

# HELLO, PARENTS!

Last year, the Crossings Kids Team took part in the Children's Pastors Conference. One of the breakout sessions addressed spiritual influence in the lives of our children. Research has shown that the top three areas of spiritual influence with children are: **Bible reading, prayer** and **service**. This means in the life of a child, exposure to these three areas results in a greater likelihood of young people continuing in their faith as they grow and move throughout life.

**Do you know who has the most influence in the life of your child? YOU.**  
We know it isn't easy. The truth is, though, we invest now to influence later.

Over the course of the upcoming ministry year, we will incorporate Bible reading, prayer, and/or service into each one of our series. We will consistently provide opportunities for you to engage in these areas of spiritual influence through the take home piece. Carving out time to reinforce what kids have learned in Crossings Kids through this take home piece, along with setting an example with your own life by modeling these three areas, is one of the best ways to spiritually invest in your child. This investment now will lead to greater influence later in their lives.

No one does it perfectly. It's never too late to start or resume. Everyone struggles at times, and it does not mean you've failed! Pick up where you are and move forward.

**As parents, God is faithful to equip us.**

As we look forward, we're excited to see what God will do in your families and in the lives of your children this year! May God bless you richly as you seek him.

**THE CROSSINGS KIDS TEAM**

This note looks long, we know.  
Trust us ... you want to read it all!

What do we mean when we say **Bible reading, prayer and service ... and why do we do them?**

Reading God's Word helps us follow Jesus.



## BIBLE READING

... is reading God's unchanging Word given to us to know him better and know what is true. God's Word is alive and active. It's the only book that is living and breathing—which means when you do what it says, it's designed to have a certain result.

## PRAYER

... is communicating with God, talking to AND listening to him. God created us to be in a relationship with him. We were created to need him. Prayer is one of the main ways we can be in that relationship and be who we were created to be.

Praying helps us know Jesus.



Serving helps us imitate Jesus.



## SERVICE

... is giving of yourself for the benefit of others and receiving nothing in return. In our fallenness, our tendency is to serve ourselves. Service shifts the focus from me to loving others because I love God and want them to know he loves them, too!