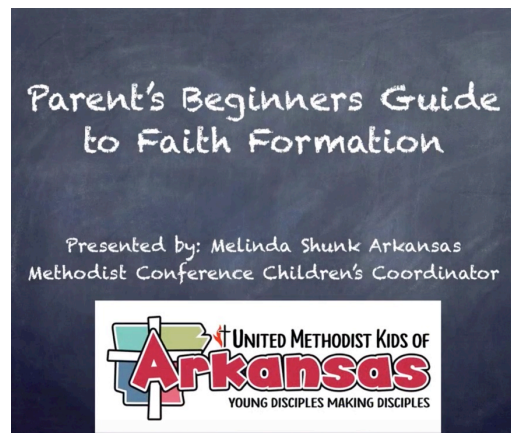


Faith Formation Video for Baptism Class



1. It is in Keynote and Powerpoint and best taught live and in person for interaction with your families. However, not all people are public speakers so feel free to show it as a 30 min. Video with you in the room to stop it for questions or discussions.
2. Every time a family schedules a child to be Baptized the pastor will want to have a walk through their rolls in the Baptism. Once the pastor is finished move the parents to a place where together you have discussion and share this video.
3. Many parents will want to skip this, but really it is part of the vows you will all be making and truly the first step in learning Faith Formation so have your pastor back you up on the importance of being part of it all.
4. Returning parents with their subsequent children will say they have already seen the video or your presentation and don't need to see it again. They are mistaken. It is important to be reminded of faith formation skills that they may have forgotten from the last viewing. It is also a great witness when they are in the class with first time parents because they can share what they have tried that they see working with their family formation practices.

5. I love to have samples of the books and toys to show the parents. It does not have to be the exact ones in the video. Use other things that you have found helpful.
6. It is very important to get the young families engaged and connected at this early age. Create a multiple small groups from each years worth of Baptism classes and get them started with their first book study For Heaven's Sake. The Leadership Bible study Guide is included (Beyond Conference attendees only) or can be purchased in downloadable form by emailing MarilynSharpeMinistries@comcast.net
7. Church size will really determine how many times a year you offer the class. It would be great if you had multiple set dates on the calendar that your parents can plan which class they would like to sign up to take BEFORE scheduling the Baptism. It is good idea to make this a prerequisite class before they schedule the date of the Baptism. Keeping these principles while working with what your pastor wants as a standard for the church is you best route and stick to it! When you make a bunch of scheduling exceptions, it make makes more work for you and the pastor over the year. Moving dates around starts a precedent for the young parents in your program that your dates and deadlines are always optional. (That is not what you want for your future families in your ministry.)
8. What if your church will be Baptizing a family who is visiting and your church will not be their home church? Your church is the church they grew up in and their family wanted to follow tradition. Check with your pastor, but I would honor it and make them take the Foundations of Faith class because their home church will thank you. Or share the video with their home church for them to use!
9. You are welcome to share this video with any church that would like to use it. **However if they would like to make changes or take off the UMC logo they would need to get permission from melinda.shunk@arumc.org of the Arkansas United Methodist church.**

