

Good News of Great Joy!

A Message from the
Executive Director

⁸ In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night.

⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ And so the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you **good news of great joy** which will be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:8-15

The real reason for the celebration of Christmas can often be lost as we stress over purchasing the perfect gift for loved ones and the flood of emotion that comes from broken relationships and the loss of those dear to us. We can easily fall into the trap of going through the motions instead of focusing on the words of the angel over two thousand years ago..."I bring you **good news of great joy!**"

At our house, before sitting down to a delicious Christmas dinner and before we open a single present, we open the greatest gift of all by reading Luke 2:1-20. While our dinner tends to get cold, nobody seems to care since the **good news of great joy** warms our hearts as we reflect on God's incomprehensible love through Jesus who changed the trajectory of humankind forever.

So many parents believe their purpose in life is to make their children happy. If that really was our purpose, then we'd dump all the candy into our cart at the grocery store as our child is throwing a tantrum. There is no doubt that would make them happy...for the first hour...until they had to pay the price for their fleeting happiness. But God wants us to experience great joy that is not temporary and can never be taken away, even in the midst of great trials and sorrows. God's gift of love is so shocking and unbelievable it's hard for us to even wrap our arms around it.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
No matter what poor choices we've made and regardless of the magnitude of our rebellion, God stands ready to set us free by His grace, through faith in Jesus. That's what Christmas is really all about.

Often this message is crowded out by hundreds of contrary messages from digital and entertainment media robbing us of great joy and filling us with false promises of happiness. With all the distractions, what can we do? LOFL developed a training program for creating a biblical worldview that is taken directly from God's word (attached).

It is time for us to teach our children about the **good news of great joy**. We need to equip our children with the full armor of God, enabling them to not conform to the beliefs and empty "happiness" of confused adults and peers but rather the One who created us. This Christmas season I pray we boldly tell our children, family, friends and even strangers on the street about the reason for the season...Jesus.

On behalf of our Leap of Faith Learning family, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and pray that God will enable us all to boldly proclaim the **good news of great joy** and let Jesus transform our hearts.

Merry Christmas - In His Love,

From Ron and your entire Leap of Faith Learning family

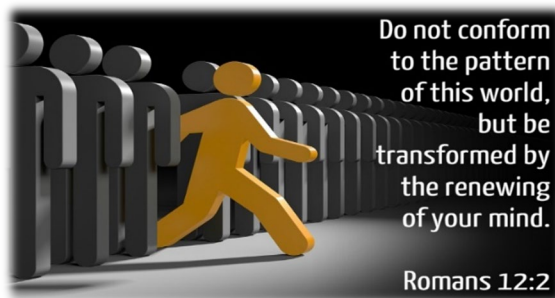
What Can Parents Do to Instill a Biblical Worldview?

- **Integration vs. Immersion (like learning Spanish on CD vs. living in Spain for 2 years) (1 Timothy 4:15-16).** The world is immersing your child in secularism so you need to be intentional to point them toward God, all day, every day.
- **Share the Gospel Early & Often! (Matt 28:19-20, John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, 1 Peter 2:24, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9-10)**
- **Pray together without ceasing – before school, before every meal, before bed, before starting a difficult conversation or addressing a problem, to thank God for a beautiful day or every blessing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)**
- **Show them how to find solitude and talk with God. (Luke 5:16, Mark 1:35)**
- **Put your Bible in the center of your home & read it together. (Psalm 1:2)**
- **Share your Biblical Worldview with your child and show how what they see online and hear from peers is not true. (1 Cor 6:18, 2 Cor 11:14)**
- **Discuss those big questions like “How did I get here?”, “Who am I?” and “What is my purpose?” (Gen. 1:27 & 5:2, 1 Cor 10:31, Eph 2:10, Is 43:7, Matt 22:37-39)**
- **Restrict interaction with “friends” who don’t have a Biblical Worldview and instead get your child involved in church youth groups, Trail Life, American Heritage Girls or Young Life. (1 Corinthians 15:33, 2 Corinthians 6:14-15)**
- **Attend LOFL’s Acts 2 Fellowship & Parent Bible Study. (Acts 2:42)**
- **Find a Bible-believing, Christ-centered church where the whole family can be fed (Hebrews 10:25). Seek their wisdom & guidance on how to “speak the truth in love.”**
- **Set clear boundaries on internet use, social media, video games, cartoons, movies, & give them a phone that doesn’t allow internet access. Replace these activities with healthy ones. Love your child enough to let them say they hate you. (Proverbs 13:24, 29:15, Matthew 6:22-23) Check out: <https://screenstrong.org/>**
- **Establish an “Internet Use Contract” for the family. Use an internet monitoring and control app to assure online safety and to set a schedule for screen use (like 8am to 8pm) so your child disengages and gets proper sleep. (use filters like Canopy or Bark)**
- **Set up regular game nights or family movie nights and watch a faith-based, wholesome movie together. Put all devices away and focus on time together. (1 Timothy 5:8, Joshua 24:15)**





- Teach them to recognize God working in their lives. (Joshua 4 - memorial stones)
- Serve one another – have child volunteer several days/week in the summer at the local library, church, food pantry, animal shelter, etc. (Galatians 5:13)
- Teach them to study the Bible for themselves. (2 Tim 3:16, Proverbs 22:6)
- Encourage them to memorize Scripture, hiding God's Word in their heart. (Psalm 119:11, 37:31)
- Screen decisions and problems through the lens of Scripture with your child. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - What does God's Word say about this?
 - What are the pros and cons in this situation, and what truth is revealed by applying scripture?
 - How can you handle this situation in a way that glorifies God?
 - Seek godly counsel from mature Christians. (Proverbs 15:22, 16:9)
- Teach by example & stand firm in your faith! (Titus 2:7)
- Prepare them for the cost of discipleship (1 Peter 4:12-19, John 16:33)
- Teach them about submission & how to worship. (James 4:7, Romans 8:7, Jeremiah 17:9; Luke 9:23, John 4:24, Romans 12:1, Luke 4:8, Psalm 71:8)
- Saturate their lives (home decor, books, movies, music, curriculum, games etc.) with Scripture. (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 63:6, Philippians 4:8-9, Deut 6:5-7)
- Consider homeschooling, Christian school or an online Christian school like Liberty k-12 Online Academy: <https://www.liberty.edu/online-academy/>
- Watch the Summit Ministries workshop on how to disciple your Gen Z kid: <https://www.summit.org/programs/basecamp/faithful-teens/>



To participate in our next Biblical Worldview workshop, please contact
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