

PARENTING: 14 GOSPEL PRINCIPLES

THAT CAN RADICALLY CHANGE YOUR FAMILY

WORSHIP + 2

- **Worship - Psalm 95:2** Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him.
- **Connect - Hebrews 10: 23-25**—Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
- **Serve - 1 Peter 4:10-11**—As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

- Come prepared by having read and interacted with the materials. Interact = underline, write in the margins, question statements, look at the referenced Scripture and its context.
- Class time will include interactive discussion in small groups, and in the large group.
- In group conversations - be mindful of the group. Some are comfortable expressing their thoughts while others are not comfortable. The key is to have a balanced representation of conversation in the group.
- Some of you are natural facilitators, ergo....facilitate wide participation.

WOULD YOU RATHER...

- Would you rather be able to control fire or water?

AMBASSADORS

Definition of *ambassador* (Oxford Dictionary)

1 : an official envoy

2a : an authorized representative or messenger

“An ambassador “is to faithfully represent the message, methods and character of the leader who has sent him.” Tripp p.14

OWNERSHIP PARENTING VERSUS AMBASSADORIAL PARENTING

- An owner parent is driven by what they want their children to be and what they want their children to give to them in return.
- An ambassador parent recognizes they serve as God's representative to help their children know Him and follow Him. They recognize that children are God's gifts whom He entrusts to us.
- *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Psalm 127:3*

OWNER PARENTS VERSUS AMBASSADOR PARENTS

4 Values:	Owners	Ambassadors
Identity: Where do you look to find a sense of who you are?	Owner parents derive identity, meaning, purpose, and inner sense of well-being from what their children become and how they give back to them.	Ambassadorial parents derive identity, meaning, purpose and inner sense of well-being from the One whom they represent and serve.

OWNER PARENTS VERSUS AMBASSADOR PARENTS

4 Values:	Owner Parents	Ambassadors
Work: What do you define as the work you've been called to do as a parent?	Owner parents tend to think their work/role is to form their children into what they think they should be, believing they have the personal power and resources to shape their children into what they want them to be.	Ambassador parents recognize they are called to be instruments in the hands of the One who has the ultimate power to rescue and transform the children who have been entrusted to their care.

OWNER PARENTS VERSUS AMBASSADOR PARENTS

4 Values:	Owner Parents	Ambassadors
Success: How do you define and measure success in parenting?	Owner parents tend to measure successful parenting according to their children's academic performance, athletic achievement, musical ability, social likability, etc.	Ambassador parents recognize their success is defined by the One whom they represent as He works through them to produce change in their children's lives.

OWNER PARENTS VERSUS AMBASSADOR PARENTS

4 Values:	Owner Parents	Ambassadors
Reputation: How do you want others to see you as a parent?	Owner parents are concerned more about how their children's behavior may shape the perception of how others see them as parents than whether their children's behavior is contrary to God.	Ambassador parents recognize that parenting is a humbling messy job God has called them to do. They recognize He is the change-maker and they are gratified to be tools that God uses.

CALLING CHAPTER 1

- “Principle: Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God’s tools to ~~form~~ shape a human soul.”

GOD CALLS US TO A HOLY CALLING

- “Who saved us and **called us to a holy calling**, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began” 2Timothy 1:9
- “everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory**, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:7

HOW DO YOUR VALUES REFLECT YOUR CALLING?

- If a drone had been capturing video of your life for past 2 months, what would your neighbor conclude about your values?

WHAT DO YOU VALUE/TREASURE?

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-34 New International Version (NIV)



HOW DOES YOUR VALUE FOR YOUR POSSESSIONS REFLECT YOUR CALLING?

- How do physical “treasures” get in the way of or create tension in your parenting?
- Which physical “treasures” create the most tension for you?
House, furniture, floors, car, lawn, artwork, etc.?
- Which physical “treasures” do you steward in a way you feel encouraged by?



HOW DO YOUR CAREER VALUES REFLECT YOUR CALLING?

- How has the value of career (hobby, activities, etc.) success impacted your commitment negatively to the work God has called you to as parents?
- Conversely, how have you stewarded work, hobbies, etc. to strengthen your parenting?

HOW DO YOUR VALUES REFLECT YOUR CALLING IN THESE AREAS:

- Your parenting?
- Your relationships?
- Your work?
- Your money?
- Your time?
- Your relationship-with-Jesus?

HOW DOES YOUR VALUES ALIGN WITH YOUR CALLING?

- Where are the gaps between what you say you value and how you live out your values?
- How will you close those gaps?

GOD'S VALUES:

⁴“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9(NASB)

GOD'S DESIGN:

- “God has designed that you would be a principal, consistent, and faithful tool in his hands...to help your children recognize God’s existence and to surrender to His authority...so they would know Him.” p.30

GOD'S VALUE:

²⁰“When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What do the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments *mean* which the LORD our God commanded you?’ ²¹ then you shall say to your son,

‘We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand.

²² Moreover, the LORD showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household; ²³

He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers. Deuteronomy 6:20-23 (NASB)

GOD'S DESIGN:

- “God has designed that you would be a principal, consistent, and faithful tool in his hands...to remind your children of God’s grace through the many things He has done, does, and will do for us.
- How can you celebrate with your children what God has, in grace, done for you?

BOTTOM LINE

- God has drawn you to Him and redeemed you. His Spirit wants to work in you, through you and for you to influence the lives He's placed in your life. You have the privilege to seize every opportunity to point your children to Him.
- What everyday experiences serve as springboards to point your children to who God is?

