

FOUNDATIONS

Four Messages that Resonate with Parents

If *Foundations* is to successfully engage parents in a dialog about Christian education, the program will need to open with topics that would immediately resonate with parents. Reliable national research directed us to four areas of parental concern that would lead to penetrating conversations.



PEACE

The tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary is a sad reminder that ours is a dangerous world. Peace-of-mind has been parents' top concern for two decades. One father said: "I want a school that can guarantee my child's safety—a school without conflict, threats, or bullies." It was a natural place to begin the conversation. For openers, *Foundations* examines themes like *authority*, *respect*, and *conflict resolution* in school. A deeper dialog help parents understand that Christian education takes children beyond their need for peace in this world to a blessed peace that comes only from knowing God's forgiveness in Christ Jesus.

HOPE

All parents hope their children experience success in school. One mom said, "I hope to one day see my daughter making a positive contribution to society." *Foundations* acknowledges this heartfelt desire. It articulates the position that God gives talents, skills, attitudes, interests, abilities, and opportunities to every child to prepare them for this life. Parents learn the biblical rationale behind CE's commitment to seeking excellence. They learn that Christian education is not limited to providing hope for success in this life. They learn about their hope for an eternal future because of Christ's resurrection victory over death.

JOY

Many parents would tell us, "I just want my child to be happy." They instinctively know it is important for their child to find joy and satisfaction in learning new skills, exploring new ideas, and gaining new friends. As our *Foundations* conversation continues, we turn our attention to the unique approach that Christian education takes toward the forming of a child's character.

The Bible teaches that we have significance because of Jesus' work on our behalf. The Christian's identity rests on his sacrificial work. *Foundations* stresses the importance of celebrating God's grace and remembering his goodness together. It initiates a bold conversation with parents about worshiping God in the privacy of their own homes. It encourages them to gather often with other believers to glorify his name. And it invites moms and dads to train their children to share their faith in Jesus with people who still do not know his saving name.

LOVE

One parent stated, “I want my child attending a school where I know he will be loved.” Most would agree. They know that a loving environment can be a critical factor for learning success. *Foundations* frames the discussion of love with the great sacrificial love Jesus has shown to us—a selfless love that is eager to serve others. *Foundations* explains that the same gospel that proclaims God’s great love *for us* changes our hearts and the hearts of our children from selfish sinner to loving and compassionate human beings. It helps parents understand the reasons why children in Christian schools are taught to pray for a fellow student who has been in an accident or is ill. It explains why children attending a Christian school will learn to be a Good Samaritan for a friend who is struggling. It teaches parents that when they follow Jesus’ loving example, they are already living the model we call *Christian education*.