

# Grace Centered Parenting

Week 4

Saturate your children with God's word.

A primary parenting memory verse:

***Ephesians 6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.***

Two of the first lessons our children learn are trust and its companion obedience.

***Psalm 22:9-10 Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.***

Our children have confidence to obey because we prove ourselves trustworthy. This is one reason the command not to exasperate or provoke our children to anger is so important. We should reinforce this pattern of "that it may go well with you," and we should not reinforce it going well when our children are walking in disobedience.

***Ezekiel 18:4 4 For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.***

***20 ...The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them....***

***30 "...Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. 31 Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit....Repent and live!***

**What are some initial lessons we use to guide our children toward grace centered righteousness? Teach them and train them. Apply the great commission to your children.**

**Matthew 28** <sup>19</sup> *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* <sup>20</sup> *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

How, when, where do you teach your children?

**Deuteronomy 6:1-7** *Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it,* <sup>2</sup> *that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.* <sup>3</sup> *Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.*

<sup>4</sup> *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.* <sup>5</sup> *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.* <sup>6</sup> *And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.* <sup>7</sup> *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

**Deuteronomy 6:20-25** <sup>20</sup> *When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?'* <sup>21</sup> *then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.* <sup>22</sup> *And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes.* <sup>23</sup> *And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers.* <sup>24</sup> *And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day.* <sup>25</sup> *And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.*

## Teach Them

- \*A. God's Desire: Total Saturation in Every Aspect of Life
  1. The more you believe and study the word of God, the more incredibly relevant to life it will seem
  2. Parents' job: to TALK ABOUT God's word constantly
  3. Weave Scripture into everything that is going on...
  4. Apply it to actual situations in their lives
  5. Every situation is a time to weave Scripture in
    - a) While driving in the car... Speak Scripture to Them
    - b) While shopping at Kroger or Food Lion... Speak Scripture to Them
    - c) While sitting on the porch after mowing the lawn... Speak Scripture to Them
    - d) While cooking dinner... Speak Scripture to Them
- B. Intentionally Incorporating Daily Instruction
  1. Bible Intake (devotion, personal reading, discussion at meal, etc)
  2. Pray with and for Children Daily (morning, evening, meal, etc...)
  3. Additional Spiritual Disciplines
  4. Active at FBC/Talking about FBC/Meals/Etc.
- C. Being Available/Ready for Anytime Application

***1 Peter 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,***

***Joshua 4:6-7 In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord.***

***Exodus 12:26 And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses. "' And the people bowed their heads and worshiped***

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1. Be Available and Intentionally Explain Biblical Worldview Often
2. Involve Children When you Serve, Share Ideas of How to Serve
3. Talk About/Pray Together/Model and Involve Kids in Evangelism
4. Engaging in Your Town, Knowing Neighbors, Sharing Hobbies, ...
5. Use Technology (Desiring God App, MyReadingPlan App, Two Journeys, etc.)

***Proverbs 1:7-9* <sup>7</sup> *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.* <sup>8</sup> *Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,* <sup>9</sup> *for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.***

***Proverbs 3:1-6* <sup>1</sup> *My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,* <sup>2</sup> *for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.* <sup>3</sup> *Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.* <sup>4</sup> *So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.* <sup>5</sup> *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.* <sup>6</sup> *In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.***

## Train Them

### Model Expected behavior to your children

We are a demonstration to our children in nearly every way. How to speak, how to walk, how to behave. We convey our interests, our desires, our fears. Our children learn what to be and how to be from us. And so it's particularly important that we model the character of Christ to our children. Plot a course for your children and help them stay the course.

### Practical examples of family devotions and family worship

Regular patterns of reading the Bible together and talking about the Bible together help form normal patterns for your children. You don't have to overthink family devotions. Read a few verses. Ask what they mean. Pray together. Sing a song together. Use the bulletin.

**What have been some successful times of training or spiritual life for you and your kids?**

Corporate worship is a valuable training time

Corporate worship is orderly worship for mutual edification

**1 Corinthians 14**

***4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.***

***7 If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? 8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?***

***12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.***

***17 For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.***

***26 What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.***

***33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.***

***40 But all things should be done decently and in order.***

Parenting in the pew

One thing at a time:

1. Quiet
2. Sitting in lap
3. Sitting beside
4. Sitting still
5. Looking at something
6. Coloring, drawing

7. Listening and writing/drawing

**What are some challenges we face when training our children?**

\*III. The Core of Good Parenting: Loving Persuasion

A. God a Reasoning Father

***Isaiah 1:18-20*** <sup>18</sup> "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. <sup>19</sup> If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; <sup>20</sup> but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

B. The Father in Proverbs: Constantly Reasoning and Persuading

1. The verse we just saw a moment ago: Proverbs 23:26 Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways.
2. Many other such persuasions a. General persuasion to listen to the father's wisdom.

***Proverbs 23:26*** Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways.

***Proverbs 1:8-9*** <sup>8</sup> Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, <sup>9</sup> for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

***Proverbs 2:1-5*** <sup>1</sup> My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, <sup>2</sup> making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding ...then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

***Proverbs 3:1-4*** <sup>1</sup> My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, <sup>2</sup> for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. <sup>3</sup> Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.

***Proverbs 4:10-11*** <sup>10</sup> Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. <sup>11</sup> I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness.

- b. Persuaded not to join in with thieves

***Proverbs 1:10-16*** <sup>10</sup> ***My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.***

c. Persuaded to guard your heart

***Proverbs 4:20-23*** ***My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings... Guard your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.***

d. Persuaded not to fall in with an immoral woman

***Proverbs 5:1-8*** <sup>1</sup> ***My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding,*** <sup>2</sup> ***that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.*** <sup>3</sup> ***For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil,*** <sup>4</sup> ***but in the end she is bitter as wormwood...*** <sup>7</sup> ***And now, O*** <sup>6</sup> ***sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth.*** <sup>8</sup> ***Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house,***

e. Persuaded to avoid a bad business deal

***Proverbs 6:1-5*** <sup>1</sup> ***My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, have given your pledge for a stranger,*** <sup>2</sup> ***if you are snared in the words of your mouth, caught in the words of your mouth,*** <sup>3</sup> ***then do this, my son, and save yourself, for you have come into the hand of your neighbor: go, hasten, and plead urgently with your neighbor.*** <sup>4</sup> ***Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber;*** <sup>5</sup> ***save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler. The time-consuming life of the godly father and mother: constantly reasoning with the child, explaining the truth system behind the commands***

In some ways, training our children never ends. As we grow older we gain more wisdom and have more insight to help our kids navigate what lies ahead for them 20, 30, 40 years in the future.

\*Sections taken from Andy Davis's material on Christian Parenting