Introducing "The Handoff" - A Note to Parents

Hello Catalyst Parent(s),

We hope you're doing well! We're excited to be kicking off a new three-week series called ***The Handoff***. We wanted to give you a heads-up about what we'll be covering and invite you into the conversation along the way.

This series is built around the image of a relay race. For two thousand years, the Gospel has been carried from one generation to the next, like a baton being passed from one runner to another. Someone carried it before us. Someone carried it to us. And now our students are part of that same story.

Our goal isn't simply to give students a history lesson. We want them to see that the church has always been filled with ordinary people who chose to follow Jesus faithfully. Students don't have to be older, more confident, or have everything figured out before God can work through them. They already have a part to play.

Below is a brief overview of what we'll be discussing each week, along with some questions you can use to keep the conversation going at home.

Series Overview

This three-week series will help students see the faith they've inherited as something real people carried to them and understand what it looks like to carry that same faith forward themselves.

Session 1: The First Runners
This week, we'll begin in Acts 2 with the earliest followers of Jesus. The church didn't start with impressive or unusually qualified people. It started with a relatively small group of ordinary people who said yes to Jesus and then kept showing up. We'll look at the way they learned together, shared what they had, lived in community, and carried out the mission Jesus had given them.
Big Idea: The mission started with ordinary people saying yes.
Primary Scripture: Acts 2:42-47
Questions for Discussion:

- When you hear, "God can use ordinary people," is that easy or difficult to believe about yourself specifically? Why?
- We said the mission moved through community, not solo heroes. Where in your life is it easiest to go alone? Why do you think that is?

Session 2: The Ones Who Kept Running
Next, we'll turn to Hebrews 11 and 12 and talk about the people who kept the baton moving. Many of them never saw where their faithfulness would lead, and most of the people who carried the Gospel throughout history never had their

names remembered at all. Students will be challenged to think about what it means to remain faithful when nobody is watching or giving them credit.
Big Idea: Unseen faithfulness is never wasted.
Primary Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-2, 39-40; Hebrews 12:1
Questions for Discussion:

- How much does it affect your motivation to do something well if you know nobody's going to see it or notice? Why do you think that is?
- Who's someone, past or present, whose faith makes you want to keep going? What is it about them?

Session 3: Your Leg of the Race
In our final week, the baton reaches our students. We'll look at the Apostle Paul near the end of his life and at what he wrote years earlier while he was still running his race. Students will see that faithfulness isn't about getting everything right. It's about continuing to follow Jesus and faithfully running the part of the race they've been given.
Big Idea: The baton is in your hands now.
Primary Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7-8; Philippians 3:12-14
Questions for Discussion:

- Have you ever felt too young, too inexperienced, or too unsure for God to use you? What encouragement would you give to someone else who might be feeling that way?
- Paul said Jesus took hold of him first. How does that change the way you think about following Jesus?

Our hope is that these conversations continue at home. Your student's faith didn't begin with them, and they aren't meant to carry it alone. You are one of the people helping pass that faith to them, and your voice matters.

As always, please feel free to reach out with questions at any time!

Blessings,

Catalyst Youth