



GRACE LEADERSHIP TRAINING
Class 18: Godly Mothers

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Class Summary: This lesson focuses on the biblical expectations, responsibilities, and privileges of being parents.

Parenting: *14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family*, by Paul David Tripp

I. Calling, pg 21-32

Principle: Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God's tools to form a human soul.

Matthew 6:20-21 "But store up for yourselves treasure in heaven where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where our treasure is, there your heart will be also."

"Now, this is hard to accept, but it needs to be said: parenting is either a thing of the highest treasure to you, and that is demonstrated in your choices, words, and actions every day, or it's not. So it's humbling but helpful to admit that on this side of our final home, many, many things in our lives as parents compete for a place in the treasure center of our hearts."

Disciplines of a Godly Family, by Kent & Barbara Hughes

How to Cultivate the Soul

Prayer

Consistent example of your life

Clearly instruct the essentials of the gospel.

Trust God to work in your child's life in His own good way and time.

Addressing doubts

- don't get shook or scold

- two-way conversation not a lecture

- don't offer a glib answer

- it's okay to admit you don't know something

- give them space, childhood is a time of continual change

Insist on kindness, obedience, giving, forgiving, and loving because they are right.

II. Grace, pg 33-44

Principle: God never calls you to a task without giving you what you need to do it. He never sends you without going with you.

Ephesians 3:20-21 “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

“There is nothing more important to consistent, faithful, patient, loving, and effective parenting than to understand what God has given you in the grace of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ... None of us has the natural storehouse of wisdom, strength, patience, mercy, and perseverance that every parent needs in order to do his job well. Independent ability, like independent righteousness, is a delusion.”

III. Law, pg 45-58

Principle: Your children need God’s law, but you cannot ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish.

“If rules and regulations had the power to change the heart and life of your child, rescuing your child from himself and giving him a heart of submission and faith, Jesus would have never needed to come! ... Because they come into the world as fools not knowing what is true or what is false...they need the grace of wisdom that God’s law alone can give.”

IV. Inability, Pg 59-70

Principle: Recognizing what you are unable to do is essential to good parenting.

"If you're going to be what God has designed you to be as a parent and do what he's called you to do, you must confess one essential thing. This confession has the power to change much about the way you act and react toward your children. It is vital that you believe and admit that you have no power whatsoever to change your child."

This is not: Forsaking parental authority, letting children do as they wish, not correcting or disciplining, ignoring wrong behavior, or calling wrong right.

This is: Me submitting to the essential power of God's transforming grace and me placing my hope in the awesome power of God.

V. Identity, pg 71-84

Principle: If you are not resting as a parent in your identity in Christ, you will look for identity in your children."

"Who am I? ... Where is my meaning and purpose in life to be found?"

Three things about trying to get your identity from your children:

"It is a very natural thing to do and a very hard thing to fight."

"Parenting is a miserable place to look for identity."

"It is a crushing burden for your children to have to get up every morning and carry the heavy load of your identity and meaning and purpose and all the expectations and demands that flow from it. No child will carry that load well."

VI. Process, pg 85-96

Principle: You must be committed as a parent to long-view parenting because change is a process and not an event.

I Tim 1:16 “Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.”

“Parenting is not a series of dramatic confrontation-confession events, but rather a life-long process of incremental awareness and progressive change.”

VII. Lost Pg 97-110

Principle: As a parent you're not dealing just with bad behavior, but a condition that causes bad behavior.

Lk 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

"Our children are not just disobedient; they are disobedient because they are lost. ... Everything that we're dealing with is the result of something deeper that must be in our understanding and focus."

Autonomy – "What this lie says is that I am a completely independent human being, and because I am, I have the right to live my life any way I choose to live it."

Self-sufficiency – "This lie tells your child that he has everything he needs inside himself to be what he needs to be and to do what he needs to do."

What Do Lost Children Need?

Insight – "Our children need not just to be told what to do, but they also need to be enabled to see. We need to look for ways to help them to understand the condition of danger that causes their behavior to be disruptive."

Compassion – "Lost children don't need parents who are irritated by their lostness, but rather who mourn it and long for them to be found."

Hope – "As our children begin to admit the condition that they are in, and as they begin to own the danger they are to themselves, what they need to be assured of is that help is available. ...that God sent his Son to earth so that when they begin to confess their need and cry out for help, they would have just the help that they need."

Rescue – "Parenting is not a behavior-control mission; it is a heart-rescue mission. The only hope for a lost child is a radical transformation of his heart. As parents, ... we are his tools in the lives of our children."

Wisdom – "Our children need the wisdom to know when to say no. A successful life is all about saying no, but not to the authorities in your life, or to the people you've been called to love, or to God's call, but no to yourself. ... If they don't learn when and how to say no, they will end up living as they were never intended to live."

VIII. Authority, pg 111-122

Principle: One of the foundational heart issues in the life of every child is authority. Teaching and modeling the protective beauty of authority is one of the foundations of good parenting.

II Cor 5:14-15 “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

“Keep in mind that as a parent you are never just dealing with the words and actions of your children. You are always also dealing with the thing that shapes, directs, and controls the behavior of your children, the heart.”

IX. Foolishness, pg 123-136

Principle: The foolishness inside your child is more dangerous to them than the temptation outside them. Only God’s grace has the power to rescue fools.”

Prov 4:23 “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”

“The words and behavior of your children flow out of whatever is in their hearts.... The heart is the causal core of your child’s personhood.”

“You must remind yourself again and again, so that in the press of the duties of parenting you don’t forget that all of your children’s behavior problems are heart problems.... The second thing you must call yourself to remember is that lasting change in the behavior of your children will always travel through the pathway of the heart.”

How To Parent a Fool

Glory – “The only solution to your child’s addiction to his own glory is to introduce him to a greater glory.”

Wisdom – God will give you opportunities every day to point to how beautiful, protective, practical, helpful, and good God’s wisdom really is.”

Story – “Tell the story of the person and work of Jesus to your children again and again and again. Tell them how God could have condemned us all to our foolishness and its results, but instead how he sent his Son so that instead of being condemned, we’d be forgiven and rescued from ourselves.”

Welcome – “Finally, talk about how God right here, right now, extends a welcome to them to confess their foolishness, to seek his forgiveness, and to receive his eternal help.”

X. Character, pg 137-148

Principle: Not all of the wrong your children do is a direct rebellion to authority; much of the wrong is the result of a lack of character.

“It is not enough to just emphasize the beauty of submission to authority. You must also emphasize the need for character development.”

Rom 1:25, 28-32

“The Bible connects character issues to the most significant of all human functions—worship. What this passage is telling you as a parent is that the heart of your child always lives under the rule of someone or something. And what rules the heart of your child will shape and determine how he deals with the situations and relationships of everyday life.”

XI. False Gods, pg 149-162

Principle: You are parenting a worshiper, so it's important to remember that what rules your child's heart will control his behavior.

Deut 6:5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

“Worship is ... the drive to look to someone or something to give you identity. It's that universal hunger for inner peace. It's that life-long hunt for God. It's the fact that we always live in service of something or that we always live in control of something. It's the reality that no one is godless.”

“The capacity of the heart of our children to worship is meant to drive them to God. ... Our children were made to find life, hope, identity, and meaning in God.”

XII. Control, Pg 163-178

Principle: The goal of parenting is not control of behavior, but rather heart and life change.

What Our Children Need

Guidance - Prov 11:14; Ps 31:3
Instruction - Ps 25:8; Jer 35:13
Authority - Rom 13:1; Matt 28:18
Structure - Jer 29:11; Ps 33:11
Understanding - Ps 119:99, 130
Discipline - Deut 8:5; Heb 12:6
Love - Ex 34:6; John 3:16
Security - Job 24:23; Ps 12:7

Protection - Is 31:5; Ps 91:1
Wisdom - Jms 1:5; I Cor 1:30
Rules - Ps 19:7; Ps 119:151
Preparation - Prov 16:9; 2 Pet 1:3
Confrontation - Ps 94:10; Heb 3:13
Warning - Deut 32:46; Ps 19:11
Forgiveness - Ps 130:4; Col 3:13

Every Child's Deeper Need – Psalm 51

- Your children need to see their sin, so they'll cry out for God's mercy.
- Your children need to understand the nature of sin, so they don't minimize its danger (vs 1-3).
- Your children need to understand that their problem is not with their parents, but with God (vs 4).
- Your children need to understand that sin is a nature problem that produces behavior problems. (vs 5).
- Your children need to understand that since sin is a heart problem the only solution is a new heart (vs 10).
- Your children need to be taught to run to the only place of hope: the forgiving Grace of God (vs 14).

XIII. Rest, pg 179-194

Principle: It is only rest in God's presence and grace that will make you a joyful and patient parent.

Matt 28:18-20 "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.'"

"Biblical faith never requires you to deny reality; rather it calls you to look at all the troubling realities in your life through the lens of the awesome glory and grace of your Redeemer. ... When we're God-forgetful, we tend to load burdens on our shoulders that we cannot bear."

"You can rest when you don't understand what is going on because the One who sent you is never confused and never surprised."

XIV. Mercy, pg 195-209

Principle: No parent gives mercy better than one who is convinced that he desperately needs it himself.

Heb 4:16 "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

"If you allow yourself to forget the daily mercies you receive from your Father's hands, mercies you could never earn, it will become easier for you not to parent your children with mercy. Mercy is tenderheartedness and compassion toward someone in need. Our children are just that – needy."

"Parenting is about being God's ambassadors in the lives of our children. It is about faithfully representing his message, his methods, and his character to our children. It's about working to make the invisible mercy of God visible as we respond with mercy toward our children."

