

TALK IT OVER

Parenting Through the Ages

Week 2: *Prime Time – Elementary Age*

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Icebreaker: What TV show had your rapt attention as a kid?

Proverbs 22:6 (NLT) Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

The right path is one that leads them to a personal relationship with Jesus. How do we do that?

Big Idea: Show them what it looks like to follow Jesus.

Question: What parenting expectations do we prioritize meeting?

When the world's expectations are our highest priority and we fall short, there's only shame. When God's expectations are the highest priority and we fall short, there is grace. When we are clear on what God expects from our parenting we can let go of what everyone else expects. We can get through any season with ourselves and our kids intact, held together by Jesus.

Colossians 1:17 (NLT) He is before all things and in Him all things hold together.

It's Prime Time

1. Lead by example

Scripture: Ephesians 5:1 (NLT) Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.

Questions: What do you think God expects to see in our parenting when we imitate Him? How can we use times that we mess up as an opportunity to show our kids what it looks like to follow Jesus?

2. Get clear on discipline

Scripture: Proverbs 23:13 (NLT) Discipline your children, and they will give you peace of mind and will make your heart glad.

Questions: What comes to your mind when you hear the word discipline? How can discipline lead kids to Jesus?

3. Weave a safety net

Scripture: Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...

Question: If your kids weren't paying attention to you, but were paying attention to another adult, what would you want that adult to do and say?

Final Thoughts

God didn't make you a parent because you can make your kids live a culturally defined "good life". He made you the parent so that you and your kids could understand the grace we have through Jesus. Since Elementary age kids are tuned into us for a season, it's time to show them what it looks like to follow Jesus.

Action Items

1. Download the *Parent Cue* app
2. Use *Phase Cards* for age-appropriate engagement with children