

# FRONTIER FOR KIDS



**BY: CHRISTOPHER SEAN GUNKEL**

# FRONTIER FOR KIDS 1.0

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Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old  
he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6 NKJV)

# PROLOGUE

The best program in the world for kids is the saved parent. Parents create the culture that molds children into their future selves. But many times the parents are learning how to be Christians at the same time their kids are learning. So, the church has an important role in the spiritual development of the children as well. Thus, “Frontier for Kids” was conceived. Traditional Sunday School programs tend to just occupy time while the adults do the “real” learning. Drawing, arts and crafts, and crossword puzzles have their place, I guess. But, what if there was an environment where learning about the Bible and how to navigate life was an adventure? A real adventure. So much an adventure that kids begged their parents to go. What if? Well, that is the vision and purpose of Frontier for Kids. A place where kids will be challenged to learn. A place where boys can learn by competing, working with their hands, and male influence. A place where girls can learn by expressing themselves, modeling godly women in the Bible, and by receiving help from female influence. What if Frontier was so attractive and challenging that kids from school and the local neighborhood wanted to go? What if Frontier was a place that kids desired to rise up through the ranks? That “What if” is going to become a reality with the help and inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the teachers that are willing to lead the adventure. I pray that it will be so!

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# 1.

## HOW IT WORKS

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**S**implicity is the goal. New students will enroll in Frontier for Kids online. Upon enrollment, all kids regardless of age will start at the first level. Below are the levels:

White - Adventurer

Blue - Explorer

Yellow - Pioneer

Green - Navigator

Black - Ambassador

Each name represents a level of spirituality, knowledge (biblical and practical), commitment, ethics, and honor. The kids will wear a bracelet of that color and name. This “level” will be a testimony and reminder for themselves and the world. They will wear it with pride and protect it because of what it represents. It represents hard work and honor. To get to the next level they will be required to take a test (verbal and written). The test will be conducted by the pastor. If they pass the test they will be promoted in a ceremony in front of the church. The promotion to the next level is an honor for the kids, the parents, and the teachers. The goal is that parents and teachers develop their kids to reach each level.

The levels will have specific minimum requirements to be learned. White, obviously, being geared toward the complete novice. And black being close to adult comprehension and spirituality. In fact, the kids that eventually graduate to Ambassador will know more about the Bible and life than many adults! In the following pages we will define what is expected at each level. Also, the following pages will contain what will generally be taught. For example:

1. Basic Bible history.
2. How to pray the sinner's prayer.
3. The "Big 5" (Prayer, Bible, Church, Fellowship, and Witnessing)
4. Moral Code: Reverence, Integrity, Doing their best, generosity, leadership, self control, team spirit, punctuality, Dependability, Etiquette, etc.
5. U.S. History
6. Our Fellowship History | Memorial Stones
7. 10 commandments
8. Law vs Grace - Innocent dies for the guilty.
9. How to read the Bible
10. Baptism in water. Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
11. Importance of reading books
12. Calling: Pastors, Missionaries, Pillars, etc.
13. Obeying parents/authority
14. How to conduct themselves in church
15. Why we do what we do in church services
16. Adopt a country to pray for
17. The trinity and basic Christian doctrine
18. Bible verse memorization.
19. Friendship
20. Fruitfulness

Each level will be customized according to spiritual maturity. But all kids, regardless of physical age, will start at the first level.



## **Changing of Levels**

Only two times a year the kids will have the opportunity to advance to the next level - January and July. They will be required to take a “test” conducted by the pastor. It will be at the discretion of the teacher to allow the kids to take the test. Only when he/she (the teacher) thinks the student is ready and confident will the student be allowed to be tested. The test will be verbal and/or written based on the individual level. No child will be permitted to advance if the child does not have a good reputation at home, in public, and/or at school. To be promoted is a privilege and honor, not a right. Parents are encouraged to prepare their child for promotion.

### **Ceremony**

Sunday evening before the preaching will be the graduation to the next level. The kids will be handed their new “color” and given a certificate of achievement. Pastor will pray for them and the church will celebrate with food and fellowship. The idea is to make the promotion meaningful and eventful.

### **Faixas**

#### **White - Adventurer**

Entry level. Each child is automatically an “adventurer” regardless of age and spiritual level. They will be taught that they are beginning their adventure into the Bible and life.

#### **Blue - Explorer**

An explorer WANTS to know more and is willing to put in the effort to find out more. The child must show this desire!

## Yellow - Pioneer

Dominate the unknown. This level shows a level of self discipline. Shows courage at all levels of life.

## Green - Navigator

A Navigator represents who and what we are as Christians. Paul said, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ". This is that level. Other kids can reference themselves from their life. They will be held accountable at a high level for their behavior and knowledge of the Bible.

## Black - Ambassador

When the child reaches this level they will be authorized to teach the younger levels. This level will be extremely difficult to reach on purpose. Not impossible, but very difficult.

## Classes

Each class will target a specific discipline: Bible learning, an area in the moral code, history, etc. Classes will be conducted during a designated church service after song service. [The idea is that the kids will practice what they learn during worship: reverence to God, why we clap, sing, raise our hands, pray in the Spirit, etc.] The classes will be an ADVENTURE. Each class will be designed to NOT BE BORING. The classes will involve practical application, competition, projects, and intentional learning. **The goal is to make each class so exciting that the kids will beg their parents to come back.** Attendance will be recorded and graphed for all the kids to see. Attendance will be a huge part of getting to the next level. Some classes will integrate boys and girls together and some classes separate the boys

from the girls. Classes will always involve an object lesson and practical application.

### **Field Trips**

The classroom will not be limited to the church building. From time to time the students will adventure outdoors to learn. Once a year there will be a camping trip for students and their parents to attend.

# 2.

## THE “WHY”

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To know the “what” and “how” without the “why” tends to lead to a loss of vision. It has always been my conviction to teach the “why”. When I understand why I’m doing something the “what” and “how” come very easy. When parents, teachers AND kids grasp the “why” of Frontier the “what” and “how” will organically happen. I hope to be able to express it clearly. Simply put: Frontier for Kids is practical learning about the Bible and how to navigate through life. Practical means usable. Frontier has to use common sense when teaching. What skill will the kids use for the rest of their life? They should know how to navigate through the Bible. They should know that Jesus and the Church are relevant to their life. They should know basic etiquette: conversation skills, respect for authority, learning how to say “thank you” when someone does something for them, reverence in God’s house, self confidence, working as a team, etc. Many of the skills can be learned in other places, but why not teach these skills in context to the most important thing in life . . . salvation? Church is a learning ground for making disciples. Frontier is the learning ground for future disciples.

The challenge will be to make Frontier an actual adventure each and every class. This will require prayer and guidance from the Holy Spirit on the part of the teachers. I imagine that Frontier will evolve over time based on future

inspiration. We learn by trial and error. We learn by what works and does not work. Since we are pioneering Frontier we are blazing the trail from ground zero. I titled this book “Frontier for Kids 1.0” because eventually this book will evolve over time. So, the “why” is more important than the “what” and “how”. The “why” must be captured in our heart for the success of Frontier.

Why levels? Levels are reference points. Something to aspire to. Something to inspire future kids. An accomplishment to be proud of. We tend to respond to positive challenges. We value our achievements only if they are difficult to attain. Whatever is easily gained is under valued. The levels need to be difficult to attain so they hold their value. That will be the responsibility of the teacher and parents. The idea is that teachers and parents will use the levels as tools remind the kids of what they represent. The scripture that comes to mind:

“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.” Luke 12:48 NKJV

The military uses ranks to show levels of leadership, levels of maturity, and levels of vision. In the American military the rank structure for officers starts with bars and ends with stars. Each level is a rise in altitude. The higher you go the further you can see (vision) and the more you are seen by others (responsibility).

- 1 bar - Lieutenant (First step on a fence)
- 2 bars - Captain (Second step up on a fence)
- Leaf - Major {Tree}
- Crow - Colonel (Bird)
- Stars - General

That same concept can be applied here. When I was in the military I aspired to higher ranks. I saw a physical representation of leadership and knew where I was and where I wanted to be. I can picture new kids seeing the older kids with a blue or green bracelet and saying, “Wow, how did you get there?” And with pride the older kids will say, “Hard work!”. That’s the vision! That’s the idea. Hopefully that explains the “why” of levels.

Overall, for Frontier for Kids to work properly it will require the parents and the teachers to embrace the “why”. It will be mini-culture in the church. Instead of kids being “baby sat” in a classroom so they can color or make crafts that make no sense to them, they will be given life skills as an investment into their future. Get it?

# 3.

## THE MORAL CODE

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**C**ulture plays a HUGE role in developing morals. We tend to adopt the mentalities of our parents, our society, and our schooling. It's only natural. Well, the church is a culture within a culture. The more we are exposed to the Biblical culture, the more we will think and act Biblically. For example: I preached not long ago on being a man/woman of your word. Our word is our bond. When we lie or do not do what we say, people lose confidence in us. The preaching creates that culture and the pastor holds men and women accountable to that expectation. This a good thing! For many people they never were held accountable or never given that type of reference point in life (for whatever reason). Well, sometimes children are left out of that accountability because they are "kids". Could we be missing a golden opportunity? An opportunity to mold kids at an early age? To give kids some structure that they could be missing in other places in life? When they walk through the doors of the church they should know that this place is different. It's a place of high expectation. It's a place where God speaks to His people. It's a place where we learn about life. It's a place where we serve, love people, and learn to empathize. The church is a culture that develops a moral code for society, so it should be that as well for kids.

Here is a problem that I am recognizing in children today. They are hooked on electronic devices. Parents use the cell phone and tablets to baby-sit their kids. The problem with that? Children lack the skills to communicate. Children are more concerted with video games than human interaction. How will that work in the future? How will they connect to human emotions properly if they don't learn people skills early on? What if we taught them that when there are human beings around they must interact with them? One of the rules for Aventura is: **NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN CLASS**. No exceptions. I love it! I can't wait to see their faces try to comprehend living for an hour without being connected. Hopefully parents will learn from this lesson as well. But I digress. Here is my point: I want the culture of the church to create the importance of developing our kids with a good moral code. Here are a few things that come to mind:

- Others come first (ie: when food/anything is served)
- Saying please and thank you
- Obeying authority (any adult)
- Opening the door for others
- Standing when we pray
- Obviously no cuss words or vulgar words
- Including and welcoming new kids
- Eating properly
- Picking up trash
- Cleaning up after themselves
- Dressing properly for church (respect for the King)
- Punctuality
- Man/Woman of their word

What if that was the culture of the church? What if every adult learned to instill those moral codes into the children? It would be revolutionary! The kids would be exposed to that culture and leave with people skills. It would eventually translate to every area of their life. They would be all the more successful because of it.



# 4.

## CREED, CODE, MOTTO

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**C**reed - a set of beliefs or aims which guide someone's actions (Oxford Dictionary). Here it goes:

### **Creed:**

As an Adventurer,  
I will do my best at all times:  
To honor Jesus Christ with my life;  
To serve the needs of others;  
To obey my parents.

### **Church Code:**

As an adventurer,  
I will do my best at all times:  
To respect adults;  
To welcome visitors;  
To take care of God's House.

### **Motto:**

“Work hard”

## **Principle Scriptures:**

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Prov 22:6 NKVJ

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:1-4 NKJV

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 NKJV

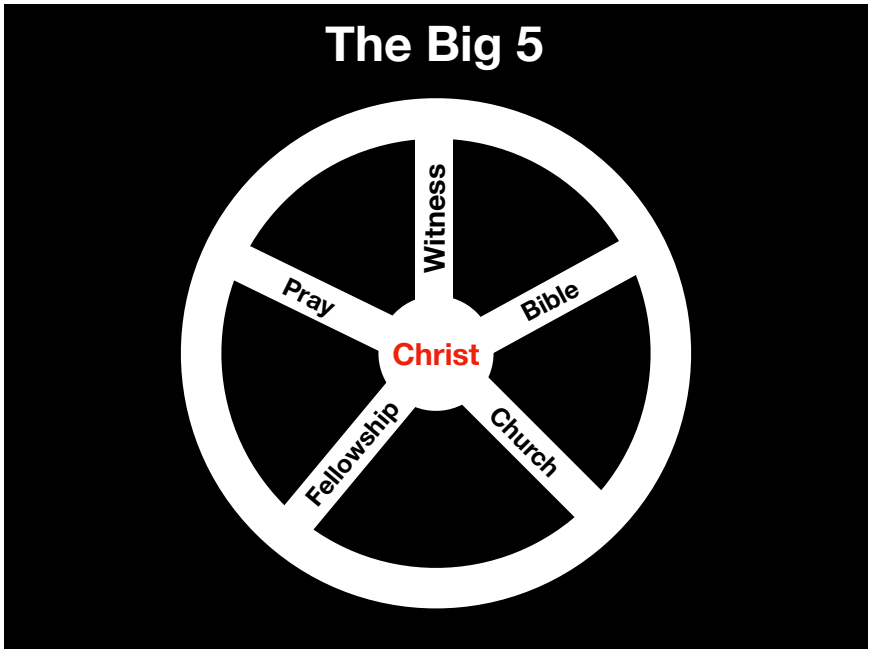
The creed, the code, and the motto needs to be understood, repeated, and enforced over and over and over.

# 5.

## THE FUNDAMENTALS

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**F**undamentals - of central importance (Miriam-Webster). We must master the basics. There are fundamental teachings that create the foundation of Christian living. Instilling those into the children at an early age will make it second nature when they are older.



**Prayer** - prayer is communication with God. We speak to God and God speaks to us. Prayer to our invisible God is not natural and therefore has to be developed and taught. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray; when Jesus responded He was inferring that it indeed can be taught. (Luke 11:1-4). Luke chapter 11:1-4 will be the best place to start to teach the ingredients of prayer:

**Luke 11:1** Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." **2** So He said to them, "When you pray, say: **Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.** **3** **Give us day by day our daily bread.** **4** **And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."**

**Bible** - God's word is our doctrine. What we know about God comes from His Word. How we build our life, our family, and our church comes from God's Word; nothing more and nothing less. The kids must own a Bible, bring a Bible to class, and know their Bible like the back of their hand. We

know though countless scriptures that success is determined by meditating in God's word (Ref: Joshua 1:8).

**Church** - Paul tells us not to miss church (Hebrews 10:25). The church is God's Body, God's Army, and God's Team in order to accomplish His will on Earth. God's house is a place to meet with God, meet with brothers and sisters, and hear what God wants to say through the preaching. The church is God's idea! (Matthew 16:18).

**Fellowship** - the linking of hearts between the brethren. The strength of a church is the relationship that is made with each other. We need each other. Our calling and survival is linked to one another. (Acts 2:42-47)

**Witness** - We are the light of the world. Our testimony is evidence that God lives in us and changed us. We are called to share that testimony as a witness to what we have experienced. Not much more convincing than a changed life. (Acts 4:20).



The above references to the "Big 5" are by no means an exhaustive Bible study on the subjects.

### **Sinner's Prayer**

Every Christian should know how to lead a sinner in a prayer of repentance. (Romans 10:9-10)

A - Admit - "I admit that I am a sinner. I recognize that I am wrong."

B - Believe - "I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins. I believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven."

C - Commit - "I make Jesus my Lord. I surrender my life to Jesus Christ."

## **Baptism in water**

Baptism in water is a public declaration of a new life in Christ. It is symbolic of dying to our old nature and being resurrected by the power of Christ. The age at which a child can be baptized depends on his/her understanding of salvation. Can the child explain by himself why they are saved? Do they understand what sin and repentance are? Do they know why they are getting baptized?

## **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

Paul was traveling and encountered some believers on the way. His first question to them was, "Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?". They replied that they didn't even know what that was. This is the same story for many Christians today. It's simply not preached and practiced. It was Paul's first question to them because of how important the experience is. Jesus said that it is BETTER for Him to go so that the Holy Spirit could be given to the believers. Jesus also told the disciples NOT to leave Jerusalem until they received the the promise of the Father; the Holy Spirit. (Acts 19:1-2, John 16:7, Acts 1:4)

## **Tithes and Offerings**

10% of our income belongs to God and goes into His house. God's idea not mine! It's His way to cause our hearts to be invested in His church. Our hearts follow our treasure. Offerings are sacrifices. We give gifts to those we love. An offering is a gift that says to God that we love Him. In general, generous people are blessed. Not only financially,

but in most areas of life. Giving is an outward manifestation of inward gratitude. (Matthew 6:21, Luke 6:38)

## **Church Vocabulary**

Pastor - a man who has the call to pastor/shepherd people. He is married and has a physical church, and has individuals in the congregation.

Pastor's wife - a woman who has the call to support her husband's ministry.

New convert - a person who truly repented [recently] of his sins and is following Jesus Christ in a local church.

Disciple - a person who is an apprentice to Jesus and his pastor. He/she is disciplined in the big 5, baptized in water and the Holy Spirit, and is looking for a person to disciple.

Missionary - Is a person who is a pastor/pastor's wife that pioneering a church in a country outside the country of the mother church.

Church service - An in person meeting of Christians [and visitors] in a predetermined place. It is the time to praise God, listen to the sermon, and to respond to the altar call.

Religious person - A person who has the appearance of a Christian, uses religious words, and knows a lot about the things of the church . . . BUT doesn't live a life that matches the Bible.

## **Law vs Grace**

The Bible is divided into two main sections. The Old Testament and the New Testament. Testament simply means = contract. The old contract and the new contract. The Old Contract required the blood and death of an innocent animal

to cover the sins of guilty man. The law, or 10 commandments, of the Old Testament simply showed man that he was far from being able to be perfect and desperately needed a Savior; and only an animal sacrifice would appease God until that Savior came. Jesus was that Savior that came with a new “contract”. He was able to create a new contract because he fulfilled the old contract by being perfect and innocent of all sin. The new contract states that anyone who confesses their guilt and makes Jesus their Lord gets to claim Him to fulfill the requirement of the Old Contract. The new contract is grace! The innocent died for the guilty. It cannot be earned, only given by the grace of God. Children and adults alike must understand that there are consequences for breaking God’s law — death! To the degree that they understand the consequences of sin, will be the degree that they appreciate what Jesus did by paying for our sin on the cross. Law must be understood in order to understand what John said in the Bible: “Beyond the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29)

When parents discipline their kids for disobedience they are in all actuality teaching them law vs grace. Pain is the consequence for sin and disobedience. They must feel pain to know that sin hurts themselves, others, and God. Then one day they will hear the preaching of the Gospel from the pastor that says, “Jesus took your punishment on the cross. You are guilty but Jesus is willing to forgive you if you admit you are wrong”. At that moment they will appreciate what Jesus did for them because of years of feeling physical and mental pain by being disciplined for disobedience from their parents. It will click! Aventura for kids will reinforce that idea in class and through life lessons. Teachers, the pastor, and parents will work together to make sure the kids grasp the concept of law vs grace.



## Reading

Could anything be better for the brain than reading? I am no scientist but I'm pretty sure that reading exercises critical thinking skills and adds to knowledge. I don't think I will get much pushback from anyone reading this right now. There is a reason that during the time of slavery in the United States that the law prohibited slaves from reading and educating themselves. Why? Knowledge is power. Knowledge is freedom. It was Hosea that was given the word from God:

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.  
Because you have rejected knowledge,  
I also will reject you from being priest for Me;  
Because you have forgotten the law of your God,  
I also will forget your children. (Hosea 4:6)

That is a scary indictment of God's leaders. We have a responsibility to serve our generation by encouraging reading books. I am reminded of Ben Carson the neurosurgeon. His story is inspiring to say the least. His mother realized that rich people read books. They were poor and she had enough. She forced her boys to read two books a week and limited TV to one hour a week, I think. Regardless, her two boys grew up to do extraordinary things in spite of being born in abject poverty. What if Aventura para kids created that culture of reading the Bible and reading books? What would happen to our kids? They would be far ahead of the majority of kids in Brazil; and the world for that matter. And, they would develop critical thinking skills in order to form their own educated opinions rather than repeating what other people say. Mind blowing concept!

## Obedience to authority

Listen to this Old Testament law:

Deuteronomy 21:18 “If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, 19 then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. 20 And they shall say to the elders of his city, “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ 21 Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

Did you read that? Can you believe that? Crazy! Glad we are not under the law, huh? Here is my question: Why was that a law? Was it to scare the kids into obedience? I don't think so. Or was it written to scare the parents into training their kids to be respectable young men and women? I think so! Obviously, no parent in their right mind wants to see their kid executed. So, in order to avoid that fate, the parents had to teach their kids how to respect authority. The consequences for not doing so were grave to say the least. Listen to what God says about authority in the New Testament:

Romans 13:1 (NKJV) Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV) Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Disobedient and rebellious small children are the product of lazy parents. Sorry, I said it. And we are all guilty to some degree. We must curb their rebellion as early as possible. I understand personality. I get it. I understand that there are some strong willed kids. But the law does not ask about personality when judging rebellious kids. There is no excuse for a child to hit his mother, back-talk, and disobey commands. NO EXCUSE! They are not always “tired”. We must learn to draw and teach the boundaries and then make them feel the consequences of disobedience. But there is a very important lesson for parents and teachers: We must train them to obey. We must teach them why certain boundaries are in place. Discipline without teaching is abuse. How are they supposed to obey the boundary is if you don't teach them where the boundary is and the importance of that boundary?

# 7.

## THE POTTER'S HOUSE

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In 1970 Wayman and Nelda Mitchell moved to Prescott to take over a small, struggling congregation. Shortly after arriving, God saved a number of young hippies who were very different than anyone in the church. But as they were welcomed, God began to pour out His Spirit on the congregation. As Pastor Mitchell sought to reach young people, they saw the possibilities of the “coffee-house” concert ministry. At the first concert they ever tried as an evangelistic tool, more than 200 young people attended, with many saved. Out of this a regular concert ministry was birthed. 2 nights a week, bands played, testimonies of salvation were given and the Gospel was preached, with many being saved each night.

From the beginning, Pastor Mitchell understood that concert ministry was to be a training ground of ministry development; It was run by young people who were committed to Jesus and His church. From the beginning, people who had been radically converted sought to share with others what God had done in them. Personal evangelism began to be one of the basic foundations of the church. Then came impact teams: Groups of people that would travel to other nearby cities to help people there experience what God was doing here. Over time, God began to reveal His plan of discipleship: Training young couples for ministry within a local

church. In 1973 the first couple was launched directly into the ministry – and God blessed them! Churches then began to be planted throughout the Southwestern United States, and then further across America as converts prayed for the Gospel to be preached in their hometowns.

In 1978 the first couple was planted into another nation – Australia; and we discovered the Gospel worked there, just like it did here. After that, churches were planted in Mexico, Holland and Germany then as we came to understand God’s global mission more and more, churches began to be planted throughout the world. To date, there are over 3,100 churches throughout the United States and the world. [Ref: Worldcfm.com]

In 2017 Pastor Christopher and Allison were sent from our fellowship church pastored by Dave Szczepanski in Jacksonville, N.C. United States to start The Potter’s House in Curitiba, Brazil.

### **Pastor Christopher**

Pastor Christopher grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. His father left when he was 2 years old. He was raised alone by his mother. His mother eventually re-married when he was twelve years old. His family attended a religious church that never taught what true salvation is. In search of something that would fill an emptiness, Christopher quit college to join the military. Little did he know that far from home, in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, God would cause him to cross paths with a member of The Potter’s House. He was introduced to true salvation and the Holy Spirit. On April 8, 1992 he was radically filled with God’s Spirit. On May 16th, 1993 he married Allison Stertmeyer and moved her to Jacksonville, N.C. to start their new life in God and church. In 1994 their first daughter, Ashley, was born. Also in 1994 Christopher felt the call to one day be a pastor and

missionary. In 1996 their second daughter, McKenzie, was born. Six year after the call from God to be a pastor, Christopher and Allison were sent to Norfolk, Virginia to be pioneers. They saw a miracle revival. God took the church from 10 to over 300 in 5 years. Then God radically changed their plans by calling them to let go of the their church, family, and the United States and go to the nation of Argentina to start a church. They took the leap of faith. The first three years in Mendoza, Argentina the church grew slowly. Then it took off! Lot's of young couples and families locked in. The church was nationalized in 2010 and Christopher and Allison headed back to the United States to take over a church in Miami, Florida. Christopher's plan was to "retire" in Florida! But we all know that our plans tend to get interrupted by God's plans! Six years later, at the Prescott Bible Conference, God once again called Christopher and Allison to be missionaries. This time to Brazil. In spite of a new house and plans to retire they once again took the leap. Now they are back in the United States pastoring a thriving church in Stafford, Virginia.

### **Allison**

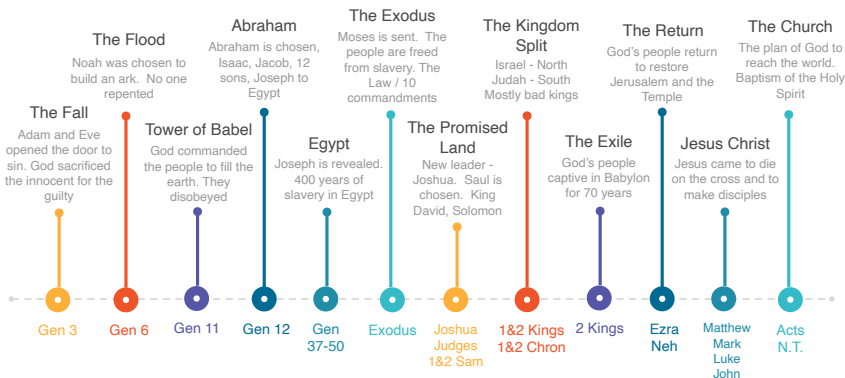
Christopher's wife Allison grew up in an affluent community in Cincinnati, Ohio. She did not grow up in church. She did not even know who Noah was until she got saved! With no exposure to Christianity, she was amazingly open to God when she was first introduced to the gospel. There was a desire to know God that has never stopped. What is remarkable about her life is her willingness to sacrifice. She let go of her family and all security to answer the call of God to move to other nations. Who does that? Not many. She is an incredible example to so many people. She is a model pastor's wife.

# 8.

## BIBLE HISTORY

Context is crucial for learning. One of our principle objectives is to teach the context of the Bible. Google maps give us a good illustration to understand the power of context. We can zoom all the way out and see the entire planet observing each continent. As we zoom in we comprehend specific locations based on previous context. Without understanding the big picture of the Bible it is virtually impossible to understand the small pictures correctly.

### Biblical Timeline • Major Events



For example: Why were their kings of Israel and kings of Judah? Without knowing why there were kings in Israel's

history in the first place and where this happened on the biblical timeline, it will be difficult to contextualize the reason why. So, it will be our goal that the kids learn the main events and main characters of the Bible in order. That way when they are older they will have a well rounded context of the entire Bible.



# 10.

## CONCLUSION

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**W**e have an obligation to invest early and often into our children. I hope that by the invention and inspiration of Frontier for Kids we take our call seriously. Frontier's ultimate purpose is to be intentional with our limited time with the kids. It is up to the parents to continue the education at home. It is up to the parents to be the living example of an Ambassador. Frontier is by no means the panacea; it is a piece of the puzzle that forms the character of our children. It is meant to inspire, challenge, and teach.

This first copy is only the beginning of the adventure. Like any explorer there is a lot to learn as we go. Frontier for Kids will encounter obstacles along the way. The hope is that you and others will assume responsibility and make this program a success. Only by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit will we be able to make lasting impact in the lives of our children. I believe in it.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Pastor Gunkel has been pastoring since 2000. He has pastored in Norfolk, Virginia; Mendoza, Argentina; Miami, Florida; Curitiba, Brazil; and Stafford, Virginia.



# Rethink Sunday School

Frontier for Kids transforms traditional Sunday School into a dynamic adventure, making Bible learning and life skills engaging for children. Designed to captivate and challenge, this program offers boys opportunities for competition and hands-on projects, while girls gain inspiration through self-expression and role models. With the guidance of dedicated teachers and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Frontier for Kids aims to become a place where children eagerly participate and grow in their faith.