



- There are no **perfect parents**.

Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard... Romans 3:23 (NCV)

- The best parents are **authentic** parents.

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom. Proverbs 11:2 (ESV)

Authentic Parenting:

- Changes how we **teach** our kids.

- Gives us **grace** to teach our kids with.

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. **Strength is for service, not status.** Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" Romans 15:1-2 (MSG)

A parent has three jobs:

- To provide for the **needs** of their kids.

...anyone who won't care for his own relatives when they need help, especially those living in his own family, has no right to say he is a Christian. Such a person is worse than the heathen. 1 Timothy 5:8 (TLB)

- To help our kids grow into adults who **don't need us**.

- To lead our kids to **Jesus**.

Listen, ...The Lord is our God. He is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength. Always remember these commands I give you today. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and walk along the road. Talk about them when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6: 4-7

- The goal of parenting is **godliness** not happiness.

God made husbands and wives to become one body and one spirit for his purpose—so they would have children who are true to God. Malachi 2:15 (NCV)

We parent **intentionally** not accidentally.

Parents see what kids don't see:

- We understand that the wrong **friends** can lead them in the wrong direction.

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

Keep company with the wise and you will become wise. If you make friends with stupid people, you will be ruined. Proverbs 13:20 (GNT)

- We understand that bad **habits** can establish a bad future.

- We understand that the **culture** is providing an example of a lifestyle without God.

- We understand that wrong **environments** create opportunities with lasting effects.

As parents, we have lots of **influence** and little **control**.

- When we parent in fear we stand a greater chance to create **children of fear**.

How to parent from faith rather than fear:

For we live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)

- We parent from our **relationship with God**.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

- Don't just parent to **problems**, parent also to **praise**.

Discipline the **attitude** not the failure.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

- Choose your **battles** ahead of time.

It's knowing what battles are a **threat to the goal**.

Acts 8:26-38 (NLT)

- Listen to the **Spirit's leading**.

- Be **present** with them.

- Do what you can to help them to **understand**.

I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. 2 Timothy 1:5

The season of your life doesn't change the **purpose** of your life.

- When you can, **pray** with them, but always **pray for them**.

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Learn to acknowledge that they are in **God's hands**.

Learn to acknowledge that **God knows them**.

Learn to acknowledge that **God loves them** far more than you do.

Learn to acknowledge that **God wants what is best for them**.

Learn to accept that **God will lead them**.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you have any regrets about how you parented your kids? (Just "yes" or "No") Do you think it's important to be an authentic parent? What are some ways we can be authentic parents?
- Talk about the three jobs a parent has. Can you think of any more?
- Do you know people whose goal for their kids is happiness? Why is that a wrong goal? (Happiness is a choice).
- Are you prone to parent from fear rather than faith? Why is that?
- How do we parent from our relationship with God?
- Do you find it easier to parent to problem or parent to praise? Are you able to balance the two? Do you praise your child more than criticize them?
- Are you able to choose your battles ahead of time? Do you know what issues are hills to die on?
- Why is prayer so important in parenting?

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Today's Talk..



“Parenting”