

FOUNDATIONS

Alternate Strategies for Implementing *Foundations*

Foundations was designed with built-in flexibility. Schools that wish to reduce the time required to complete a prescribed cycle might consider completing the program in four years instead of five. Using this approach, the faculty study should occur during the same year in which the program is being introduced to parents. (The faculty study introduces teachers and church leaders to biblical and pedagogical concepts that deserve thorough discussion. This approach may be a challenge for some faculties to acclimate to the program when planning and parental conversations are already underway.)



Another alternate strategy completes one of the four sections of the book (*Peace, Hope, Joy, Love*) in a weekend retreat. There are seven 30 to 45-minute conversations in each section. (NOTE: *Foundations* was designed to attract and engage the maximum number of parents and faculty. Program leaders should consider how using this approach will impact attendance.)

A third option completes the entire *Foundations* program in one year by covering one section of the book in each of the four school quarters. This option would look more like a weekly Bible study since there are about 9 weeks in each quarter of a school year. (If your school is considering this option, we recommend annually repeating all four sections of *Foundations* to accommodate new parents and teachers who did not participate in previous years.)

More Ideas

- Invite a group of creative parents to develop a marketing plan for promoting the *Foundations* program in your setting. Ask parents who are already in the program to endorse the program following a worship service. Consider involving this group in planning an open house to introduce new parents to the *Foundations* program.
- Are there grandparents or other members of the congregation who have a heart for Christian Education? Invite them to share their enthusiasm for the values of CE with parents who have shown interest in enrolling a child in your school.
- Encourage *Foundations* participants to keep a journal of the conversations and new ideas that *Foundations* has generated for them. Ask these parents to share quotes from their journal by allowing them to be printed in church or school newsletters.

- Video some of the parents' discussions that are part of the *Foundations* program. Edit them down to 30-second clips and share them with the congregation as a way of promoting *Foundations* to members and visitors.
- Assign a member of the faculty to keep a running list of important thoughts and ideas that emerge from the faculty study.
- Hold a special "graduation service" for parents when they have completed *Foundations*. Perhaps a ceremony for parents can be combined with a traditional graduation for students who are completing their course of study.
- Ask your Board of Education to develop a contract between parents and your school. Stipulate terms that address parental participation in *Foundations*.
- End each cycle of the *Foundations* program with a worship service aimed at giving thanks to God for the many blessings of Christian Education.