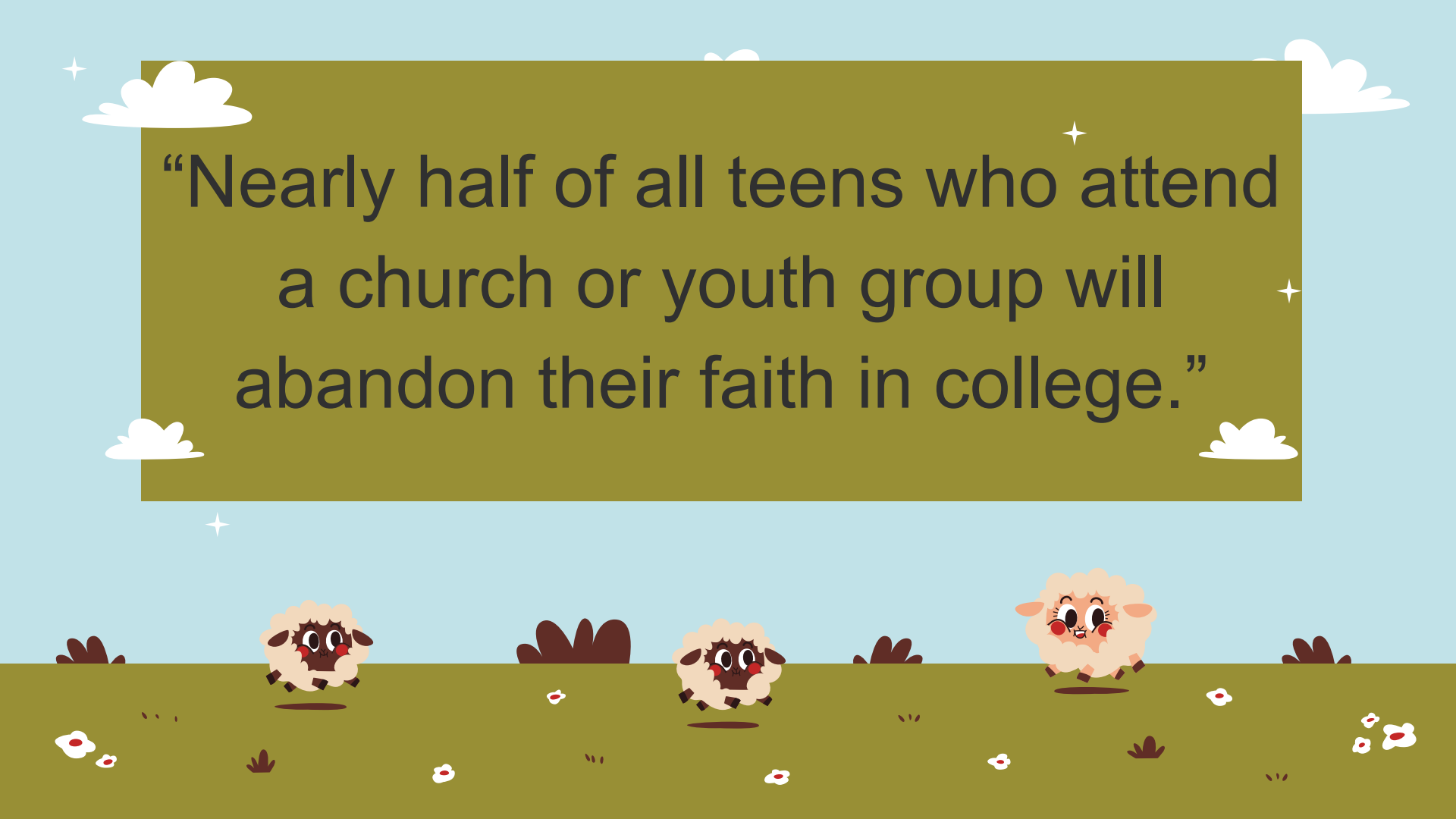


Making a Difference

In Faith Development

“The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family”





“Nearly half of all teens who attend
a church or youth group will
abandon their faith in college.”

***What makes the other 50 percent
of kids stay true to Christ?***



*The most decisive influence is **US**, parents/teachers.*

*We have much more influence over children than we think.
However, the responsibility is unnerving.*

- *What if all we are doing to share our faith with our kids isn't enough?*
- *How do we know if our methods will produce lasting love for Christ?*



Proven parenting strategies that *make a difference*

Parents recommended by church leaders for raising young adults with a thriving faith were interviewed.

The researchers asked these parents the same questions you or I might ask:

- *How did you do it?*
- *What's the secret to building lasting faith in children?*

No single strategy is guaranteed to produce robust faith. However, time and again, the researchers found the same general principles at play in faith-building families.

These common principles are available in a book:
The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family.

<https://www.amazon.com/Sticky-Faith-Guide-Your-Family/dp/0310338972>

You must be what you

hope to see in your child

The quality of the parents' or teacher's faith is reproduced in their children. A vibrant faith in the parents/teachers tends to produce a vibrant faith in the children.

A half-hearted faith in the parents/children tends to produce a half-hearted faith in the child.

Parents who prioritized their walk with Christ, carving almost daily time to nurture a child's spiritual well-being.



Ideas practiced by faith-building parents/teachers in The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family:



Consistent time with the Lord

✦ A prayerful daily commute or a walk with the Lord after dinner. Listen to worship music or a sermon snippet first to focus your thoughts.



Share Insights

Sharing what you're learning in your faith walk with your kids.



Emphasize relationship with Christ, forgiveness, and grace

✦ A disturbingly high number defined Christianity as adherence to a code of behavior rather than a relationship with a loving Savior.



✦ Many students never internalized Jesus' parable, *The Prodigal Son*, and considered themselves irredeemable. Consequently, they shied away from the Christian community and God, sure of facing judgment/condemnation rather than grace and forgiveness.

Intentionally teach children that no one is perfect, and make a point of being quick to ask forgiveness of our kids for our mistakes. ✦

Discipline must be administered with grace.



Ideas from faith-building pros:



Everyone shares their
"mistake of the day."



Hold family devotions or Bible
discussions when their children
are in elementary school.



Routinely ask your child,
How can I pray for you today?



Don't let discipline or conflict break your
relationship with your child.

Use life events to make faith relevant.



Look for opportunities of
immediate relevance to
the child.



Welcome doubts
and difficult questions

Doubt in and of itself isn't dangerous.

Unexpressed doubt is toxic."



- *Does God exist?*
- *Is Christianity true?*
- *Is it the only way to God?*
- *Does God love me?*
- *Am I living the life God wants?*



Recognize the importance of welcoming doubts
and bringing questions into the open.

Parents and teachers need to take care of how
they deal with them.

Teens do not respond well to a lecture or being told what to believe.





Share your opinion, and leave room for them to formulate their conclusions.
Issues don't need to be resolved in one make-or-break conversation.
It might require a respectful exchange of opposing views that extends over years.



Ask,

"I've been wondering/praying about this...What do you think?"

Ask kids if they'd like to hear your faith story. Expand your testimony, adding doubts you've struggled with.

Respond to tough questions with, "I don't know, but..." and then extend an invitation to learn together. For example, "I don't know, but I would love to study God's Word with you and try to understand that." Another response could be, **don't know, but here's what I do know about God . . .**"



Go all out to win their heart.

Affectionate relationships are linked to lasting faith.

Protestant families increased the odds of a child sticking with their faith from 17 to 25 percent.



Kids are sensitive to favoritism, real or imagined.

Kids most commonly identified favoritism of parents and teachers as the reason for abandoning their faith.

We're at risk of unconsciously spending more time with the child who shares our passions and interests...
leaving our other children feeling rejected.



Regularly step into *each child's* preferred world.

Make a habit of asking, *How's your heart?*

Schedule a "date" with each child for some one-on-one time.

Let your child choose an activity you can do together on your date.

Choose something your child loves, and always meet them there. ✨

If it's sports, go to their games. If it's drama, go to their rehearsals.

If it's music, start to at least tolerate the music they love.

Even if you have no interest in that arena yourself...

Do it for your child or your student.





"The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family"
by Dr. Kara Powell is a resource designed to help parents foster enduring faith in their children. Building upon extensive research from the Fuller Youth Institute's "Sticky Faith" project, the book offers over 100 practical, easy-to-implement ideas to integrate faith into daily family life.

“The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family” Has Over 100 Practical and Tested Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Kids

If you are eager for an authentic action plan you can use every day to point your kids toward lasting, lifelong faith, this is it.

Building on the bestselling go-to guidebook, *The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family* shows parents how to actively encourage children's spiritual growth so that it will stick with them into adulthood and empower them to develop a living, lasting faith.

This accessible guide presents more than 100 practical, easy-to-implement ideas to set your family on a trajectory of lifelong faith. It includes how to:

- Handle mistakes and show forgiveness
- Connect and relate to teenager
- Talk faith with kids
- Build faith during downtime or on vacation
- Make your house/school a hub of faith
- Be a family/classroom of service
- And more!



Perfect for busy parents who don't have time and inclination to read—yet grounded in sophisticated, academically verified data by the Fuller Youth Institute—this guidebook is a welcome resource you can turn to time and time again for fresh ideas and inspiration.

<https://www.amazon.com/Sticky-Faith-Guide-Your-Family/dp/0310338972>

