



7th and 8th Grade Phase

Chris Burch
Pastor of Grades 7 and 8

PHASE

Axis exists to help middle schoolers experience three things: wonder for who God is, discovery of who He created them to be, and passion for loving others.

PHASE

Everything we do is designed to help middle schoolers begin to take ownership of their faith through these three basic truths:

PHASE

I will love God because He will never stop loving me.

I will follow Jesus because
He knows me better than I know myself.

I will live out God's story
so others can know who Jesus is.

PHASE

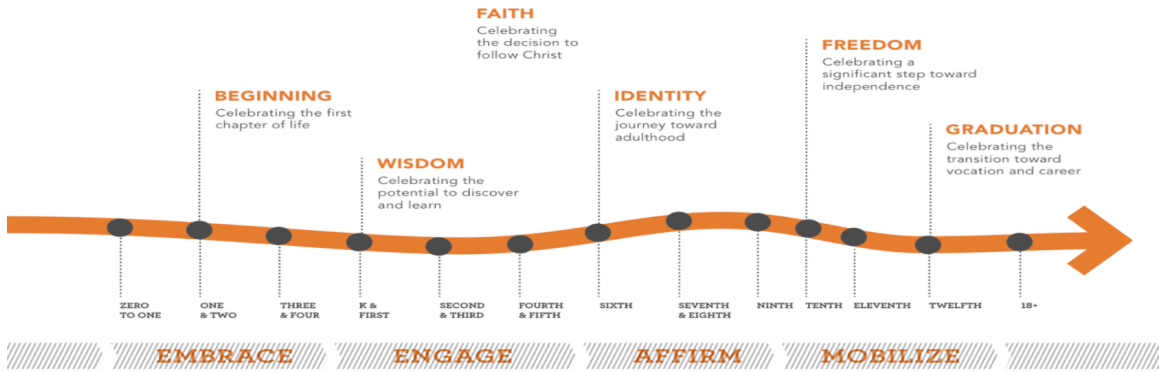
The Landing is a support group for teens struggling from consequences of personal choices as well as events outside their control.

PHASE

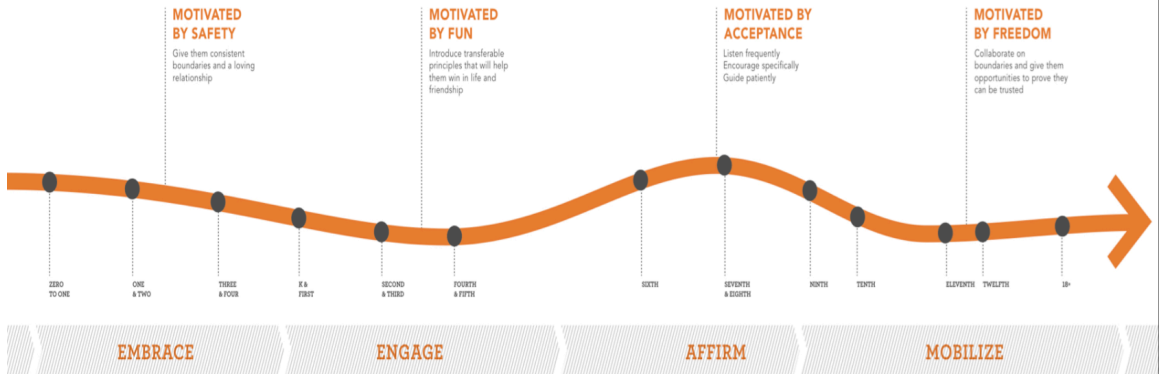
The Landing provides a safe, healing environment where teenagers can learn to develop lifelong tools to deal with unresolved hurt and pain.

PHASE

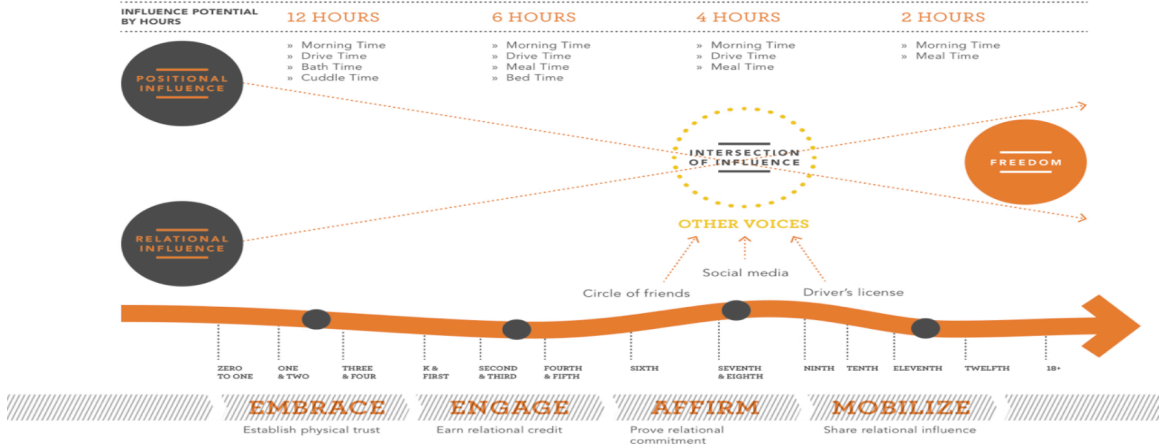
LIFE STAGE MILESTONES



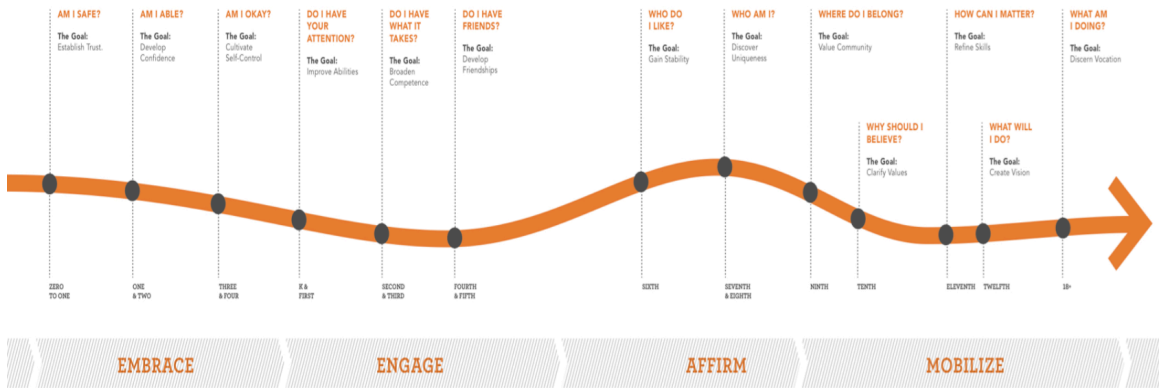
MORAL DEVELOPMENT



PARENTAL INFLUENCE



RELATIONAL QUESTIONS



THE RIGHT MIX



Physical:

Still needs 9-11 hours of sleep each night and may easily fatigue or develop headaches

PHASE

Girls outpace guys in development
Guys experience changes in height and body shape
and may develop body odor, body hair, and increase
muscle mass

Girls experience significant growth spurt,
development of body odor, body hair, and breasts,
and menstruation is likely (10-16)

PHASE

Emotional:

Enjoys sarcasm and sophisticated jokes
Often interested in leadership roles and teaching
younger children

PHASE

May emphasize physical appearance and performance

Tends to over schedule their time

Benefits from talking about feelings

PHASE

Mental:

Capable of self-evaluation and self-critique

Able to see tow sides of an argument

Connects information to form an option

Solves multi-step, complex problems

Growing ability to organize

PHASE

Relationships:

Often interested in pop culture, slang, current events,
politics, or a global cause

Wants to negotiate rules and test boundaries

Displays an increasingly adult like personality

Needs non-parental adult influences*

Benefits from having a same-gender best friend *

PHASE

Things to know:

The most deceitful age- they will lie

Begins to integrate reason and emotion

Able to self-reflect and evaluate

Tends to be preoccupied with ability (or lack of it) and
undervalue effort

Middle schoolers are primarily motivated by
acceptance

PHASE

Spiritual Development
Connect the dots
Expect a crisis
Be consistent
Teach them to Love God, Love People,
and Love Life.
Help them Own Their Own Faith and to
Value A Faith Community.

PHASE

How to win:

Be a coach
Morning time (you instill purpose when you start the
day with encouraging words)
Be a friend
Drive Time (you interpret life during informal
conversation as you travel)

PHASE

Be a teacher
Meal Time (you establish values with intentional
conversation while you eat together)
Be available
Bed Time (you strengthen your relationship by
showing up when they need you)

PHASE

Resources:

The Dateable Rules (a guide to the sexes)
Right Click (Parenting your teenager in a digital media
world)

PHASE

