

TENTH BIRTHDAY

GIVING

EASTVIEW FAMILY RESOURCES



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THIS YEAR AT A GLANCE...

This year we are going to focus on the spiritual discipline of giving. While we will cover a deeper level of financial responsibility in the 17th Birthday booklet, this year we want to provide some ideas on how to teach your children some basics of handling money, including honoring God first and foremost with how we give and handle the money he has entrusted to us.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL FIND IO8INSIDE:

- **Letter from Jason Smith**, Next Gen Pastor of Eastview.
- **A Letter To Your Child** A guide to writing a letter to your child with memories and affirmations
- **"Giving" Overview** Practical ways to foster a giving and generous culture in your family.
- **Family Time Ideas on Giving** Family devotions that focus on giving.
- **Budgeting Worksheets for Kids** Tools to show your child how to manage money wisely.
- **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: SERVING

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 Parenting Plan 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 children's 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 10TH 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 could collect them 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 hobbies are...
6. Things that make you laugh...
7. Your favorite things to do with your friends...
8. I am impressed that you...
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. Ways you have learned to serve this past 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 back all of the letters to your child in the 18th year for LAUNCH.**

TENTH BIRTHDAY: GIVING

This year we are going to focus on the spiritual discipline of giving. While we will cover a deeper level of financial responsibility in the 17th Birthday booklet, this year we want to provide some ideas on how to teach your children some basics of handling money, including honoring God first and foremost with how we give and handle the money he has entrusted to us. In reality, teaching children about money through tithes and offerings is not only about giving to God. It is about reminding ourselves of three important things:

- 1. We are dependent upon the One who gives all good gifts.** We want to teach them to learn to rely upon God for our needs – Matthew 6:11; 6:19-34. (daily bread and do not worry) and to not forget about him during times of plenty. Deuteronomy 6:10-15
- 2. We are “stewards” rather than owners.** “Our” money is really God’s. God *entrusts* us to use our finances to take care of our needs and to provide for the work of God in this world. Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the Talents)
- 3. Giving reflects obedience.** When we give we show that we love a God who is worthy to be obeyed in all areas of life – even our finances. Giving provides us the opportunity to

“put our money where our mouth is” in regards to our faith, and participate in things that are eternal not temporary.
Matthew 6:19-24

Teaching Our Kids to Give: This year, you can implement three intentional steps into the life of your family in order to impress on your children the importance of giving.

#1 Model It: Start by putting into practice the disciplines you want your child to learn. Let your child see that you first give money toward tithing, then savings and so on. Model the joy reflected in 2 Corinthians 9:7 “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” Generosity is contagious and a powerful way to help your child see how Acts 20:35, “It is better to give than to receive,” is lived out in their home by their parents. This may mean taking steps to become a better steward of your family’s finances. There is no better year than this for you to get your finances in order and leave a legacy of financial stability and responsibility to your children. You might consider joining our Financial Peace ministry at Eastview, which has helped people pay off hundreds of thousands of dollars and move to a life of freedom marked by generosity.

#2 Help Them Start Good Habits: If your child receives money from an allowance, jobs or gifts, take the time to help him or her divide the money wisely. A good place to start is to set aside 10% for giving, 10% for savings and 80% for spending on other activities and items. Get three containers (jars or boxes work nicely) and label one for GIVING, one for SAVING and one for SPENDING. Encourage them to divide their money up as soon as they get it, rather than throwing it on the dresser for another time.

If you do not give an allowance you might consider starting that this year if your child has no other source of income, if for the only reason that they begin to learn to manage their own money. For example, rather than you giving them some money to put in the offering at church, they will be pulling money from their own TITHE jar. Perhaps you can post a HELP WANTED sign on the fridge, hiring your children for specific jobs above and beyond the chores they already do, like cleaning the garage or painting the dog house.

#3 Give Them The Gift of a Legacy of Generosity: Read Matthew 6:19-24 together as a family. Discuss it and make sure they understand what it means. Then discuss how we want to store up treasures in heaven as a family. Consider purchasing a piggy bank or a small treasure chest for your home that you can fill with pictures or stories of ways that your family has given to God's work. Maybe take a photo of the family shopping for the food pantry, or write down stories where the family gave up something in order to give to a missionary, or a family in need or the Christmas offering. Over the years, this could become a priceless family treasure that celebrates ways your family has had the privilege of participating in God's work.

"This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God."

2nd Corinthians 9:11 The Message



FAMILY DEVOTIONS ON GIVING

We encourage families to take time each week to have a faith discussion together (Family Time – 4 Year Old Booklet). These can be done in all sorts of fashion – chill night at home; fun dinner on the patio; devo time followed by an outing for ice cream; etc. Throughout this year, dedicate some of these times to the focus of giving. Here are a few ideas to get your started:

READ 2ND CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

- What does this say about out giving?
- What does this say about our attitude when we give?
- How can our family be “cheerful givers?”
- Do you feel like God has given us everything we need?
- Why or why not?

READ PROVERBS 11:25

- What does this verse say will happen when we give generously?
- What does it take to be generous?
- How can we be generous in our giving?

READ MALACHI 3:6-10

- How were the people robbing God?
- What is a tithe?
- What does God say he will do if they test him?
- How does this apply to our family?

READ 1ST CHRONICLES 29:14 & 17

Read the whole chapter beforehand to explain the context to your family.

- How were the people able to give?
- What was their attitude as they gave?
- How can we give like the people in these verses?

READ DEUTERONOMY 15:7-11

- Open and close your hand to visualize what God is saying in these verses. What does it mean to be openhanded or close fistied towards poor people?
- How can our family be openhanded to the poor?

MORE VERSES TO MAKE ADDITIONAL DEVOTIONS

- Matt. 6:1-4
- Matt. 6:19-24
- James 1:27
- Romans 12:13
- 2nd Corinthians 8:1-15
- Proverbs 3:9

WHAT IS “FAMILY TIME”?

Family Times are intentional times spent with your children where you have a faith conversation, study or activity. You are welcome to come to the Family Resource Center to get a copy of the booklet where we outline this practice, or contact Jason Smith at jsmith@eastview.church and we will send you a pdf of the booklet. Here is an overview of the nuts and bolts of starting a family time.

1. PICK YOUR TIME

Determine a block of time that works well for your family, whether it's Monday nights after dinner, or Saturday after a late breakfast, and PROTECT that time. Try to have one each week, or at least one every other week.

2. PLAN WHAT YOU'LL TEACH

This does NOT have to be fancy. There are a lot of resources online or in the 4th year booklet to give you ideas on what you can do with your kids. The Bible alone can be your one stop shop for material with your family.

3. MAKE IT FUN

Start the time out with some loud music, a favorite game or a special treat. Keep things loose and informal, valuing time to laugh together. Keep things short - always leave them wanting more. A basic guideline is one minute of attention span per year, so 10 minutes with your ten year old should be plenty!

4. KEEP IT GOING

Don't get discouraged if it takes a couple of these before you feel like they're catching on. Your first attempt may find everyone in timeout, including dad! With some effort and commitment, this could become a tradition that is so cherished that it lasts in your family well into your children's adulthood.





10 YEAR OLD BUDGET WORKSHEET

Use this budget worksheet to help your child learn to give faithfully, save wisely and spend responsibly.

INCOME: List all of the money you got this past month

- ALLOWANCE
- GIFT
- EXTRA CHORES
- JOBS

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

TOTAL INCOME: \$ _____

GIVING: List the amount of money you plan to give this month (10%-15%)

- TITHE (10% first fruits)
- GIFTS (birthdays, holidays)
- EXTRA GIVING (extra offerings, charities)

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

TOTAL GIVING: \$ _____

SAVING: List things you want to save for using the savings worksheet in this booklet. Enter a monthly amount (10% - 30%)

- LONG TERM (build a savings to have when you're older)
- SMALL ITEMS (list less expensive items you're saving for)
- BIG ITEMS (list bigger ticket items that will take a while)

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

TOTAL SAVINGS: \$ _____

SPENDING: List the expenses you plan to have this month (55%-80%). If you make a large purchase from savings, do not enter it here.

-----	\$ -----
-----	\$ -----
-----	\$ -----
-----	\$ -----

TOTAL SPENDING: \$ -----

Enter totals from above to make sure you have planned for each dollar.
(Your final total should equal zero.)

Total INCOME = \$ -----
Subtract TOTAL GIVING - \$ -----
Subtract TOTAL SAVING - \$ -----
Subtract TOTAL SPENDING - \$ -----
TOTAL = \$ 00.00





SAVING WORKSHEET

Use the formulas below to plan for your savings. Insert your work in the SAVINGS section on the front.

LONG TERM SAVINGS: It is good for young kids to learn to set aside money for their future. In some families, this might be a significant amount that was perhaps started by a large gift when the child was young or an inheritance. For most families, this will be a small steady amount that the child will build over the years. Help your child fight the temptation to use this money for impulse buys or insignificant purchases. This money might be for helping buy their first car, saving for college or a missions trip in high school. Once your child begins to have a significant amount in this account, you might consider opening an account for them at your bank.

SMALL TICKET ITEMS: These items are the types of purchases that your child cannot afford in his or her spending for the month, but are relatively small purchases. These items will differ for each child based on their income, but these are items that might take a couple of months to save up for, especially if they have multiple items they are saving for. Think items like a new shirt, a basketball or a book.

LARGE TICKET ITEMS: These items are the purchases that will take a while to save for, again depending on the child's income. Perhaps a new video game, a bike, or a tablet. This is a VERY GOOD practice for them to learn. Teach them to delay instant gratification (aka borrowing money from you), and help them learn the joy of responsibly saving up for an item over time. This could potentially teach them the types of habits that will help them avoid the financial pitfalls many Americans have fallen into due to overspending with credit.

MONTHLY BUDGETING FOR SMALL AND LARGE TICKET ITEMS

1. Determine the items you are saving for and list their total cost in COLUMN 1
2. Determine how much you can afford to save each month. You can adjust your spending to free up more money for savings. Total monthly amount to save: \$_____ This amount should match the TOTAL of COLUMN 2.
3. Divide your monthly amount for each of your items to determine how much you will save for each item per month and enter it in the SECOND COLUMN.
4. Divide the TOTAL COST of the item by the AMOUNT BEING SAVED PER MONTH to determine how long it will take to save up for each item. Example: Bike \$150/total \$15/month $\$150 \div 15 = 10$ months
5. PUT THE MONEY IN A SPECIFIC PLACE. Whether it's an actual bank or a piggy bank, keep track of your deposits and withdrawals. Don't factor this money in your SPENDING section when you make a purchase. It will throw off your monthly income/expenses balance.

	PRICE	\$/month	# of months
LARGE TICKET ITEMS	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____
	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____
SMALL TICKET ITEMS	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____
	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____
	TOTAL \$ _____	\$ _____	



THIS YEAR'S PARENTING PLAN SUMMARY/CHECKLIST

WEEKS TO GRADUATION: 416 and counting
PHASE PARENTING PHRASE: ENGAGE their interests

“Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”
Matthew 6:19-21

- Read the contents of this booklet and the tri-fold Phase Summary that comes with this booklet.
- Write a letter to my child.
- Create a system where my child will learn to GIVE, SAVE and SPEND. Go over the budgeting/saving worksheets.
- Develop a culture of generosity in my home, and give as a family (Imagine, food pantry, etc.).
- Pray and read the Bible with my child daily.
- 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 booklet 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 [lesandlesie.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.



Timely help for those moments that take you by surprise.

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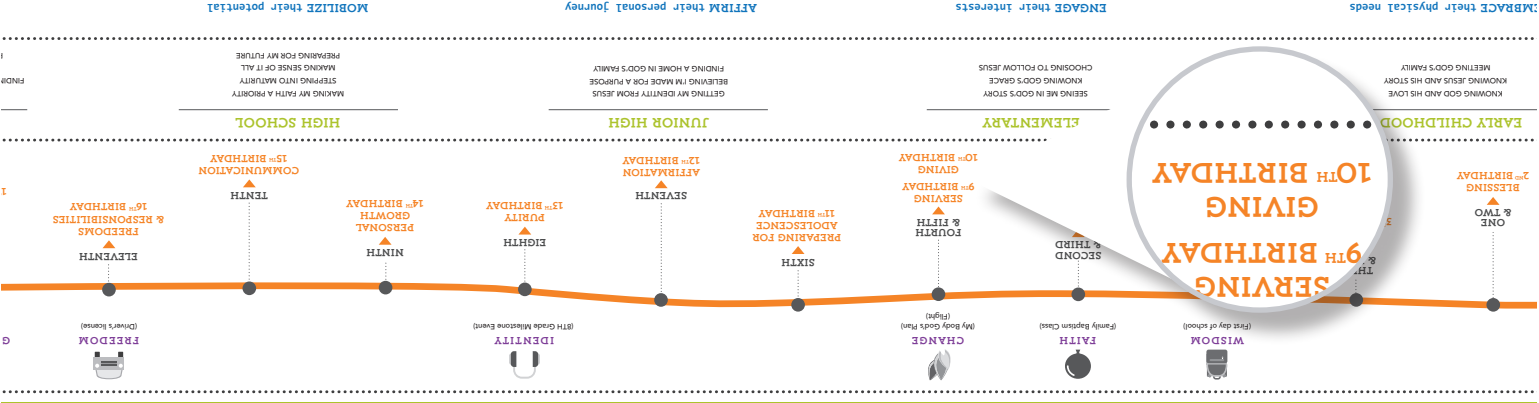
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VIDEOS!**

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

EASTVIEW FAMILY RESOURCES

FAMILY MINISTRY MAP

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. 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.

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