40:11	COLOSSIANS 3:12-14	GALATIANS 6:10	MARK 12:28-31
JAMES 3:17	1 ST JOHN 4:7	PSALM 5:1-3	1 ST PETER 5:7	PROVERBS 14:29
ROMANS 12:9-10	HEBREWS 11:1,6	ROMANS 12:13	2 ND TIMOTHY 3:16	1 ST JOHN 3:1
EPHESIANS 2:10	HEBREWS 10:25	1 ST CORINTHIANS 13:4-8	JOHN 13:34-35	JOSHUA 1:8
PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5				

LONGER ONES:

PSALM 100	PSALM 103:1-13	PSALM 23	PSALM 24:1-6	PSALM 105:1-4
PSALM 119:1-16	PSALM 139:14-16	JAMES 1:19-27	ISAIAH 40:12-14; 22-26	ISAIAH 40:28-31
DANIEL 3 OR 3:16-30	MALACHI 3:6-10	MATTHEW 4:1-11	MATTHEW 5:38-48	MATTHEW 5:13-16
MATTHEW 6:1-4	MATTHEW 6:5-15	MATTHEW 6:19-24	MATTHEW 6:25-34	MATTHEW 7:1-5
MATTHEW 7:7-14	MATTHEW 25:31-46	MATTHEW 28:1-10	LUKE 10:25-37	LUKE 10:38-42
LUKE 16:19-31	1 ST JOHN 1:5-2:2	EPHESIANS 4:25-5:2	ROMANS 6:1-4	ROMANS 12:9-21
1 ST CORINTHIANS 13:1-13				



THIS YEAR'S PARENTING PLAN SUMMARY/CHECKLIST

WEEKS TO GRADUATION: 572 and counting
PHASE PARENTING PHRASE: ENGAGE their interests

*“Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house.
Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense.
And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—
be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.”*

Colossians 3:15-17 The Message Version

- Read the contents of this booklet and the Phase Summary (tri-fold) that comes with this booklet.
- Write a letter to my child.
- Plan a daily time for your family to read the bible together. As much as possible, stick to it.
- Challenge your children to learn the books of the bible in order this year. Use the songs for some fun help.
- Model a love for the bible by letting them see you read it, or talking to them about what you learn when you do.
- Follow This Year's Marriage Plan below. *(We know not every parent is married. We don't mean to offend by including this segment.)*

THIS YEAR'S MARRIAGE PLAN

Each year we want to encourage you to make a plan to keep your marriage healthy. One of the most important gifts you'll give to your child is the love you give to your spouse. When mom and dad love each other and demonstrate the traits of a healthy (NOT PERFECT!) marriage, it not only sets a good example of a godly marriage, but gives them a greater sense of security and well-being. Andy Stanley in [The Principle of the Path](#) writes "We don't drift to good places." (Thomas Nelson, 2008). Good marriages require intentionality. Use the plan below to make an intentional effort in your marriage this year. Read [The Best Us](#) by Ted Lowe (©MarriedPeople 2016) for a full explanation of Have Serious Fun! Love God First; Respect and Love; Practice Your Promise.

Have Serious Fun! Date Night Scheduling: Grab your calendars and mark at least TWO date nights for each month and PROTECT those dates. Remember that you were boyfriend and girlfriend before you were dad and mom, and have fun together! No family administration discussions! For extra fun, watch for sponsored "Date Nights" by Eastview's Marriage Ministry. Each date night, you swing by the church to receive your plans for the evening.

Love God First - Faith Practices 101: Research finds that couples who pray together at least twice a week have a divorce rate of less than 1% (HomePointe). Commit to praying as a couple at least twice a week. Plan which worship service the two of you will attend together each week – don't "divide and conquer" in order to volunteer.

Love and Respect - Write an Annual Letter: Write a letter to your spouse for your anniversary this year, much like the one in this packet that you will write to your child. Write a letter of memories from this past year, affirmations, prayers and promises to each other.

Practice Your Promise - Personal Growth: Set a "secret goal" to grow as a spouse, such as "listening better," "praising her in public," or "initiating romance." Write it down and seal it in an envelope or save it on your phone. When you receive next year's booklet, open the envelope or file and assess your progress.

Invest In Your Marriage: Join an email blog like [lesandleslie.com](#), choose one book to read this year, or choose a small group study on marriage. The Eastview Family Resource Center, Eastview Marriage Ministry and RightNow Media have many helpful events and resources.




EASTVIEW RESOURCES

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY PARENT
WANTS TO BE A GOOD PARENT.
WE CAN HELP YOU TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

STEP-BY-STEP PLAN: As a part of our Eastview Church Family, we never want you to feel like you have to parent alone. We want to come alongside you in your parenting journey and provide resources and relationships that can help you along the way. While this is certainly not the ONLY Christian parenting plan out there, and probably not even the best one, it is a way to raise your children in the faith over the years, with one specific focus a year.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER & EASTVIEW BOOKSTORE: However, you will have specific needs along the way that we do not cover in these booklets. You might have a child with special needs, or your child might be dealing with a specific issue, or you might need more creative ideas for family times together...whatever it is, we will do our best to offer helpful resources. Stop by our Family Resource Center on the lower level of the atrium. We can point you to great organizations like Focus on the Family (focusonthefamily.com) and others that give expert advice on all things family. We have topical cards that give you some quick advice on a variety of topics with recommended resources and next steps to take at Eastview. We highlight various books and resources to help with different aspects and seasons of parenting and marriage. Our Bookstore is also a wonderful resource for us at Eastview. Sure, you can buy books on Amazon, but at our bookstore, all of the books have been recommended by Eastview Staff and leaders and our helpful staff and volunteers are able to help you find the just right resource.



MEMBER CARE: At Eastview, we believe that the care of our members is very important. Because of this, we have different areas where we can assist our members needs, whether that be counseling referrals, help needs and family journeys.

- **CARE APPOINTMENTS:** We know that connecting to others for prayer and encouragement is a necessary part of our spiritual formation, especially in times of need. Care Appointments are scheduled times we have set aside to meet with you for pastoral care. We would like to hear your story, pray with you, and offer guidance on your next steps. To sign up for a care appointment visit eastview.church/membercare.
- **COUNSELING REFERRALS:** We want to help people connect to Christian Counselors when professional services are needed for healing and growth. For information on counselors in our area contact: Sara Thompson sthompson@eastview.church or 309.451.5057.
- **HELPS MINISTRY:** We depend on our small groups to help support one another and take care of one another's needs. For our church members that are not already in a small group, we can utilize our helps ministry team. This team can assist with meals, and limited transportation to our Sunday services during times of illness, hospitalization, new baby, or other life interruptions. For more information, please contact Nicki Green at ngreen@eastview.church or 309.451.5033.
- **CARE GROUP:** Eastview Care Groups range from support groups for parents with kids with autism to men's sexual integrity groups to divorce care to single moms groups and more. We keep a list of them at the Family Resource Center, or you can learn more about them at www.eastview.church/caregroups. For specific information, contact Jason Sniff at jsniff@eastview.church.
- **THE FAMILY ROOM:** Open on Sundays before, after and during services, our family room is a place to connect with caring staff and volunteers for prayer and encouragement.

DOWNLOAD THE PARENT CUE APP

As a parent, some of the most important things you do for your child don't happen in a single day. You make small deposits in their life week after week - over time. That's why the Parent Cue App gives weekly cues to help you make the most of the time you spend with your kid or teenager. This app is brought to us by The ReThink Group, producers of the Phase Summaries that come with these booklets, as well as the curriculum we use for our 4th & 5th Grade Ministry at ECC.



Easy encouragements to help your child start their day.



Ideas for meaningful talks on the way to soccer practice.



Conversation starters while grabbing drive thru tacos or sitting around the table.



Great reminders for ways to end the day on a great note.



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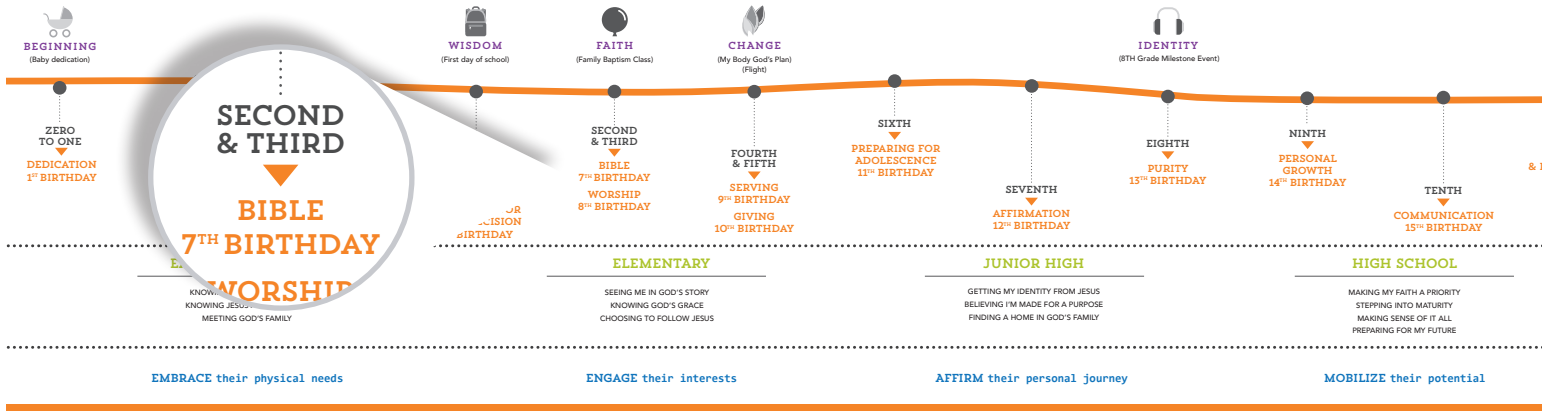
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CHECK OUT THE KIDS' SECTION AND VIDEOS ON PARENTING AND MARRIAGE!

EASTVIEW FAMILY RESOURCES

FAMILY MINISTRY MAP

RAISING CHILDREN



AN INTENTIONAL PLAN FOR YOUR FAMILY. STEP BY STEP PARENTING FROM BIRTH THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.

The Eastview Family Ministry Map is a bird's eye view of our strategy for helping families thrive. From the formation of families as young couples date, through the child rearing years, to the empty nest, we have a plan that families can follow to build strong marriages and pass on a legacy of faith to the next generation—one step at a time. For the full map, visit our Family Resource Center in the lower level atrium next to the bookstore.

SIGN UP FOR OUR PARENTING PLAN: TEXT "#PARENTPLAN" TO 309.808.6002

Each year on your child's birthday we will provide you with a new booklet to help you focus on one aspect of your child's life and spiritual formation. Each booklet contains helpful information on developmental milestones, simple ideas for passing on your faith in everyday rhythms, as well as practical ways to speak into their lives. Every parent wants to be a good parent. We can help you with the next step.