

THEOLOGICAL VISION FOR 4TH SOIL PARENTING

We Believe...

1. We believe that vibrant faith in Jesus Christ lived out in community transforms our world to more deeply reflect the Kingdom of God.
2. We believe that increasing parents' capacity to be present to the Spirit of God and to be present to others is formative and has a transformational influence on their children.
3. We believe that faith in God is primarily formed through trusting, loving relationships.
4. We believe that families are a living expression of the trinitarian God—a communion of persons bonded in abundant love that overflows and transforms the broader community.
5. We believe the church plays an indispensable, supportive, faith-forming role for parents who are the primary faith influencers in the lives of their children.
6. We believe that new forms of families share the same potential for holiness as “traditional families” and that children benefit from non-parent adults who relate to them like parents.
7. We believe that Christian practices centered on relationship building are powerful faith forming experiences.
8. We believe that the formation of faith is the intersection of God's grace and action in our lives, and our willing, open, and active response to that grace.
9. We believe that Christian faith, as shared in Scripture, is a story, and parents invite children to faith by engaging in a dynamic dialogue between their own life story and the Christian story, particularly as it is told and lived by Jesus in the Gospels.
10. We believe that parenting is a calling, and when parents become aware of their calling and respond to it with intention, parenting takes on new meaning resulting in stronger formation for the parents and their children.
11. We believe the process of Christian discipleship changes from culture to culture, but the flow of influence from parents to children in their faith development crosses cultural boundaries.
12. We believe that processes of deep listening, powerful questioning, and clear and direct communication can raise new awareness in a person and can be faith forming tools for parents.
13. We believe that a lifelong, embedded faith in God is primarily influenced by two factors: a) parents' vertical relational intimacy with God lived through Christian practices, and b) parents' horizontal relational intimacy with their children lived through warmth and appropriate structure.
14. We believe that parents set a “glass ceiling” of religious commitment above which their children infrequently rise.
15. We believe that parents who are confident in and equipped for a conversational approach that expresses their faith increases the odds of their children having a lifelong faith journey.