

A word cloud centered on the word "parenting" in a large, dark brown font. The word "parenting" is the largest and most prominent. Surrounding it are several other words in various colors (green, brown, gold) and orientations (horizontal, vertical, diagonal). The words include: "love" (large green), "advice" (large gold), "laughter" (green), "discipline" (vertical gold), "responsibility" (vertical green), "fun" (small brown), "decisions" (small brown), "pain" (vertical brown), "patience" (small brown), "joy" (small brown), "struggle" (small brown), "choices" (vertical brown), and "exhaustion" (small brown).

parenting

love

advice

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patience

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struggle

choices

exhaustion

# WHAT IS A GOSPEL-CENTERED FAMILY?

ANSWERS FROM YOU ON 10-23-16:

- “the ways we behave towards each other as a family, reflects God’s love.”— Rachel
- “A family that has right priorities and a good focus on things above.”  
—Matthew
- “It’s giving children a foundation that they can be confident in who their Savior is, and who is informing their life decisions.— Emil
- “the Gospel is loving people in their brokenness...” —Stephanie
- “The gospel is in the center of everything you do...” —Ben

# JESUS IS THE GOSPEL

## HE IS THE GOOD NEWS!

“Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel [The Good News--Me!].”

Mark 1:15

## AND THE AUTHOR--ITY

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All **authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” Matthew 28:18

“Jesus, the **author** and perfecter of faith.” Hebrews 12:2

“And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”  
Colossians 1:17

# TAKE-AWAY

A Gospel-centered parent recognizes that not only do their children need a Savior, under whose authority they must learn to bow their hearts, but they, as parents, need the Savior under whose authority they must bow their hearts.

They understand that God gives them authority as parents for the work of change, but that God has not granted them the power to make that change happen.

God gives us the privilege and authority shape our children for Jesus sake, keeping in mind that He has not given us the power to make those heart changes. Our responsibility is to shape their heart, God's is to change it.

# WHAT IS A WORD-CENTERED FAMILY?

<sup>18</sup> “You shall therefore **impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul**; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

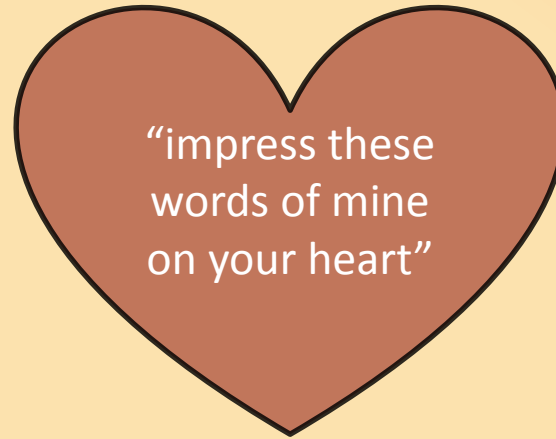
- You shall teach them to your sons,
- talking of them when you sit in your house and
- when you walk along the road and
- when you lie down and
- when you rise up.
- You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied ...”

Deuteronomy 11:18-21



How, do we keep God's Word central to our lives with the demands of work, home, activities, are so great?

IT'S A MATTER OF THE HEART



WATCH OVER YOUR HEART with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life. Proverbs 4:23

# JAMES' ADVICE

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.” James 1:22-25

# JAMES' ADVICE IN PRACTICE:

**RECOGNIZE OUR NEED FOR GOD'S HELP--PRAY** "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

**READ YOUR BIBLE.** "But whoever **looks intently** into the perfect law that gives freedom,

**REVIEW THE BIBLE.** "and **continues in it** "

**REMEMBER THE BIBLE.** "**not forgetting** what they have heard,"

**RESPOND TO THE BIBLE.** "**but doing it**—they will be blessed in what they do."

**RECOGNIZE OUR NEED FOR HIS HELP—PRAY** "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.




# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Teaching goes on long after Bible time with your children.

How do children observe God's Word at work in you through:

- Relationships?
  - marriage?
  - work relationships?
  - friendships in and outside your neighborhood?
  - relationship with the members of the body of Christ?
- Hardships?
  - life's pressures?
  - failures?
  - sorrows?
  - illness?
- Activities?
  - Free time?
  - Hobbies?
  - TV/social media
  - Reading materials
  - Music, movies

**What?**

An iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg is above the water, and the much larger base is submerged. A small ship is visible on the water's surface near the tip of the iceberg. A horizontal dashed white line separates the visible tip from the submerged base.

Outward Behavior =  
external expression of  
what we value and believe

**How?**

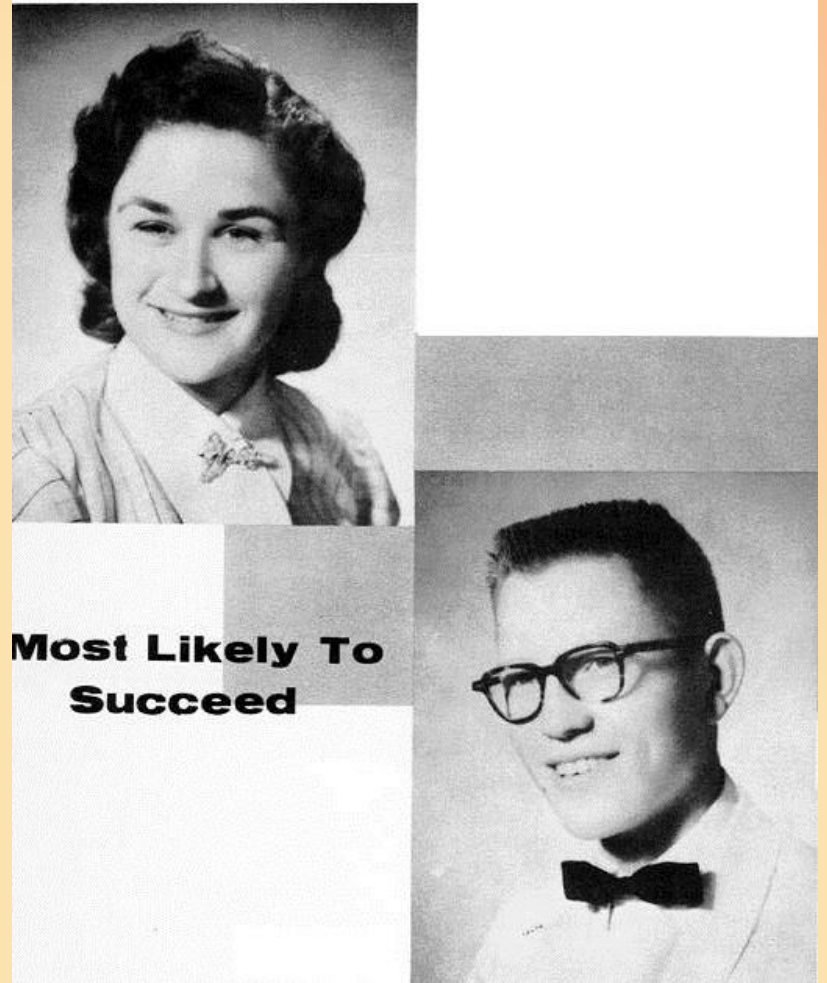
- Our behavior is influenced by:
- our core beliefs which are shaped by our culture, upbringing, temperament, Bible influence, etc. many of which we may not be aware we are influenced by
  - our perceived and actual limitations

**Why?**

Ultimately, our actions/behavior reflect our deepest values and commitments. If our behavior doesn't line up with what we think we value, we have a gap (discrepancy) between what we say we value and what we do.

# WHAT IS GOSPEL-CENTERED SUCCESS?

What values drive your definition of success?



# DEUT. 6:4-6 DEFINES THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

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.

# HOW DO PARENTS HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED?

**Deuteronomy 6:7-9**

**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.



# GOSPEL-CENTERED IDENTITY

**Ownership Parenting**— is motivated by what parents want **for** their children and **from** their children. It is driven by a vision of what we want our children to be and what we want our children to give us in return.

Which of these things are driven by selfishness, fear, pride or arrogance?

- We work hard to control outcomes
- We don't want to be embarrassed by their behavior
- We want them to make us look good
- We want people to see us as a successful parents
- We desire respect and appreciation from them

# WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust<sup>[a]</sup> destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** Matthew 6:1

# WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

- How does your alone-time get in the way of your parenting?
  - In other words, how often do your children's needs feel like an interference?
- How do things (house, car, furniture, carpet, etc.) you own create tension in your parenting?
- How does your career success negatively impact the work that God has called you to as parents?
- What ministry decisions and commitments make it hard for you to faithfully do your work as a parent?



# GOSPEL-CENTERED IDENTITY

## **Ambassadorial Parenting—**

The ambassador's goal is to do the will of the one who sent him. S/he recognizes that an ambassador does not represent his/her own interests and power, but is to faithfully represent the message, methods and character of the leader who has sent him/her.

# CONSIDER YOUR APPROACH

OWNERSHIP PARENTING	AMBASSADORIAL PARENTING

