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THE PURSUEGOD

ONE DAY
CAN CHANGE
A LIFETIME
FOR YOU &
YOUR KIDS

PARENTING CONFERENCE

Journey Church | Prattville, Alabama
Saturday, August 28 | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm



Overview:

Looking for some parenting tips with a biblical foundation? This is the conference for you! Short, practical and impactful!

Lessons:

1. Put God First
2. Discipline With Love
3. Praise Your Kids
4. 8 Tips For Parenting Teens
5. The Importance of Structure
6. Count the Cost of Comp Sports
7. Tips For Blended Families



PUT GOD FIRST

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If you want to lead your kids to the promised land, follow the timeless advice of Moses to parents and grandparents. The first principle is simple: put God first.

- Parenting is like everything else in life: if you put _____ first, the rest of it falls into place. That's why our first Parenting Principle is: put God first. Deuteronomy 5:7-21,33, Matthew 6:33
- The command to _____ applies to both parents and kids: parents obey God and kids obey parents. The fifth commandment (honor your parents) serves as a _____ between the "love God" and "love people" commandments. Deuteronomy 6:1-3, Ephesians 6:1-3
- Wholehearted obedience should impact every part of our lives – both personally and as a family unit. Learn to practice spiritual _____ like prayer, Bible reading, and family time. Deuteronomy 6:4-7

DISCUSSION:

1. *Did you grow up in a home with spiritual values? How have those values shaped you as a parent?*
2. *How would you describe the current spiritual climate in your home?*
3. *Do you currently make a habit of reading and praying on your own? How can your spiritual habits affect the rest of the family?*
4. *Read Deuteronomy 6:1-3. According to this passage, what is a parent's responsibility? Why does obedience lead to a blessed life?*
5. *Read Ephesians 6:1-3. Why do you think Paul emphasizes the importance of obeying parents? How does learning to obey parents help kids to obey God as adults?*
6. *Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7. Evaluate your family priorities right now. What are some practical things you can do, as a family, to pursue God together?*
7. *Check out pursuegodkids.org and pursuegod.org How can utilizing topics from these sites help to facilitate productive Family Talk time?*

DISCIPLINE WITH LOVE

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The Bible says that if you love your kids, you will lovingly discipline them.

- There's an ancient parenting paradox: those who love their children care enough to _____ them. Proverbs 13:24
- Contrary to popular opinion, there is such a thing as right and wrong. It's the parent's _____ to teach this in the home. Proverbs 22:6
- Loving discipline _____ your child's heart toward God. First they learn to honor you; later they'll learn to honor _____. Hebrews 12:11
- The 3 C's of loving discipline:
 - Clear: establish _____ rules and expectations and the consequences for each.
 - Consistent: _____ through every time a rule is broken.
 - Corrective: _____ should deter them from making the same mistake again.

DISCUSSION:

1. *What messages have you heard regarding discipline in our culture? Do you tend to agree or disagree?*
2. *Read Proverbs 13:24. How have you seen discipline as an effective tool with your kids up to now? If done correctly, why can discipline communicate love to your kids?*
3. *Read Proverbs 22:6,15. How does discipline help to direct your kids? What are some of the foolish things you see in your kids right now? How can discipline help to correct those?*
4. *Describe how your kids learning to obey you will help them to obey God as adults?*
5. *Read Hebrews 12:11. What can happen if you don't discipline your kids? How can you encourage a heart of obedience in your kids?*
6. *Talk about the 3 C's of discipline. Why is it important to be clear with your rules and expectations? What rules do you need to make clearer to your kids?*
7. *What has happened in the past when you were not consistent with consequences?*
8. *What consequences are most effective with each of your kids right now?*

PRAISE YOUR KIDS

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Every kid – even the most challenging ones – need and deserve affirmation.

- God the _____ spoke publicly about the Son twice in the gospel of Matthew. Both times it was to affirm him. Matthew 3:17, Matthew 17:5
- If the perfect Son of God received words of affirmation from his Father, how much more do our imperfect kids _____ affirmation from their parents? Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 16:24, Ephesians 4:32
- Remember the 3 B's:
 - Be intentional.
 - Be _____.
 - Be unique.
- Use the 3 T's of Praise:
 - Talk: use your _____ to speak love and praise over your kids.
 - Time: spend time with your kids and show them that they are a _____ to you.
 - Touch: show _____ to your kids.

DISCUSSION:

1. Describe the “love” climate in your home growing up (affectionate/affirming or cold/distant?) How have those family dynamics affected the way you express love to your kids?
2. Read Matthew 3:17 and Matthew 17:5. What stands out to you about what God said? Why was it important for him to speak those words?
3. Read Proverbs 16:24. Share a personal experience you've had with the power of positive words. How have you seen encouraging words impact your kids?
4. Read Ephesians 4:32. Identify the behaviors in each of your kids that frustrate you. How do you need to be more tender-hearted toward them?
5. Review the 3 B's. What does it look like for you to be intentional with affirmation? Identify three unique traits for each of your kids that you will work to affirm more.
6. What would quality time look like with each of your kids? What will that time communicate to them?
7. Why is affection an important part of expressing love? How do you need to improve in this area?
8. What would you guess is your kid's love language?

8 TIPS FOR PARENTING TEENS

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Parenting teens to think biblically in today's world is not easy. Try these 8 tips.

- Tip #1: Remember, you're the _____. Your teen is fighting for independence-but they need to earn it along the way.
- Tip #2: Lead with a plan. _____ your values and establish goals. Proverbs 22:6
- Tip #3: Listen to your teens. Have conversations, not _____.
- Tip #4: Have clear expectations. Establish their _____ in the home with chores, siblings and social time. Colossians 3:21
- Tip #5: Discipline when needed. Have a _____ for when expectations aren't met and rules are broken.
- Tip #6: Allow for some self-expression. _____ your battles and allow your teens to express some individuality.
- Tip #7: Have _____ expectations with social media.
- Tip #8: Teach them to _____ trust. As they earn trust, you reward them with more freedom.

DISCUSSION:

1. *What were you like as a teenager? How did your parents handle you?*
2. *What are your biggest challenges parenting your teen right now?*
3. *Read Proverbs 22:6. What are some of the values and goals you want to establish in the home? How will you help your family to accomplish those goals?*
4. *Of the 8 tips, which one is most helpful for you right now? Explain.*
5. *Read Colossians 3:21. How can clear expectations regarding rules and freedoms help you to avoid conflict with your teen?*
6. *What are your views on discipline for your teen? Do you agree that it's necessary?*
7. *Has your teen wanted to wear things that make you uncomfortable? Are there ways you can meet your teen halfway?*
8. *How are you currently monitoring social media? How can your teen earn trust with you in this area and in other ways?*

THE IMPORTANCE OF STRUCTURE

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There are many ways to ease the stressful times experienced when raising a family, but one of the most important ways to manage a household is the introduction of structure.

- The key to keeping kids safe and parents sane is _____ in the home.
- Creating a home life that values structure leads to more _____ for everyone, not less. Proverbs 13:24
- Structure will vary from family to family, but everyone _____ it at every phase of life.
- God has consistently employed a structure even from the beginning of creation. _____ created a structure then placed mankind into that structure. If he values structure, so should we. Genesis 1:1-5,31 Romans 7:7

DISCUSSION:

1. *Share your observations of a family you know who are free-spirited and unstructured. What are some positives and negatives you see in their family?*
2. *Describe your household currently as far as it pertains to structure. What structure exists and how does it work?*
3. *Read Proverbs 13:24. How does this proverb apply to developing and maintaining structure in the home?*
4. *How can structure actually create more freedom for parents? What about for kids?*
5. *If you have younger kids, how can creating more structure even around sleep and play help your family to function better?*
6. *If you have teens at home, how will clear parameters around their social lives and screen time help your family to function better?*
7. *Read Genesis 1:1-5,31 Romans 7:7. What structures did God put in place to keep us safe? Why does the environment matter for growing healthy people?*
8. *How can a set of rules in your home help to bring peace and stability to your family? Create a list of rules you need to start implementing today.*

COUNT THE COST OF COMP SPORTS

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As parents, we all want our kids to be the best they can be so getting them into competitive sports seems like the right idea. But there are some costs to consider before making that decision.

- Competitive youth sports is a booming business for one primary reason: parents are convinced to see their kids' athleticism as a _____ with a future payout.
- Only 2-7% of kids will end up with an _____ scholarship which means 98% of kids go on to do other things than sports. It's good to keep the _____ perspective.
- 3 Tips on counting the cost:
 - Be _____ about your own motives. Jeremiah 29:11
 - Be honest about the _____ cost.
 - Give your _____ room to be honest.

DISCUSSION:

1. *What role do sports play in your child's life and in your family's life?*
2. *How have you been encouraged to see your kid's athleticism as a commodity? Have you been promised things by coaches in the past? Explain.*
3. *What is the cost of sports on your time? Your child's time?*
4. *What is the financial cost of sports for your family? Is there a need to reduce this cost to be more fiscally responsible? What are some ways to do this?*
5. *What are the emotional costs of sports for your child? How are they handling the pressure right now? How are you handling the pressure?*
6. *Evaluate if sports are helping or hurting your family. What adjustments do you need to make so that sports are a healthy addition to your family?*
7. *Read Jeremiah 29:11. How should this verse help you as a parent? How should this verse help your kids?*

PARENTING IN BLENDED FAMILIES

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The wedding officially declared you a new family but there is a long road ahead to actually becoming a family.

- You have to be a _____ front. You can't let the kids divide and conquer. Both adults are in a parental role in the home. Ephesians 6:4
- Have regular _____ meetings. This provides everyone the opportunity to share their feelings and the place where expectations and rules are set.
- Step parents, be _____ and develop a relationship with your step kids. Don't jump right into a disciplinary role.
- Parents, don't talk about your struggles in front of the kids. If there is conflict, be sure to discuss that _____ and come up with a plan before involving the kids.
- When kids _____ the step parent, the biological parent has to confront that right away. Kids need to understand the boundaries and the spouse is to be respected.

DISCUSSION:

1. *Do you feel like you are a united front in the home? Explain. How can you improve?*
2. *Read Ephesians 6:4. How could family meetings help your kids to not feel frustrated? What topics need to be discussed?*
3. *Step parent, describe your relationship with each kid. What has been most challenging so far?*
4. *Read Proverbs 28:26. Step parent, what can you do to better understand the heart of each kid?*
5. *Bio parent, how do you think the step parent is doing at building relationship with each kid?*
6. *Step parent, how is bio parent doing at supporting you? Where can they improve?*

NOTES



A series of 20 thin, horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a template for writing notes.