



e t c h  
equipping and transforming  
church and home



**ETCH** is the Thomasville Road Baptist Church strategy for Equipping and Transforming Church and Home. The goal of **ETCH** is to connect the church and home in the spiritual formation of its members ***in order to be radically transformed by the power of Christ to make a radical impact on our world.*** **ETCH** will help your household establish a rhythm of moments and milestones that shape hearts into the image of Christ and leave a legacy of faith.

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## ? What is the Biblical Foundation for ETCH?

The ultimate mission of the church is to make disciples. Jesus' marching orders to his followers, referred to as the Great Commission, were as follows:

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

—Matthew 28:16-20, ESV

### ? If we are called to "make disciples," what exactly is a "disciple?"

The Bible describes a disciple as someone who:

- follows Jesus (Luke 9:23),
- loves God (Matt 22:36-37),
- loves others (Matt 22:38),
- obeys God's teachings (John 8:31), and
- makes disciples that makes disciples (Matthew 28:16-20).

**Being a disciple begins with a commitment to follow Christ, but involves a lifetime process of being radically transformed into the image of Christ.** (2 Cor 3:18)

? **But isn't that why I come to church?** Yes, but if you only practice your faith on Sundays, you will miss out on many other opportunities throughout the week to grow in your faith.

- **The average person spends 40-50 hours a year at church,**
- **They have 3,000 hours at home (outside of sleep, work and school).**

Discipleship is most effective when these two influences are strategically combined to maximize impact.

? **What is the role of the church versus the home in the development of faith?** God's Word makes it clear that the role of the church is "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Eph 4:11-12). For households that involve parents and children, we recognize that God has called parents to serve as primary disciple-makers in their children's lives. Our role then, as the church, is to come alongside to equip, support, and partner with the home as together we make disciples of the next generation (Deut. 6:4-9; Psa. 78:5-6; Eph. 6:4).

Therefore, we have created a strategy that spans from the cradle to the grave, and is aimed at partnering the church and home together in faith formation.

## ? What does the ETCH strategy involve?

The **ETCH** strategy involves two primary components: **ETCH-Life** and **ETCH-Ed**. Both aspects are aimed at equipping and transforming church and home.

**eL** **ETCH-Life** is our life-span approach to connecting the church and home in the discipleship of its members. It involves working within the natural development of life during key times of transition to celebrate milestones and create moments for building faith.

- **Milestones:** Throughout the Bible, at times when the people of God had an encounter with God, they would pause to build an altar to commemorate what God has done (*i.e. Joshua 8*). Likewise, as we transition from one major life stage to another, we want to take time to stop and reflect on God's work in our lives and prepare for what lies ahead.
- ? **What will this mean for me and my household?**
  - Regardless of where you are along the journey of life, we will have new opportunities to celebrate these milestones and equip you for the next phase of life. Much of this equipping will come through our **ETCH-Ed** ministry (see page 5).
  - If you have children in the home, you will begin to see more intentional experiences at church aimed at commemorating these milestones, as well as church-home partnerships designed to walk with you through these key life events (see the "**ETCH-Life Map**" on pages 6-7).
- **Moments:** In Moses' final address to the nation of Israel, he stressed the importance of creating a rhythm where faith formation was a part of daily life. In Deuteronomy 6, Moses shared these profound words that are still relevant to the 21st century church:

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. Deuteronomy 6:4-7, ESV*

- These words of Moses provide a template for key **moments** when faith can be woven into the fabric of everyday life. The **ETCH** strategy involves equipping the home to take advantage of teachable moments built into the natural rhythm of everyday life to impress spiritual truths.



- **What will this mean for me and my household?**

- No matter where you are on your spiritual and developmental journey, we want to provide additional resources that will allow you to extend what you learned at church throughout the week. These resources may come in the form of additional devotional materials that flow out of the weekly sermon, prayer guides, and other tools aimed at helping you develop personal spiritual habits.
- If you have children in the home, you will begin to see more resources available to you as you disciple your own children. Some of these tools will come in the form of take-home resources aimed at reinforcing what your children learned at church. Other tools will come in the form of classes designed to equip you as you look for ways to make the most of every day moments with your family to build a legacy of faith.

The **ETCH-Life Map** (pages 6-7) depicts the key ages, stages, and milestones that individuals experience throughout their lives. At each point along the Life Map, we want to come alongside the home as they transition to this next phase—to celebrate the milestone and equip the home for creating teachable moments within the natural rhythm of life.



**ETCH-Ed** is the education arm of the **ETCH** strategy. It involves creating space in our church programming for equipping our faith family and discipling them in their walk.



**But isn't that what Sunday small groups are for?** Yes, of course.

Our Sunday morning Small Group Bible Studies are one of our key discipleship strategies, and will continue to serve an important role in studying God's Word in a relational environment. However, we recognize that there is a need for additional discipleship that is Biblically-based, topical, and addresses real-life concerns throughout the life-span. Therefore, we recently modified our Wednesday night programming to make space for **ETCH-Ed**.

# Laying a Foundation

# Leading to Faith



**Milestone**  
Pregnancy/  
Childbirth



**Milestone**  
Entering  
Preschool



**Milestone**  
• Salvation  
• Baptism



**Milestone**  
Entering  
Kindergarten



# etchLIFE

Launching  
into  
Adulthood

Leaving  
a Legacy

SCHOOL  
GRADES  
6-8

**Milestone**  
Entering  
Middle School

SCHOOL  
GRADES  
9-12

**Milestone**  
Entering/  
Graduating  
High School

**ADULTHOOD**  
AGES  
18-24

**Milestone**  
• Entering/Graduating  
College, Military,  
Tech School or  
Workforce  
• Independent Living

**ADULTHOOD**  
AGES  
60+

**Milestone**  
Retirement

**Milestone**  
• Empty Nest  
• Grandparenting

**ADULTHOOD**  
AGES  
40-60

**ADULTHOOD**  
AGES  
25-40

**Milestone**  
• Engagement  
• Marriage  
• Birth of First Child

## ? When will Etch-Ed happen?

In Fall 2017, we kicked off **ETCH-Ed** on Wednesday nights. **ETCH-Ed**, includes a variety of short-term topical studies for individuals from all walks of life aimed at building a lifelong legacy of faith. We will have a variety of tracts each semester, including:

- Biblical studies;
- general discipleship classes;
- topics for families;
- prayer and support;
- health and wellness, and
- leadership.

Most **Etch-Ed** classes are 6-weeks in length (with a few 12-week studies), with breaks in between semesters to allow our entire faith family to come together for various worship and fellowship experiences, as well as time for quarterly member meetings.

Look for details on each upcoming **ETCH-Ed** semester in the worship guide, and also at

[www.thomasvilleroad.org/ministries/info/etch](http://www.thomasvilleroad.org/ministries/info/etch)

? **How does ETCH-Ed affect children and youth?** Good question! We already have excellent programming for children and youth on Wednesday nights.

- Preschoolers and children will continue with their regular Wednesday schedule of children's choir and missions programs.
- Youth will continue with The Point each Wednesday. However, **ETCH-Ed** will have a positive, indirect effect on families with children and youth, as there will now be several options for parents who desire additional help with shaping the hearts of the next generation towards God.

? **What if I am already serving on Wednesday nights?** We want to encourage folks to continue serving in the areas of preschool, children, and youth ministries, as these are essential ministries that build into the next generation. In fact, we hope that more individuals will choose to serve in these areas. Having more volunteers would allow for current volunteers to occasionally step out of a teaching role to take advantage of one of the **ETCH-Ed** courses. If you are interested in serving, see Rachel Graham (interim Children's Pastor) or Kevin Hall (Youth Pastor).



## ? Where Are YOU in your ETCH-Life?

We are excited about the **ETCH** strategy at TRBC and seeing what God can do when the church and home combine their influences to maximize their impact! We hope you will take advantage of the upcoming opportunities to deepen your personal faith and to help you make disciples where you live, work, and play!

Everyone has a place in **ETCH-Life**. We invite you to join us on this journey of faith as together we strive to *be radically transformed by the power of the Gospel to make a radical impact on the world!*

For more information regarding **ETCH**, including a current schedule of upcoming **ETCH-Ed** classes, visit:

[www.thomasvilleroad.org/ministries/info/etch](http://www.thomasvilleroad.org/ministries/info/etch)



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