



IT'S JUST A PHASE

(SO DON'T MISS IT)



IT'S JUST A PHASE, PART 5: BETTER TOGETHER

Time flies. One day your kids are taking their first steps, the next day it seems they are going off to high school and then college. Where does the time go, and what should you do with the time you've been given? While you may eventually run out of time as a parent, we'll show you how you never run out of influence, and what to do with it.

BIG IDEA: Two combined influences will make a greater impact than just two separate influences.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you or stuck with you from the discussion on Sunday?
2. One part of the conversation was around technology, screen time, and kids. What are your thoughts on how technology is both helping and hurting families? What are some approaches that you think could be helpful to families?
3. If you rated your current relationship with your family or family life, what would you rate it out of 10? What do you think it would take to improve that score by one more?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Deuteronomy 6:5-9.*

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (NLT)

5. What are some easy ways to keep faith at the forefront in your family life?
6. In the Israelite culture, raising a child was considered to be the job of the entire community. In this passage, Moses is speaking to a massive crowd of people, one that would have involved people all ages and generations. The entire community was responsible for passing on faith. How does our culture today keep us from carrying on this way of living? Alternatively, do we have any resources that may make it easier?
7. What do you think it means to “impress them on your children”? How can we do that? (*The word “impress” means repeating until it is truly heard. Until these ideas, this way of living, is deeply engrained in who your children will be.*) This happens most effectively when it is being impressed consistently and from multiple influences in a child's life.
8. What are some qualities that you would look for in a person that you desire to share influence in your child's life?
9. When you ask your child, “Who are you going to talk to about this?” – will your child have at least one person they can name?
10. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.*

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

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11. How does this definition of love help you to understand how to love your family? What is most challenging about it?
12. What's the one way this group could be praying for your family?

MOVING FORWARD

Considering the kids that you know, is there a child or teenager whose life you can speak into as a partner and support to a parent? Think of how you could encourage that child in their faith by sending them a note, giving them encouragement, or having a conversation with them to show them you care.

Looking for more help with the phases your kids are in? Be sure to check out www.justaphase.com and the www.theparentcue.org.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Pray tonight that God would write stories of redemption, restoration, and adventures of faith into the families of those in your group. Ask that God would show us how we can cooperate with that story by being more like Jesus in our approach, in how we see others, and in how we speak to them.

Our church continues to be passionate about partnering with parents and being in the corner of families. Pray that God would continue to help all of us see the potential in kids, students, and their parents.

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