

Family Matters, Pt. 4
"My Kids Are Driving Me Crazy"
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1. Do you know this family?
2. As parents, our primary responsibility isn't simply to raise good kids. It's to raise disciples of Jesus.
3. You don't always get it right.
4. Parenting is for the Long Haul
5. Deuteronomy 6:4-9, NIV *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 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."*
6. Discipleship Starts with the Parent
 - a. Verses 5-6 - Parents are to "love him wholeheartedly."
 - b. You don't have to be perfect
 - i. "You are not a perfect parent, and your child is not a perfect child. What your child needs is a perfect savior."
 - c. Parent with generations in mind – Psalms 78:4-7
 - d. You have to know where you are going and communicate that to your kids.
 - e. Dream big for your family.
7. Real Discipleship Happens in Real Life
 - a. Anywhere, anytime. Verses 6-7
 - b. Every moment or circumstance is a teaching opportunity.
 - c. Show Encouragement! Give them opportunities to practice on each other, at home.
 - d. How would you want your children's future spouse to be discipled?
 - i. Spiritual
 - ii. Life skills.... "Agency and Competence" – Shop Class as Soul Craft, Matthew Crawford
8. Discipling Principles
 - a. It is a Matter of the Heart
 - i. "Quite often parents make a big deal over the issues of life instead of dealing with the issue of life – the heart condition and direction. Norm Wakefield, Spirit of Elijah Ministries
 - ii. Be aware of your child's heart posture toward you.
 - b. Ear training....the way your kids hear you is the way they will hear, or not hear God.
 - i. 1 Samuel 1-13
 - ii. Samuel says, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

- iii. God brought judgment on Eli's house when *"his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them"*.
 - iv. 1-2-3 doesn't count
 - v. When you continually raise your voice to communicate your expectations, you are training them to only hear God when He yells at them and remember, He speaks in a gentle whisper - 1 Kings 19:11-12
- c. Consequences from poor behavior and choices should come without drama.
 - i. Sparing your children from the consequences of disobedience & behavior increases the severity of discipline that will come later.
- d. Be on the same team with your spouse.
- e. Your children should see that you place a priority on worship.
- f. Forgiveness is to be modeled.
- g. Use the time you already have together for discipleship.

9. Stage of Life Differences in Discipleship

- a. Command Authority to Counsel Authority
- b. Toddlers – 3rd Grade
 - i. Immediate Discipline - You have to win!
 - ii. Facts and Memorization
- c. Pre-teen
 - i. Make Discipleship/Teaching Fun
 - ii. Begin giving more choices
 - iii. Choose your spouse over your children
 - iv. Give an Advance Look at Life
- d. Teenagers
 - i. Serving Others (at church, extended family, and elsewhere)
 - ii. Inviting mentors into discipling
 - iii. Write letters
 - iv. Freedoms are a reward for responsibility
 - v. Do Hard Things
 - vi. Scared? Remember Psalms 68:6, which says God places the lonely in families.

HAVE WORSHIP TEAM APPROACH

10. Good Kids vs Godly Kids

- a. A child can grow up making good grades, staying out of major trouble, excelling in sports, building a successful career, and still grow up without knowing Jesus.

11. Be Aware of the Obstacles to Discipleship in Your Home

- a. Busyness, fear of messing up, relying on the church to disciple

12. What can you do this week?

- a. Have a sit-down meal with your family and focus on encouragement.
- b. Talk with your spouse or co-parent about discipleship and discipline and get on the same page.
- c. Talk to your kids about how you are going to prioritize worship in your family, even during busyness.
- d. Allow a consequence to discipline.