**The 4th-Soil Parenting Project**

**• A Partnership with the ministry research and resourcing organization Vibrant Faith, and the Lilly Endowment.**

**• I’d like to introduce our Project Team…** (Bring team up with you, introduce each one)

**• Focused on introducing a menu of simple ideas, small-group experiences, online events, and short-term growth experiences for parents**—all “experiments” in deepening the faith impact of the home in kids’ lives, embedded in the everyday rhythms of life.

**• The title refers to Jesus’s “Parable of the Soils”—**four soils, but only one provides a rich growth environment. The “soil” metaphor invites us to partner with God, to exercise our agency and creativity as we stay closely connected, for the purpose of “preparing the soil” of the home so that kids will grow deep in their faith.

• **Our Church Project Team** – Made up of 5-7 “stakeholders” in the church, working closely with a Vibrant Faith Ministry Leadership Coach to implement an ongoing menu of ministry “experiments” in the church. Each year the church project team will select two or more practical, innovative ways to “enrich the soil” of the home faith environment.

**• We start in 2023 and continue to 2026—**we’re one of just 20 participating churches from around the U.S.

• **Over the Summer, we’ll be listening to parents in our church…** We’ll be sharing a short three-question survey with the whole church, and we’ll be inviting 10 parents to join us for a special dinner-out “listening party”…

• **We will establish a feedback loop as parents try out these experiments**—as we collect feedback from our church and others around the country, we’ll learn what works and what doesn’t. We’ll hone these ideas together, helping establish a “4th-Soil Parenting” culture in our church, then exporting these ideas so that many more churches and parents can benefit from them.

• **Together, we will pursue three guiding priorities: Connected, Called, and Committed**. Some ideas will help our parents connect better with other parents. Some will help them discover and live out their calling as parents. And some will help them deepen their own relationship with God, influencing their kids toward a deeper faith.

• **The 4th-Soil Parenting Project is for all parents**—couples, singles, grandparents, and people who have assumed the role of a parent in their kids’ lives.