

NextGen

wants kids and teenagers
to have a better

Future,

one where
3 things happen



THE NEXTGEN STRATEGY

Re imagining what Grace Community church does
for kids and teenagers.

WE are taking our CUE
From what **JESUS** said



“Love”

GOD with
all your heart



and your
NEIGHBOR,



as
YOURSELF.”



Mark 12:28-31

WHAT IS ORANGE?

The color orange represents two primary relationships that influence kids and teenagers.

When you take
THE LIGHT OF THE CHURCH (YELLOW)
and combine it with
THE LOVE OF A FAMILY (RED)
you increase the potential to influence a kid's life.



That means Yellow + Red = Orange
That's why we say...

**TWO COMBINED INFLUENCES MAKE A GREATER IMPACT
THAN JUST TWO INFLUENCES.**



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY STRATEGY?

We define strategy as simply

“a plan of action with an end in mind.”

When we think strategy, we consider in advance what we hope kids will become spiritually. Then we begin to work out steps to lead a kid or teenager toward that destination. We want to keep kids and teenager moving in the right direction, so we constantly ask two questions:

What do I want a kid to become?

Where do I want a kid to be?

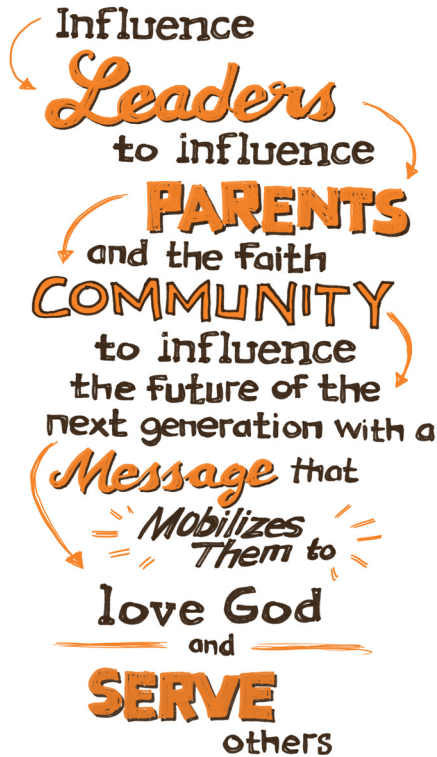
NextGen believes the answers to those questions are simple.

We want every kid to trust in Jesus in a way that transforms how they love God, themselves, and the world around them.

And we want them to be in a small group of peers connected to a consistent adult who can guide their spiritual growth.

An effective strategy also has the potential to align our leaders to move in the same direction and to increase the momentum of our ministry. That’s why we have 5 Essentials that will help us embrace the same strategy to effectively reach our community. The following pages will elaborate on these essentials, and how they will work together to create a strategy that will align our leaders with parents to have a greater impact on kids from birth through graduation.

If we stated our strategy in one sentence it could read as follows:



Stated another way,
We **influence** those who
influence those who
influence the next generation.

We believe God uniquely and originally designed the church and home to demonstrate His light and love to a broken world. We also recognize that both are made up of broken leaders and adults who have the potential to give kids and teenagers a front row seat to the grace and goodness of God. Even in situations where the home is not effective at providing a healthy environment, we want to make sure we do everything we can to restore and redeem God's plan for the family.

1

Align

LEADERS

----- with a -----

*Common
Language*

----- and -----

STRATEGY



5 essentials

ALIGN LEADERS

2

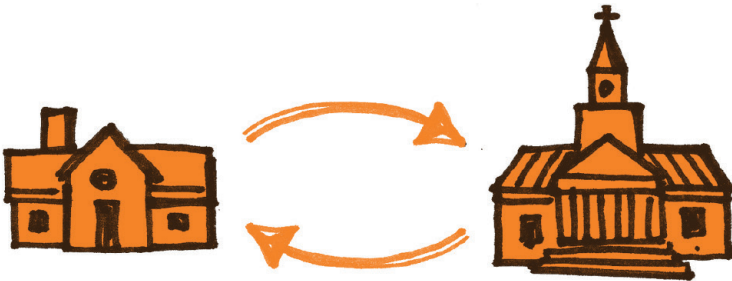
Engage

EVERY
PARENT

to have

→ POSITIVE ←
INFLUENCE

in the *Spiritual*
development
of their own kids



5 essentials

ENGAGE PARENTS

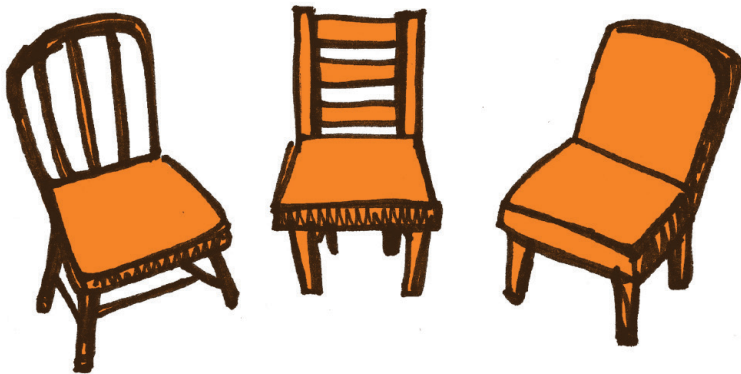
3 Give every kid a

*Caring
Leader*

and a predictable and

**SAFE
COMMUNITY**

where they can
grow spiritually



5 essentials

ELEVATE COMMUNITY

4

Craft

CORE TRUTHS

into
engaging,
relevant,
and

memorable

experiences



5 essentials

REFINE THE MESSAGE

5

Create

CONSISTENT OPPORTUNITIES

For kids and
teenagers to

Serve



5 essentials
INFLUENCE SERVICE

NEXTGEN

.....

Combining child development
and theology to create a
comprehensive strategy that
leverages distinctive
opportunities at every phase of a
kid and teenager's life to
influence their faith and their
future.

.....

Preschool

IN THE PRESCHOOL YEARS A CHILD WILL FORM THEIR FIRST IMPRESSION OF THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER.


We believe our preschool environment is more than babysitting. It's **laying a critical foundation for faith** in the life of a child. The way ours leaders **embrace a preschooler's physical needs** will help kids from zero to five years of age know **God's love and meet God's family**. We have weekly resources to ensure that every preschooler grows up believing these **three basic truths**:



**GOD
LOVES
ME**



**GOD
MADE
ME**



**JESUS
WANTS TO BE
MY FRIEND
FOREVER**

Elementary

IN THE ELEMENTARY YEARS A CHILD WILL GROW IN WISDOM, FAITH, AND FRIENDSHIP.

Kids trust adults because they are adults and because they need **adults to orchestrate and protect their world**. That's why our elementary environment has an opportunity unlike any other to **help kids know what it means to put their trust in Jesus**. The way our **leaders engage the interests of kids** will help kids from kindergarten to fifth grade **trust God's character and experience God's family**. We have weekly resources to ensure that every kid grows up believing in these **three basic truths**:

I NEED TO
MAKE THE
**WISE
CHOICE.**

I CAN TRUST
GOD
**NO
MATTER
WHAT.**

I SHOULD
TREAT OTHERS
THE WAY
**I WANT
TO BE
TREATED.**

Middle School

IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS A PRETEEN WILL BEGIN TO PERSONALIZE AND OWN THEIR OWN FAITH.

The middle school years are a critical window of instability and change. But when our **leaders and parents affirm a middle schooler's personal journey**, kids from sixth to eighth grade can begin to **own their own faith and value a faith community**. We will have weekly resources targeted to this unique audience to help them walk away believing these **three basic truths**:

I WILL FOLLOW JESUS BECAUSE HE KNOWS ME
BETTER THAN I KNOW MYSELF. ♦

I WILL LOVE GOD BECAUSE HE WILL
NEVER STOP LOVING ME.

I WILL LIVE OUT GOD'S STORY SO OTHERS
CAN KNOW WHO JESUS IS.

High School

IN THE HIGH SCHOOL YEARS A TEENAGER WILL DEEPEN AND PERSONALIZE THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST.

The high school years are a time of testing beliefs in light of **growing life experience and personal awakening**. High schoolers are ready to experience what **God wants to do through their obedience and service**. When our leaders and parents mobilize their potential, students in ninth through twelfth grade will keep **pursuing authentic faith and discover a personal mission**. We will have weekly resources to help teenagers graduate believing these **three basic truths**:

I'M CREATED TO PURSUE A
RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CREATOR.

I TRUST WHAT JESUS DID TO
TRANSFORM WHO I NEED TO BECOME.

I EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S
LOVE TO THOSE AROUND ME.