

GOSPELKIDS CONFERENCE 2026

**THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE
FAMILY AND THE CHURCH**



TIP #1

**CEASE ANY CONSCIOUS
OR SUBCONSCIOUS
AGGRESSION**

SEARCH FOR MACRO AND MICRO AGGRESSIONS

- ▶ When you think of the **home**, are you more **positive** or **negative**?

Thrilled ← Happy ← Good ← Content → Disappointed → Frustrated → Angry

SEARCH FOR MACRO AND MICRO AGGRESSIONS

- ▶ When your parents think of the **church**, are they more **positive** or **negative**?

Joyful ← Grateful ← Encouraged ← Content → Discouraged → Mad → Bitter

SEARCH FOR MACRO AND MICRO AGGRESSIONS

- ▶ Are there any **unspoken** or **unreasonable expectations** of one another?
 - ▶ **Attendance**
 - ▶ **Involvement**
 - ▶ **Serving**
 - ▶ **Discipleship**
 - ▶ **Other**

COURSE CORRECT AS NEEDED

- ▶ **Pray** for God to change your heart, and/or those of others
- ▶ **Repent** and **confess** (to others) as needed
- ▶ Draw a **“line in the sand”** for a new day
- ▶ Strive to **understand** “the other side”
- ▶ Find **middle ground** whenever possible (e.g., attendance)
- ▶ Always be an **ally** and **advocate**; never an opponent



TIP #2

**CHOOSE YOUR
ROLE CAREFULLY**

HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF AFFECTS HOW YOU BEHAVE

- ▶ Are you a **general**, giving orders from the rear?
- ▶ Are you an **adviser**, giving wise counsel to take or leave?
- ▶ Are you a **coach**, giving instruction based on experience?
- ▶ Are you a **guide**, traveling side by side or a step or two ahead?

HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF AFFECTS HOW YOU BEHAVE

- ▶ Your role **might change**
 - ▶ Depending on **season of life** and **ministry**
 - ▶ Depending on your **relationship** with others
 - ▶ Depending on what **each family needs**
 - ▶ Depending on the **topic**
- ▶ However, choose a **default role** that will inform your normal posture
 - ▶ I recommend a **guide**



TIP #3

**CONNECT LEARNING ON
CAMPUS TO LEARNING
IN THE HOME**

THE NON-NEGOTIABLE STANDARD

- ▶ Families should **never not know** what is being **studied** on campus
 - ▶ The overarching **discipleship plan** of each gathering
 - ▶ The annual/quarterly/unit **themes**
 - ▶ The weekly **lesson**
- ▶ Of course, you are only **accountable** for **sharing** this information; you cannot control families reading and ingesting it

TWO BASIC APPROACHES TO ALIGNMENT

- ▶ (1) An **aligned** scope and sequence
 - ▶ Discipleship on campus and in the home are **essentially integrated**
 - ▶ The home receives **content** to do in the home as the **core** of family discipleship
- ▶ **Content** sent home should be:
 - ▶ **Fleshed out**
 - ▶ **Comprehensive** and **exhaustive**
 - ▶ **Plug and play**

TWO BASIC APPROACHES TO ALIGNMENT

- ▶ (2) An **informed** scope and sequence
 - ▶ Discipleship on campus and in the home are **optionally connected**
 - ▶ The home receives **content** to do in the home as a **supplement** to family discipleship
- ▶ **Content** sent home should be:
 - ▶ **Higher** level
 - ▶ **Briefer** and **quicker**
 - ▶ **Adaptable**



TIP #4

**HOLD FAMILY EVENTS
SPARINGLY BUT
STRATEGICALLY**

DEVELOP THE RIGHT GOAL(S) FOR FAMILY EVENTS

- ▶ **Connection** and **relationship** building (this can stand alone!)

- ▶ e.g., Family picnic/game day

- ▶ **Encouragement**

- ▶ e.g., Appreciation banquet

- ▶ **Discipleship**

- ▶ e.g., Preteen family retreat

- ▶ **Evangelism/Outreach** (be realistic!)

- ▶ e.g., Family VBS

FIND THE RIGHT BALANCE FOR YOUR CONTEXT

- ▶ Ditch #1: Doing **too little**
 - ▶ Consider the spiritual, emotional, relational, etc. **needs** of families
- ▶ Ditch #2: Doing **too much**
 - ▶ Don't **over plan** your families
 - ▶ Let families **be families** and let them be **on mission**
 - ▶ See Tip #1—do we believe what happens **off campus is important?**



TIP #5

**CELEBRATE KEY
MILESTONES
TOGETHER**

HAVE A PLAN FOR RECOGNIZING, SUPPORTING, AND CELEBRATING

- ▶ **Birth**
- ▶ **Ages** and **Stages**
- ▶ **Promotions** (e.g., PS to elementary; elementary to middle)
- ▶ **Accomplishments** (e.g., making a team/band)
- ▶ **Salvation**
- ▶ **Baptism**
- ▶ First **Lord's Supper**



TIP #6

**SUPPORT PARENTS
HOLISTICALLY**

CONSIDER WHAT TO DO

- ▶ **Parent** training
 - ▶ Discipline
 - ▶ Ages and stages
 - ▶ ADHD; anxiety
 - ▶ Schooling choices
 - ▶ Sports and life
 - ▶ Sex and pornography

CONSIDER WHAT TO DO

- ▶ **Worldview** building
 - ▶ Identity
 - ▶ Gender
 - ▶ Ethnicity
 - ▶ Money

CONSIDER WHAT TO DO

- ▶ **Family discipleship** training
 - ▶ What it is
 - ▶ What is its goal
 - ▶ How to do it
 - ▶ Resources

CONSIDER WHAT TO DO

- ▶ **Support** groups
 - ▶ Loss of a child/family member
 - ▶ Abuse
 - ▶ Mixed faith homes

CONSIDER HOW TO DO IT

- ▶ You are not expected to be **omniscient**
 - ▶ Speak from a **gospel** lens
 - ▶ Quote or bring in **experts** as needed
- ▶ **Live** trainings
- ▶ **Recorded** trainings
- ▶ **Webpages**, brochures, and PDFs
- ▶ **Coffees**



TIP #7

**GIVE PARENTS A
VOICE AND THEN
LISTEN TO IT**

THE BEST COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIPS ARE TWO WAY

- ▶ Spend **time** with parents and listen to them
 - ▶ **Invite** them to share
 - ▶ **Pray** up, don't be **defensive**, and guard your **body language**
- ▶ Provide **surveys**
 - ▶ For specific events/ministries
 - ▶ In general

THE BEST COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIPS ARE TWO WAY

- ▶ Not every concern or idea shared is of **equal weight**
- ▶ Not every concern or idea should be **acted** on
- ▶ But every concern and idea should be **considered**
 - ▶ Is there any **truth** to it?
 - ▶ Is there any **action** to take?
 - ▶ Is there any **clarity** needed?



TIP #8

**LEVERAGE SOCIAL
MEDIA AND TEXTS
WELL**

BE CAREFUL AND REALISTIC WITH THIS COMMUNICATION

- ▶ It is **“low stakes”** for both you and families
 - ▶ Easy to **craft** and **post/send**
 - ▶ Easy to **ignore**
- ▶ Mind **privacy** and **safety** concerns
 - ▶ e.g., posting kids' photos on public social media page

BE CAREFUL AND REALISTIC WITH THIS COMMUNICATION

- ▶ Be judicious in **quantity**, **quality**, and **length** of these messages
- ▶ Provide **opt out**
 - ▶ This gives you analytics into effectiveness
- ▶ Avoid **group texts**
 - ▶ Unless you use a platform that a parent can leave/silence

WHAT TO POST

- ▶ Key weekly **takeaways**
- ▶ Big **questions** and **concepts**
- ▶ Memory **verses**
- ▶ Memorable **moments**
- ▶ Upcoming **events**
- ▶ Prior **events**

WHEN TO POST

- ▶ Develop an expected **cadence** and **structure**
 - ▶ e.g., Family texts Mondays at 10 a.m.
 - ▶ Using a standard template
 - ▶ e.g., 2 weeks prior to event, 1 week prior, 1 day prior, 1 day after, 1 week after
- ▶ As **opportunities** present themselves
 - ▶ Especially social media

BREAKOUT EVALUATION FORM

