

Parents of Young Kids Class

Highs and Lows



## Pair up with another couple or get into groups of 3-4:

- 1. What are 1-2 challenges you are facing right now in parenting your kid(s)?
  - 2. What is a recent highlight from parenting your child(ren)?

# **God's Purpose for Parenting**



Whose Child is This?

Children belong first to God, and then to their parents.

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## The Purpose of Parenting is to Train Godly Adults

#### **Kids that Love God**

Key Verse for our Time:

#### **Deuteronomy 6:5-9**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children... ... Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

#### **Kids that are Godly in Character**

- Walk with God amid the ups and downs of life.
- Live upright, godly lives amid a crooked generation, doing good.

## Malachi 2:15

Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? **Godly children from your union**. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. NLT

#### Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents *in the Lord*, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." ESV

The aim is godliness, not success.



## **K**indness

**KINDNESS** functions like a rear hatch/door of a minivan - lets you easily and quickly load a lot of stuff in the back.

#### An ATMOSPHERE of love

• Atmosphere = a surrounding influence or environment; the pervading tone or mood of a place, situation, or work.

## **Ephesians 6:4**

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger ESV

Fathers, do not irritate *and* provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly]

## Ways to show **KINDNESS**:

- Communication of affection
- · Helping the child accomplish his legitimate goals
- An attitude of **COMPASSION** toward your child's limitations (Eph. 4:32)

## Eph 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

#### Instruction



**INSTRUCTION** functions like the **body** of the minivan – it provides way to **store** things and **keep** them inside the vehicle. It provides structure and stability.

#### Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], Even when he is old he will not depart from it. AMP

## Discipline

**DISCIPLINE** functions like the seatbelt/airbags of the minivan – it keeps a child safe from serious injury.

#### COACH

- Encourage
- Give helpful feedback and insight
- Correct and show how to improve performance (attitude, skills, insights)
- Appropriately hold child to completion of assignments and tasks
  - Calling them forward to Obedience the first time.

#### Punish **REBELLION**

Goal: Diminish the desire to rebel again

#### Prov 6:20

... keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

#### Prov 6:23

for these commands are a lamp . . . and the corrections of discipline are the way to life

#### Prov 13:24

he who spares the rod hates his son

#### Heb 12:5-12

do not make light of the Lord's discipline . . . because the Lord disciplines those He loves . . .

## It is easy to get discouraged with Discipline. Instead:

- Stay Humble
- Get Input

Ask God for Help

## Supernatural Power



**SUPERNATURAL POWER** functions like the minivan's engine – it gets the minivan going and keeps it going.

God's supernatural power is the engine that keeps both parents and the child training process moving forward in the right way.

#### James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

#### Isaiah 41:10

fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Ways to rely on God's **SUPERNATURAL POWER**:

- Pray for God's help
- Pray that child will
  - Commit their life to Christ early
  - Learn to call on and walk with God himself
- Pray for wisdom as you face new situations

## Exampling & Explaining



**EXAMPLING & EXPLAINING** functions like the wheels of the minion – it is where the rubber hits the road.

- Rear wheels getting power from the engine propel the vehicle forward
- Front wheels- steer the car in the proper direction

#### **EXAMPLING & EXPLAINING**

- Exampling (rear wheels) move the training forward
- Explaining (front wheels) provides direction the why's for the example

## Deuteronomy 11:18-20

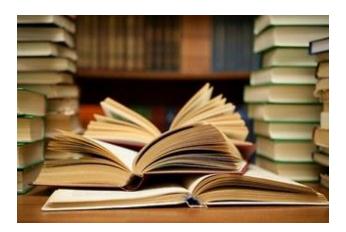
You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are **sitting in your house**, and when you are **walking by the way**, and when you **lie down**, and when you **rise**. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

## **QUESTIONS**

Pair up with another couple or get into groups of 3-4:

- 1. Of the KIDS, which one would help you with your current challenges?
  - 2. What is one step this next week you can take to help your kid(s)?

## **RESOURCES**



## Parenting:

Parenting: Is There an App for That?

## **Top 10 Parenting Mistakes**

Kindness: Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family

Instruction: Scripture Memory Verses For Kids

Discipline: Shepherding a Child's Heart

Spiritual Power: One Another's