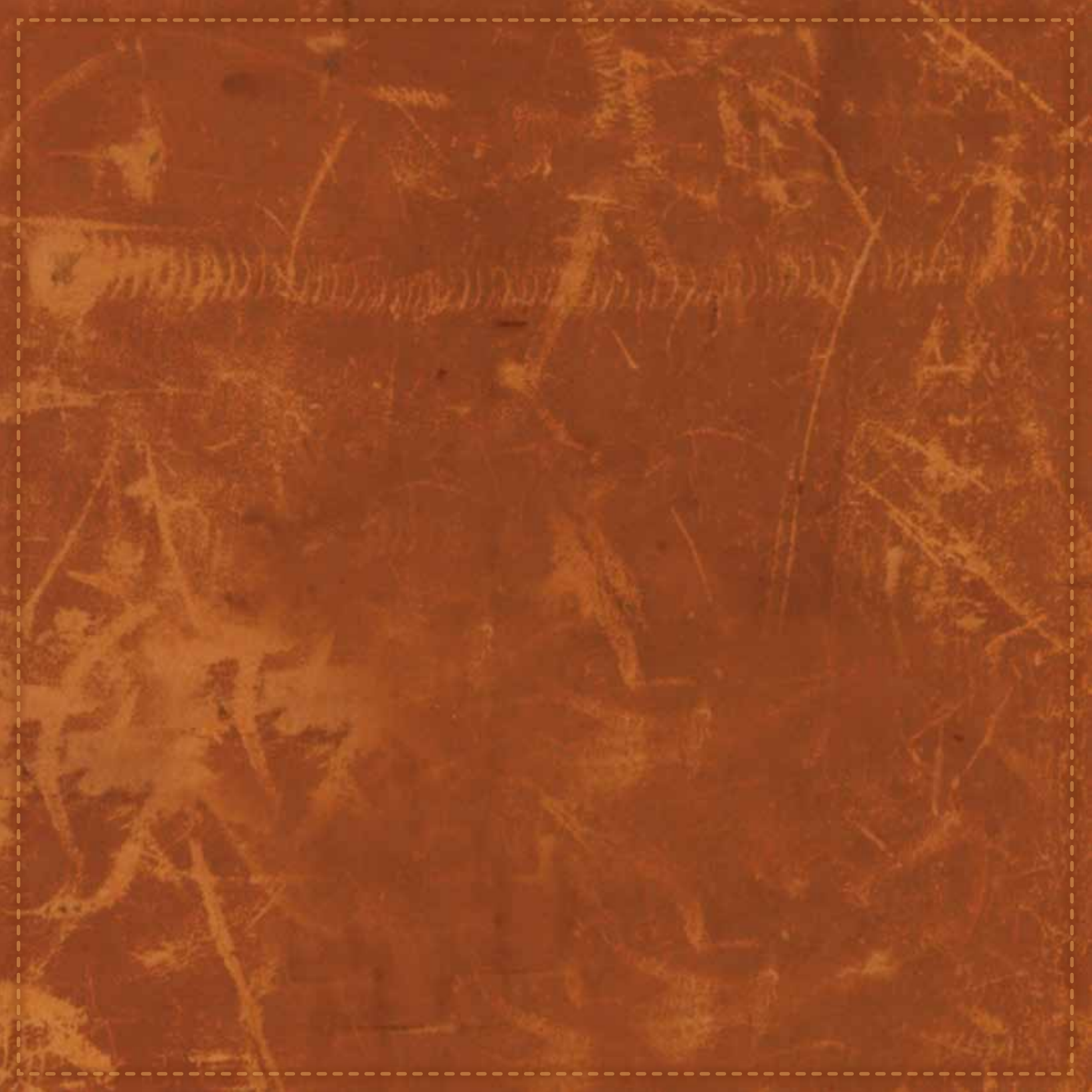




**FLIGHT  
PLAN  
252**





# FLIGHT PLAN 252

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Families following Jesus every day.



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## Flight Plan 252 helps families follow Jesus every day



**Welcome to Flight Plan 252** – a practical guide to help you as parents pass on your faith to your most precious treasures: your children. I invite you to read this plan and follow its guidelines. It will have a lasting impact in your home.

Flight Plan 252 describes a partnership between PCBC and parents. We as a church and you as a parent have different roles to play in the spiritual formation of your children. You have the primary responsibility of instilling faith in them. The church's role is to equip and serve as a resource – to help you become the parent that God desires you to be.

### Journey of faith

Flight Plan 252 offers a guide for your children's faith journey, beginning before birth and ending when they graduate from high school and launch into the next phase of their lives. We have divided these years into seven stages. In each stage, we offer three components to help develop a strong, lasting faith in your child's life. These and other resources are available at our Flight Plan 252 link at [pcbc.org](http://pcbc.org).

Parent Practices are simple, practical steps to develop faith skills in your child's life. Your kids watch you practice these skills so they will become everyday practices.

Church Partnerships equip you through seminars and classes. PCBC also teaches similar life skills to your children that you reinforce at home.

Celebration Moments are recognized at each life stage. These include dedications and baptisms, but could also include parent-child retreats or rite-of-passage events for your family. Your children will look back on these moments and remember their spiritual heritage.

### Embrace the 252 life

Luke 2:52 is a small verse that briefly describes Jesus' teenage years. It simply states that He "grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

We can only speculate about most of the details of Jesus' early home life, but I feel confident that His earthly family – together with the spiritual nourishment of His Father in heaven – played a key role in helping Him mature physically, socially, emotionally and mentally.

Young adults with deep-rooted faith do not happen by accident. It takes work. Certain regular family practices – intentional prayer and faith talks – will help you raise your kids in a way to help build their faith.



**So we invite you to embrace the 252 life.** It's simple, but it takes a daily commitment. The number 252 will help you remember your calling as a parent:

# 252



**Spend intentional time in prayer with your spouse twice a week.** Pray for each other, encourage each other and carry each other's burdens.

**Pray as a family five times a week.** This could be done at bedtime, at meals or even in the car on the way to school. Make the prayers intentional, and do this until your children graduate.

**Talk to your kids about spiritual matters twice a week.** This may be during weekly family devotions or it may be during what we call God Moments, which are day-to-day teaching opportunities. Your kids may ask questions such as: "Why is the sky blue?" or "Why are some kids mean to others?" Take advantage of these God Moments. If you're concerned about leading devotions in your home, we have you covered with a special, practical class on this topic. We've also included some suggestions later in this plan.

## Integrating the plan

Our prayer is that you integrate Flight Plan 252 into your daily home life. Whether your kids are toddlers or teenagers, start at the appropriate stage in this plan. If you're a single parent or part of a blended family, you can do this. God will equip you to build a foundation of lasting faith in the life of your child.

Take the first step and join us on the Flight Plan 252 journey. My prayer is that you and your family continue to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.



DAVID HUEY,  
MINISTER TO FAMILIES



# FLIGHT PLAN 252

offers a guide for your children's faith journey, beginning before birth and ending when they graduate from high school and launch into the next phase of their lives.

**Luke 2:52** is a small verse that briefly describes Jesus' teenage years. It simply states that He "grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."



## SETTING THE COURSE



Flight Plan 252 charts the course through the seven stages of your child's faith journey, and PCBC is there to support you every step of the way.

# FLIGHT PLAN 252

## Birth and Blessing

INFANT-AGE 3

The first leg of the journey is your opportunity to introduce your children to God and to church and to show them how to love others. Even the youngest of children can learn that God loves them.

## Family Time

AGES 4-5

The second part of your adventure takes you to a stage where you can begin to discuss the Bible and spiritual matters with your children. Preschoolers ask questions about everything, and you can use their insatiable curiosity to teach them important truths.

## Preparing for Salvation

GRADES 1-4

Children at this stage of your journey begin to realize their sin and need for a Savior. Their questions create opportunities to have meaningful conversations about the Gospel of Christ.



## Helping with Adolescence

**GRADES 5-6**

You're well along on your excursion by now, and things begin to change physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially for your children. The role of parents now is to help their children navigate through the turbulence created by many changes.

## Preparing for Young Adulthood

**GRADES 7-8**

On this important leg of your journey, many young people begin to question their faith. The role of parents is to guide them toward truth and help them begin to develop a faith of their own.

## The Coaching Years

**GRADES 9-11**

Now you're beginning your final descent. Your child has become a young adult, and your role as a parent is to help them begin the final leg of the journey toward full adult freedoms and responsibilities.

## Prepare to Launch

**SENIOR YEAR**

You've almost reached the end of your journey, and your job is to prepare your teen to leave home. Your role as a parent is to help them be ready as they begin their own journey.



**The guidebook on the following pages provides more information about each important leg of your child's journey from birth all the way to launch.**

**Have a great trip!**

# Birth and blessing



**Your goal for spiritual development at this early age will be to introduce them to God and to church and to show them how to love other people.**

## Flight training

### Parent seminars

***Expecting Great Things*** — how to raise your newborn in a Jesus-centered home

- Jan. 22, 2017
- April 23, 2017

**As parents,** you are your children's primary trainer and role model, including in the area of faith. Your goal for spiritual development at this early age will be to introduce them to God and to church and to show them how to love other people. Your toddler should see that you are active at church.

Children grow rapidly at this age, and they need a lot of care from you. They use their five senses to explore their world. Even though they're becoming more independent, 2- and 3-year-olds still need you. They love to hear Bible stories and respond positively to Bible picture books.

### Parent practices

- Even the youngest children can learn that God loves them, so model this for them.
- Let your children explore their Bible and look for Bible pictures.
- Model church attendance and participation.
- Join our Preschool Training Associates and learn to serve in Preschool Ministry.
- Talk about Jesus at home and when you go out.

### Church partnerships

- Three times each year, PCBC offers *Expecting Great Things*, which is a class for parents who are expecting their first child. This course is designed to help parents prepare spiritually for the birth of a child as well as what to expect from the church. Welcoming your first child is a special time, but can also be a time of anxiety. This class includes practical information to make this a time to grow together.
- Four times each year, we offer a class for parents who will be participating in Parental Dedication within the next month. This class, which is required before your first Parental Dedication at PCBC, includes practical advice for raising children in a Christian home.

### Celebration moments

- Children receive a Bible and letter from the senior pastor at the time of their Parental Dedication.
- Parents who attend *Expecting Great Things* will receive suggestions for conducting a blessing ceremony with your family and friends. This will be a great time for family and close friends to celebrate God's blessings with you.





## FP252 TIP

Even the  
youngest children  
can learn that  
God loves them,  
so model this  
for them.

AGES 4 – 5

# Family time



**The curiosity of children at this age creates opportunities to discuss spiritual matters.**

Preschoolers are inquisitive and ask questions about everything. Family is important, and they enjoy activities with parents and siblings. These characteristics create many opportunities to discuss the Bible and spiritual matters, so we want to equip parents to lead their families in home worship and devotions.

## Parent practices

- Set a time each day for family devotions. Your kids will get into the 252 life and look forward to devotions, so try not to deviate from the schedule.
- Encourage your children to talk openly with you about spiritual matters and teach them to come to you when they have questions.

## Church partnerships

- PCBC offers a class called *Doing Life Together* that encourages parents to share ideas and includes resources for family Bible devotions and praise. Also covered are resources for teaching subjects such as prayer, spiritual growth through journaling, stewardship, age-appropriate activities for worship, family life together and sexuality.
- Parents receive information and resources to help them worship with their children.

## Celebration moments

- The fifth birthday celebration: Celebrating and Moving Forward
- Family worship celebration: An annual worship event for families

## Flight training

### Parent seminars

***Doing Life Together*** — how to have meaningful and intentional family devotional times

- Oct. 9, 2016
- Feb. 12, 2017
- May 21, 2017





## FP252 TIP

Encourage your children to talk openly with you about spiritual matters and teach them to come to you when they have questions.

# Preparing for salvation



**Parents should talk to their children every day about the Gospel and begin to instill a love of serving others.**

Children in grades 1-4 ask a lot of good questions about life and death, and they realize their own sin and need for a Savior. Parents can use these questions and new understanding as opportunities to engage their children in conversations about the Gospel. PCBC equips parents to talk to their children about salvation, worship, service and giving.

## Parent practices

- Talk about salvation, faith and the church during everyday life.

## Church partnerships

- PCBC offers suggestions for having easy conversations with your children and provides lists of books and videos to read and watch.
- A class called *Leading Your Kids to Christ* explains to parents how to talk about salvation, baptism, worship services, serving and giving.
- Families are encouraged to participate in missions activities, including Serve 1:8 Days and mission trips designed for kids and families.

## Celebration moments

- Children in first grade are presented with an age-appropriate Bible
- Children in second grade are presented with My Giving Bank
- Baptism is available any time after salvation

## Flight training

### Parent seminars

***Preparing for Salvation*** — how to introduce your child to Christ

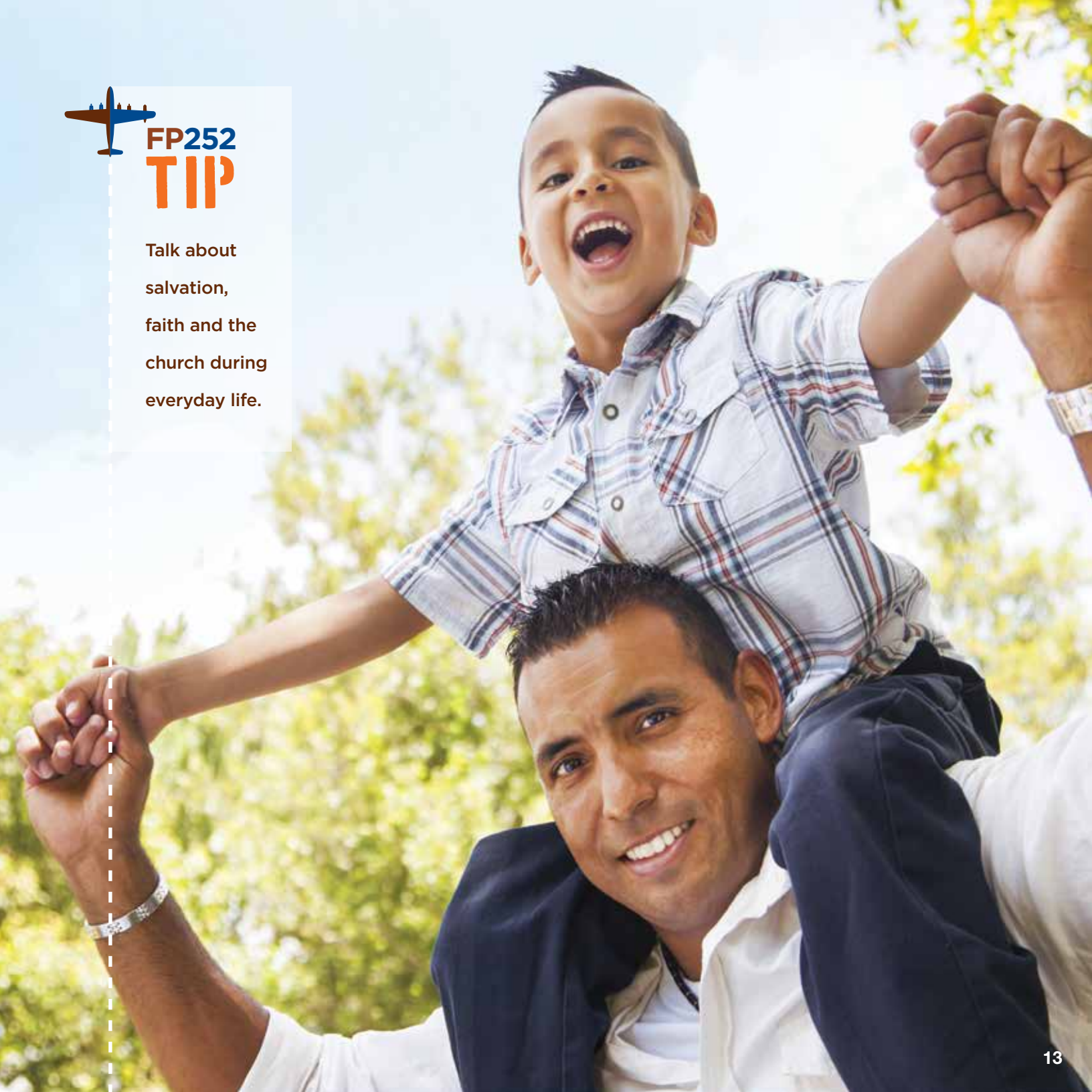
- Oct. 23, 2016
- April 2, 2017





## FP252 TIP

Talk about  
salvation,  
faith and the  
church during  
everyday life.



# Helping with adolescence



**Change is in the air, and it's critical that parents help their children navigate what can be difficult times.**

## Flight training

### Parent seminars

***Faith, Sex and Puberty*** — how to survive it and talk about it with your child

● Oct. 16, 2016

***Help your children reinforce their faith and walk with Jesus every day***

● Jan. 22, 2017

The word that best describes this age group is “change.” Changes happen physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially. The role of parents is to help their children navigate this time of change. The role of the church is to help parents understand and accept the social and spiritual growth of their children and to equip them as they begin raising young adults.

### Parent practices

- Have four major and meaningful conversations over a two-year period dealing with the topics of puberty and becoming an adult, sexuality and a life of purity, salvation and reinforcing their walk with Christ, and learning to have a personal quiet time with the Lord. These conversations should provide opportunities for additional discussions as the children mature into young adulthood.

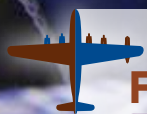
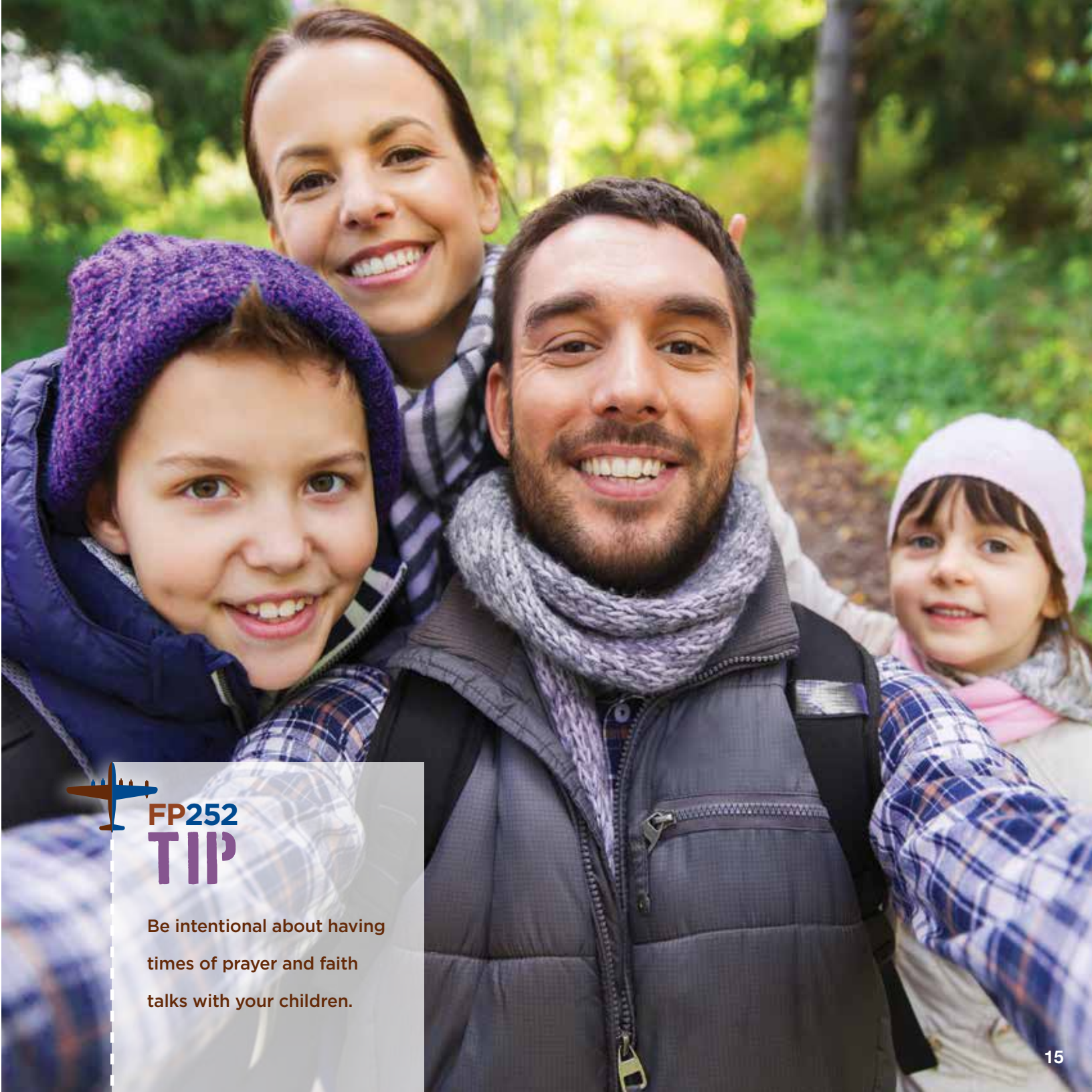
### Church partnerships

- PCBC's goal is to equip parents and children to walk through this time together.
- The preteen ministry will offer multiple seminars throughout the year to address these four conversations.
- The preteen ministry will teach curriculum dealing with the four conversations – one per semester – to reinforce the discussions that parents will be encouraged to have at the same time. Topics include identity in Christ, as well as the Bible and how to use it.

### Celebration moments

- 12 Service – At this rite of passage, parents are challenged to prepare their children for young adulthood.
- Parents are encouraged to go on a father/son or mother/daughter weekend in order to have intentional conversations around the four topics.
- Join one of PCBC's family mission trips for an opportunity to serve together.
- Baptism is available after salvation.





## FP252 TIP

Be intentional about having  
times of prayer and faith  
talks with your children.



**The role of parents is to guide your young adults toward truth.**

# Preparing for young adulthood

Seventh- and eighth-graders are still changing physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially. Because of all the changes that they're experiencing, many begin questioning their faith during this time of life. This is good! The role of the parent is to guide them toward truth. PCBC's role is to equip parents to have deeper discussions about the basics of faith. Our goal is for young people to develop a faith of their own – not just the faith of their parents.

## Parent practices

- Parents and young people should talk regularly about all kinds of issues so that there's a freedom to ask questions and discuss beliefs.
- As part of those conversations, they may have weekly theological discussions using a Baptist Catechism. This is an opportunity to shape a young person's beliefs through Scripture.

## Church partnerships

- PCBC offers a Baptist Catechism class to equip parents for weekly discussions with their children about theology.
- PCBC offers eighth-graders a four- to six-week apologetics course to supplement catechism discussions with their parents.
- Junior High students are encouraged to participate on a mission trip designed for their age group.

## Celebration moments

- Parents and their teens are encouraged to celebrate the completion of the Baptist Catechism with a special celebration.

## Flight training

### Parent seminars

**Baptism Catechism** — shape your young person's beliefs through Scripture

● Oct. 23, 2016





## FP252 TIP

Parents and young people should talk regularly about all kinds of issues so that there's a freedom to ask questions and discuss beliefs.



# The coaching years



**Parents should give their teens practical advice as they move toward full adulthood.**

Teenagers at this stage are preparing to transition into full adulthood. The role of parents is to reinforce their identity as young adults by giving them practical guidance as they move toward the final Family Ministry stage: Launch. As a church, PCBC's role is to educate, equip and encourage parents about strategies they can use to raise young adults who are given progressive responsibility and autonomy.

## Parent practices

- Develop a parenting plan that recognizes teenagers as young adults and charts a course toward full adult freedoms and responsibilities.
- Follow the tools and tips provided on a regular basis by the High School ministry.

## Church partnerships

- PCBC provides parenting workshops throughout the year to equip parents with a plan to implement at home.
- PCBC instructs parents how to create a rite-of-passage experience for their teens to memorialize the completion of childhood and reinforce their identity as young adults.

## Celebration moments

- Adulthood rite-of-passage ceremony.
- Parents award their teen with a drivers license.

## Flight training

### Parent seminars

*How to help your teen navigate young adulthood*

● Nov. 5-6, 2016



## FP252 TIP

Develop a plan to move teenagers toward being young adults who make decisions for themselves and take responsibility for their decisions.



# Prepare to launch



**Parents are helping  
their teens prepare to  
leave home and begin  
life on their own.**

In this final stage of Flight Plan 252, parents prepare their teens to leave home. The role of parents is to finalize the larger areas of autonomy and prepare their teens for life on their own. PCBC's role is to educate parents about this upcoming change and equip them with tools and strategies to navigate the complexities of adulthood outside the home.

## Parent practices

- Take a father/daughter or father/son weekend away from home for some quality one-on-one time. During this special getaway, the father should affirm the young-adult status of his teen.
- Parents should have intentional conversations with their teenagers throughout the year that negotiates handing over full adult freedoms and responsibilities before they launch into college.

## Church partnerships

- PCBC offers a ten-week course called *Prepare to Launch* to help seniors and their parents prepare for this life change. Parents join their seniors for three weeks of the course.
- The High School ministry will provide parents of seniors with instructions about how to hold an at-home Blessing Ceremony before their teenagers head off to college.

## Celebration moments

- PCBC plays host to a Senior Commissioning service for graduating teens.
- An at-home Blessing Ceremony where the family blesses their seniors as they leave for college.

## Flight training

### Parent seminars

*How to launch your teen  
into full adulthood*

- Nov. 5-6, 2016



## FP252 TIP

Spend time in prayer with your spouse at least twice a week and pray as a family five times a week.



## ROUTE GUIDANCE



Take some time  
periodically to reflect  
on your progress  
through this journey of  
faith with your children.

# In-flight checks

As children grow and mature, parents may want to use these questions to reflect on their role and the spiritual lives of their children.

## Birth and Blessing

INFANT-AGE 3

## Family Time


AGES 4-5

## Preparing for Salvation

GRADES 1-4

- Has my child learned about God from church and at home?
- Can my child talk about things God has made?
- Does my child understand ways we worship God?
- Can my child articulate that Jesus is God's son?
- Does my child believe that nothing is greater than Jesus?
- Does my child know that Jesus cares about all people?
- Is my child developing a pattern of thinking about others?
- Is my child starting to care about their friends hearing about Jesus?
- Is my child starting to do things for others because they care about them?
- Does my child know who made them?
- Has my child understood that God made them as a special creation?
- Does my child understand that spending time with God is important?

- Does my child know that God exists?
- Can my child understand that God created all things?
- Can my child learn about worship at church?
- Has my child come to understand Jesus and what He has done for them?
- Does my child know the story of Jesus in the Bible?
- Is my child learning that Jesus cares for others?
- Is my child starting to develop habits of thinking about others first?
- Does my child talk about ways to share Jesus with her friends or strangers?
- Is my child developing a character that values others and treats them as Jesus would?
- Does my child know God created them?
- Does my child feel confident because they know they were created by God?
- Is my child grasping that God has a plan for them?



### Helping with Adolescence

GRADES 5-6

- What does my preteen think of God?
- Can my teenager understand God is all-powerful?
- What is God saying to my preteen?
- Does my teen have a confident relationship with Jesus?
- Does my preteen understand and believe that Jesus is who He says He is?
- Does my teen understand why Jesus is so important for them and the world?
- Does my preteen have the drive to be a good friend to others?
- Is my teen learning how to share his faith with others?
- Does my preteen develop friendships that are healthy?
- Can my teen feel comfortable with herself because she knows that God makes no mistakes?
- Can my preteen articulate how he sees himself being used by God?
- Does my teen understand God wants to speak to her daily?

### Preparing for Young Adulthood

GRADES 7-8


### The Coaching Years

GRADES 9-11

### Prepare to Launch

SENIOR YEAR

- Does my teen have a deeper understanding of who God is and what He is like?
- Does my teen understand why God created the world and what His ultimate plan is?
- Does my teen have a relationship with God that is deepening and growing?
- Does my teen have a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what He came to do?
- Does my teenager live in the light of Jesus' return?
- Does my teen follow Jesus every day as a disciple?
- Does my teenager make disciples?
- Does my teenager share in the Great Commission locally and abroad?
- Does my teenager understand the role, purpose and importance of the local church?
- Does my teen understand why she was created?
- Does my teen steward his talents and time to others and those in need?
- Does my teen seek to deepen and grow in her spiritual life?



**Arriving at your destination  
takes work and discipline.  
Let the church support you on  
your journey as you travel  
with Flight Plan 252.**



# FLIGHT PLAN 252



PARKCITIES  
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