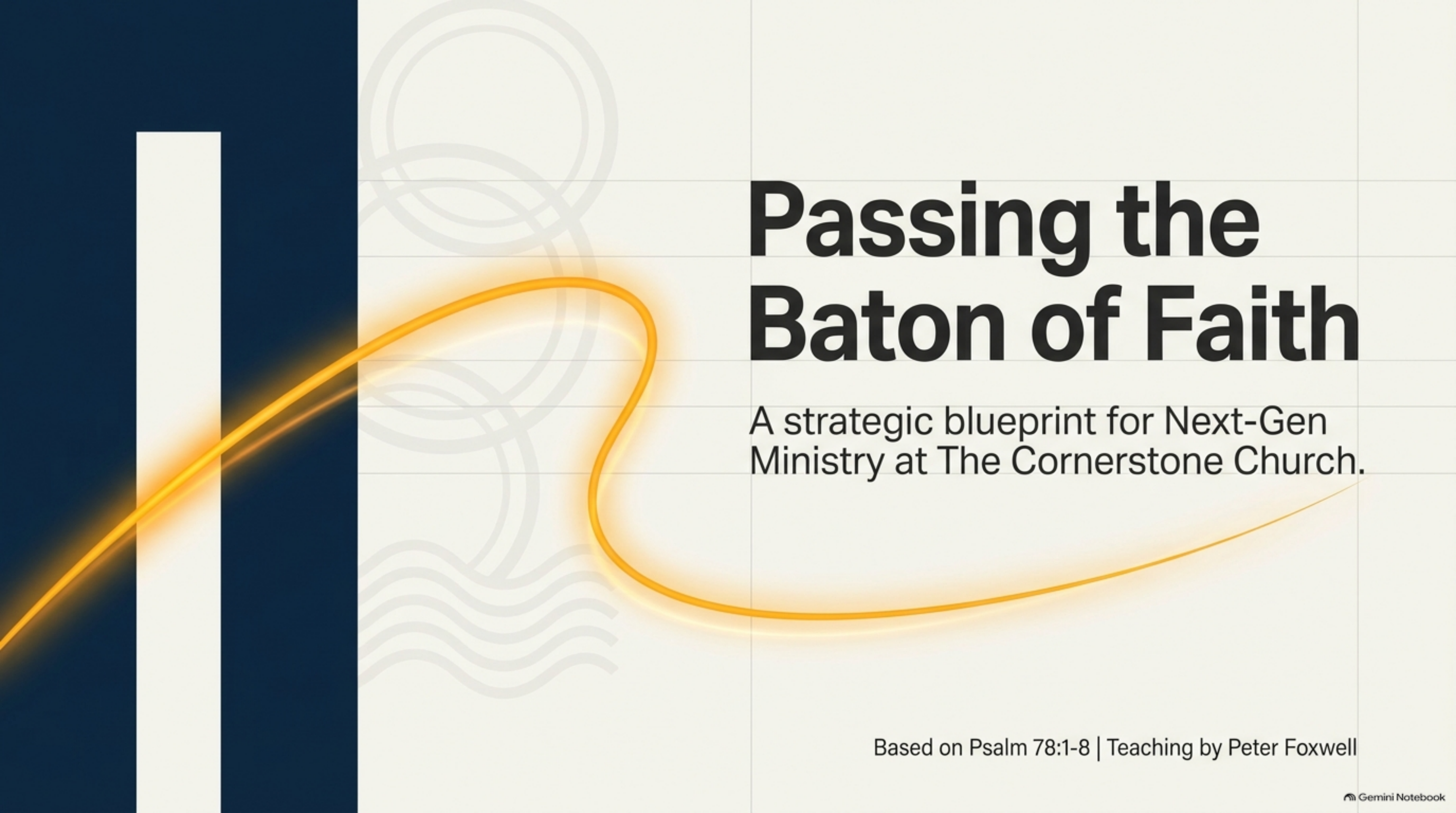




Passing the Baton of Faith

A strategic blueprint for Next-Gen Ministry at The Cornerstone Church.

Based on Psalm 78:1-8 | Teaching by Peter Foxwell

Running fast is only one component of the race.

During the 2016 Rio Olympics, the U.S. women's 4x100 relay team nearly lost their chance at gold—not because they weren't fast enough, but because of a fumbled baton pass.



High Speed (Personal Faith)



Failed Handoff (Lack of Discipleship)

The same is true in the Christian faith. We must run our own race perfectly, but if we drop the baton, the next generation is eliminated. Faith is never inherited by accident.

The natural trajectory of unguided faith is decay.

Without intentional modeling and teaching, the cycle of commitment degrades into compromise, and ultimately ends in complacency.



Chair 1 - The Grandfather

Spiritually alive,
committed to Jesus.

Chair 2 - The Son

"Borrowing" the faith. Knows the
basics but lives a compromised life
aligned with the world.

Chair 3 - The Grandson

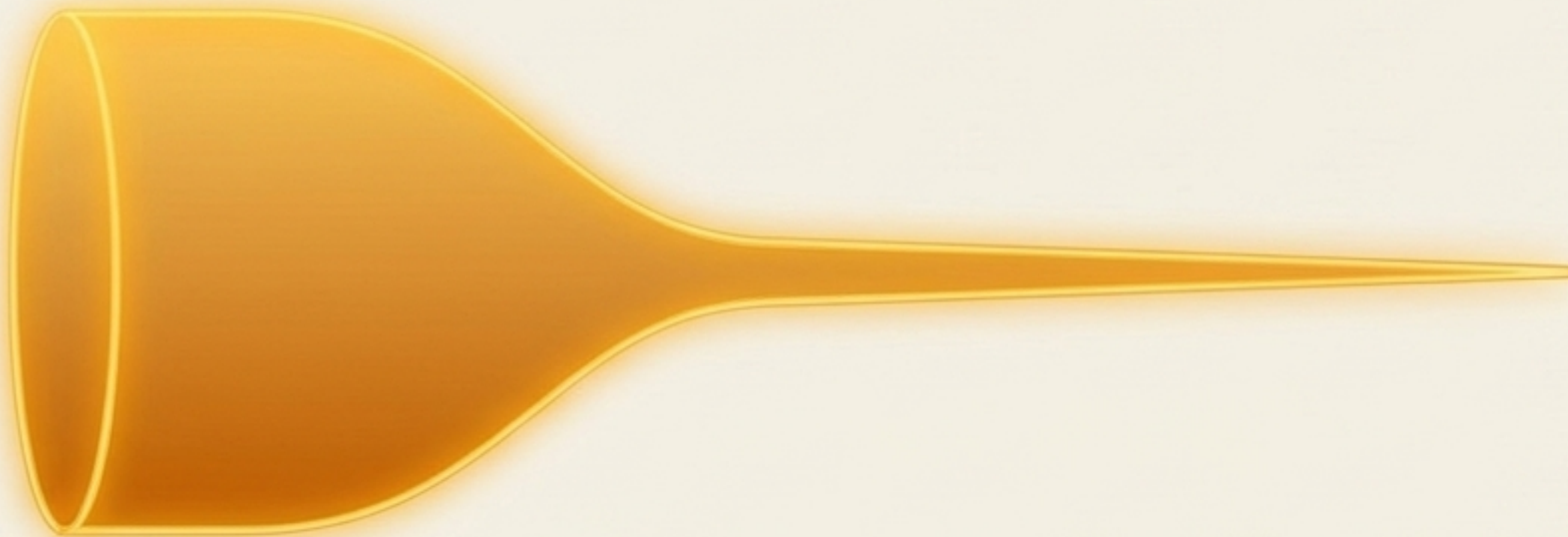
Leaves the faith entirely.
Complacent, ignorant of
the basics, or actively
hostile to Christianity.

We have a fleeting 18-year window to set the table.

The years fly by. One day you are buckling them into a car seat; before you know it, they are asking for the car keys. We cannot force belief, but within this shrinking window, we have the opportunity to show them the beauty and truth of the Christian faith.



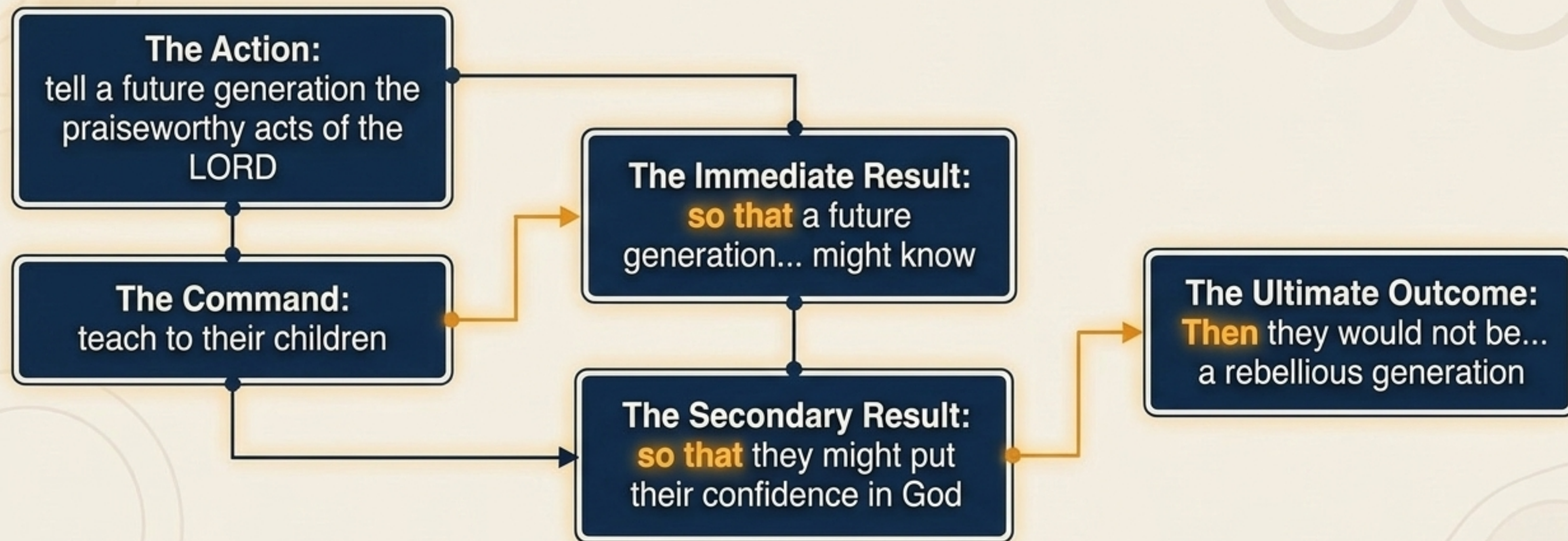
Start: Year 0



End: Year 18

Where will the next generation of Christ-centered families, influencers, and missionaries come from?

The ancient blueprint for generational continuity.



The mandate is a sequence: Receive the faith,
Relay the truth, and watch the next generation Respond.

Step 1: You must receive the faith to pass it on.

We cannot pass on a living faith unless we embrace our own living faith. Without personal commitment, we are merely passing on a powerless philosophy or empty ritual.

The Head



Knowing the Content

Jesus Christ, the “mysteries” or theological interpretation of past events, Sunday teachings, small groups

The Heart



Embracing the Faith

A genuine, living trust and commitment; the presence of the Holy Spirit.

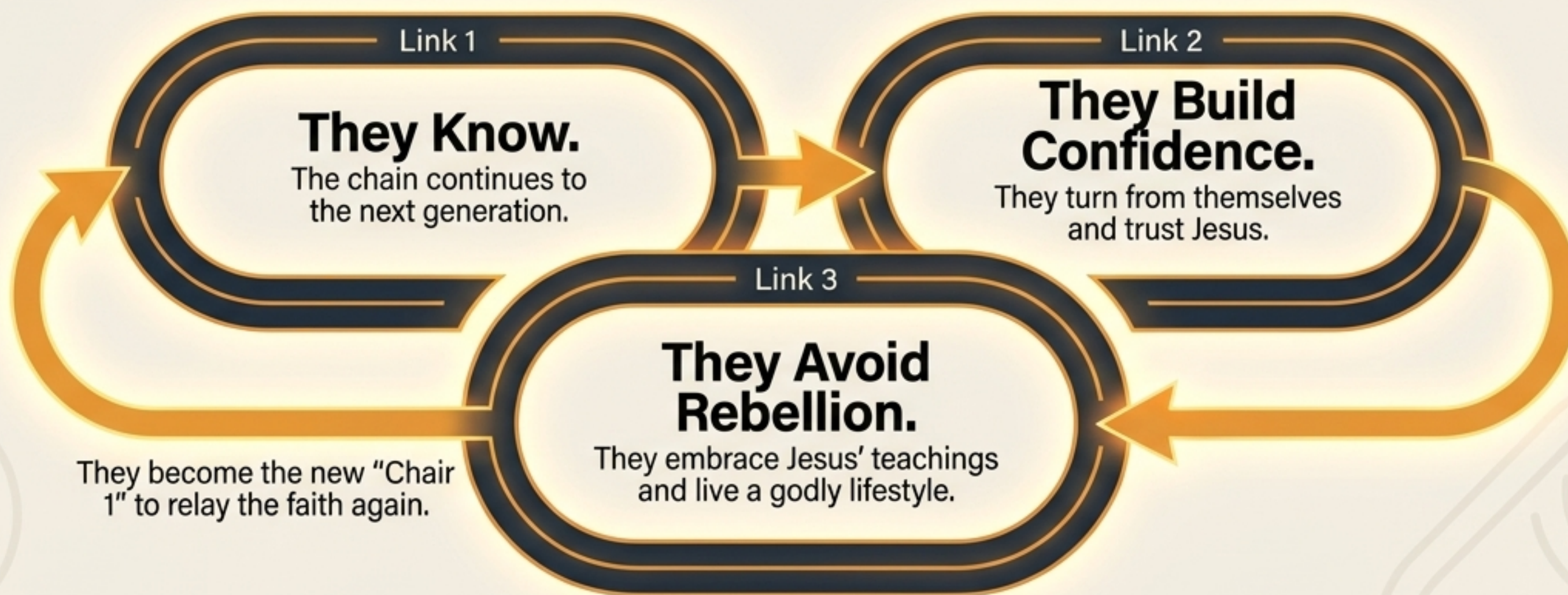
Step 2: Relay the faith across every sphere of life.

We must not pass on dry-as-dust content. The goal is to share faith with enthusiasm, inspiring awe and wonder that leads to heartfelt commitment.



Step 3: We set the table for their response.

We cannot believe for the next generation, but we ensure they hear the truth and see it lived out. Our goal is that they put their own faith in God, follow His ways, and become the ones who pass the baton next.

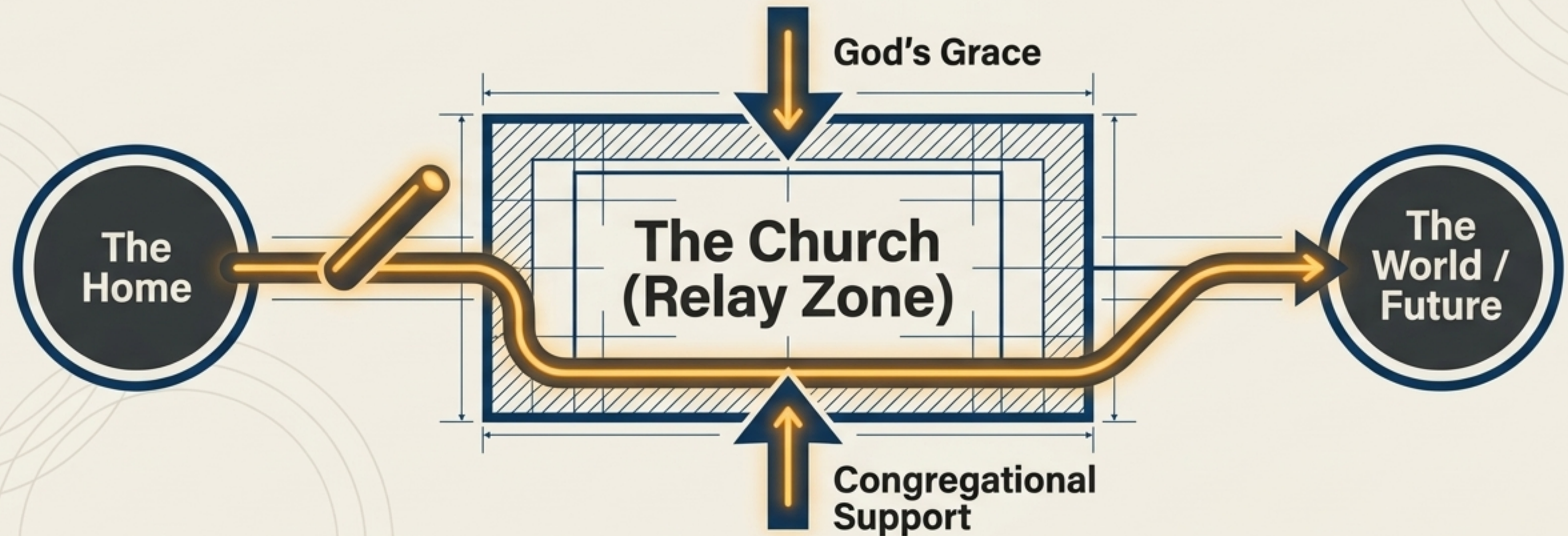


Two radically different generational outcomes.

Dimension	Accidental Inheritance (The 3 Chairs)	Intentional Discipleship (Psalm 78)
Method	Passive Observation	Active, enthusiastic modeling
Content Passed	Rituals, rules, and powerless philosophy	Living faith, awe, and wondrous acts of God
Church Role	Treated as an optional add-on	Viewed as an absolute necessity
Generational Outcome	Compromise leading to hostility	Confidence leading to an unbroken chain

The Cornerstone Church is the Relay Zone.

Next-generation Christians are built here. We cannot save them—only Jesus can do that. But we provide the crucial relay zone where the isolated efforts of parents are multiplied by the support of a loving community. We are setting the table for the future.



The urgent plea: Invest in the spiritual well-being of the next generation.



PRAY

Pray for children, parents, and leaders by name. Ask God to raise up a faithful generation.



SERVE

Volunteer in the Kids Zone or youth group. Be the faithful adult who shows up and loves consistently.



GIVE

Contribute to the Early Christmas Offering. The Father gave His Son; we give so the next generation can hear about our Savior.

Small Group & Personal Study Guide

Observation

- In Psalm 78:1–8, what words or phrases describe what one generation is supposed to pass on?
- What are the hoped-for results ('so that', 'then'), and how do they build on one another?

Interpretation

- What does it mean to 'hide' our faith from our children (v. 4)?
- Read Deut. 6:4-9 and 2 Tim 2:2. How do these shed light on passing the faith?

Application

- What encouragement would you give someone grieving a prodigal child?
- How are you investing your life, love, or money in next-gen ministry, and how can your small group support you?