

GRACE BASED parenting

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Grace Based Parenting

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This Facilitator Workbook is to be used in conjunction with the Grace Based Parenting video study and is not meant to be a stand alone piece.

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Published by Family Matters®

Cover and interior design by Union Digital
(www.uniondigitalmedia.com)

Printed in the United States of America

V1.1.08

WELCOME

Grace Based Parenting Video Facilitator Guide

We are delighted that you are leading this video study. You are going to have the opportunity to facilitate a study that will have a direct and profound affect on many generations to come. It will also have a life-changing affect on the parents who study along with you.

This Facilitator's Guide is designed to help you easily succeed in your role. You will not only succeed, but you will find your own life affected as well. During this series, parents are going to laugh, cry, and make commitments to a whole new standard of raising their families.

We want to orient you to the material you will be using and help you use this series in such a way that everyone participating will be able to raise their stock value as a parent and as an individual. With that in mind, let's go through a checklist for your success, beginning with a list of the ten session titles.

LIST OF SESSIONS

- Session 1 The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting – 10
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This study is not just about handling the everyday challenges of parenting, its about changing the way you think as a parent. We want to equip parents to be the best they can be.

1. Prior to each meeting

- Review session outline and watch the session of the DVD. If you experience any problems with your DVD, please contact Family Matters immediately. If the DVD needs to be replaced, you can show another lesson until you receive your replacement.
- Pray for wisdom and understanding as you lead. Also pray that your participants will be receptive, empowered and encouraged by the lesson and sharing.
- Recruit volunteers to facilitate discussion groups within your small group study or get an additional facilitator for the length of the course if you have a large number of participants.
- Get your room ready by arranging chairs for watching the DVD and by making sure all your audio/visual equipment works.
- Make a commitment to start and stop your group on time.
- Begin reinforcing the benefits of going through the entire video study at the first meeting. Some people will not be able to make all the classes, but most will try if there is accountability within the group.
- Always leave your meeting room in better condition than you found it.

2. Small Group Techniques

- Promote interaction
- Your role is to facilitate conversation; allow participants to hold each other accountable.
- Give everyone a chance to speak; don't allow the talkers to dominate the conversation. Encourage those who are quiet to participate in discussion by directly asking them a question.

- Encourage participants to openly share
- Set the pace by being honest & transparent yourself.
- Use humor and share personal stories.
- Don't be afraid of silence
- Sometimes you have to wait for a response, especially when the subject matter is difficult.
- Model genuine concern and care
- Be excited about accomplishments! Allow participants to cry if they are hurting. Show your group that you genuinely care.

3. Determine a Format

This video study is meant to be flexible and can be used in a variety of ways such as:

- Small Group Study
- Individual or Couple Study
- Church Sunday School Study
- Retreat or Evening Church Study

Your format will determine how much time you can devote to discussion. You may have to choose some of the questions to discuss in your group and encourage them to do the rest at home. The most important questions when it comes to applying the new principles to their own lives will be found in the Bringing It Home section. ***Make sure everyone fills in an answer to the last question of the Bringing It Home section before you close your time.***

We have designed the video portion of the study to be 15-20 minutes in length, with the remaining time to be used for discussion. This study is all about creating a Grace Based Parenting philosophy and making grace the DNA of your family. In order to do that, one must not only learn the model of this, but they must apply them. That is why **discussion** is a primary focus of this study—through discussion, the individuals learn how to apply these principles and create change within their families.

4. How to use this Study

This video is meant to be used in conjunction with the participant workbook. **Each individual should have their own personal workbook in order to fill in the blanks, take notes, and answer the discussion questions.**

Each session has fill-in-the-blanks so that participants can easily follow along with the concepts that are being presented, with discussion questions at the end of each session. **If a person misses a fill-in-the-blank, the answers are in the back of each workbook.**

If you need to order more workbooks, call Family Matters at 1.800.467.4596 or go online at www.familymatters.net and we will get those out to you immediately.

Suggested Schedule

Below is a suggested time schedule to complete this session in a 60 minute time frame. If you have more time, then we suggest you use it in the ***Bringing it Home section.***

The video itself is laid out in the following format:

1. Introduction (1 – 2 minutes) – Darcy Kimmel introduces the topic being addressed during this session and gives an overview.
2. Teaching (approx. 15-20 minutes) – Tim Kimmel presents the topic for this session. Each session after session 1 matches a corresponding chapter in the book ***Grace Based Parenting***, and we highly recommend that all participants and especially you, the facilitator, read the chapter, though it is not required for comprehension of the video session.

3. Discussion (remainder of time) – *Making this Yours* is the key transformational component of the video study. These are questions in the workbook at the end of each session to help start the discussion of what was presented. These questions are broken up into the following 3 sections:

- Getting it Started –(approx. 10 minutes)– Basic questions aimed at getting people comfortable and talking.
- Taking it Deeper – (approx. 10 minutes) These questions and scriptural passages help solidify the concepts presented by Dr. Kimmel in the video.
- Bringing it Home – (approx. 15 minutes) These questions help the participants think about how these principles can be applied in their own lives and families.

At the end of each session there is a prayer for your group with which you or another participant can close. This is a time when you ask God for His help in taking what you've learned as a group and turning it into individual benefit. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants. It might be tempting to broaden the scope of these requests, but in consideration of the time, those requests should be addressed at another time.

5. Keys to An Effective Study

Group Commitments That Insure Success (You might want to read these at the first meeting.)

- Courtesy – Each participant should commit to arriving to each session on time.
- Acceptance – Each participant should affirm the other participants' verbal contributions.
- Confidentiality – Each participant should be careful to not talk about personal issues shared by fellow participants outside the context of this study.

- Honesty – Each participant should be forthright and truthful when they speak.
- Respect – Each participant should be careful not to stand in judgment, give quick advice, or criticize his or her fellow participants. The goal is to make the group a safe place for participants to talk openly about their roles and about their children.

6. Follow-up

Once you're done studying this video series, an excellent follow up study is one of Dr. Kimmel's companion studies or books. Three books give a complete picture of a parenting plan that brings the best out of kids and grooms them for a life that will never let them down. You will find study questions for each chapter in the books or you can go online and download the Enhanced Study Guides for each book. While there is no set order, we recommend reading them as follows:

- Grace Based Parenting
 - Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right
 - Raising Kids for True Greatness
- Our other video studies include the following and would be a great way to continue learning about grace-based relationships:
 - *Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right*
 - *Extreme Grandparenting: The Ride of Your Life*
 - *Basic Training for a Few Good Men*
 - We'd love to hear how this study has affected you! Encourage participants to write us at Family Matters®, P.O.Box 14382, Scottsdale, AZ 85267-4382. Or email us at family@familymatters.net.

- Spread the Message Around – Encourage participants to lead their friends through one of our group studies. This will not only enable more parents to learn how to transfer the dynamic qualities of grace and greatness to more children, but it will also enable the person leading the study to grow in his or her role as a parent. If you need to order more books or workbooks, go to www.familymatters.net or call our toll free number 800-467-4596.
- A Group Reunion – You might want to gather your group together six months after you have completed your study in order to get updates on how they are doing on transferring these truths to their kids. It would also be a good time to pray for each others' children.

We appreciate you! May God richly bless you for your willingness to lead parents in this study!

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 1

The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting



Session 1: The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting (21 minutes)

Welcome everyone. Congratulate them on their desire to be better parents and grandparents. If this is the first time this group has met, it might be a good idea to go around and have everyone briefly introduce themselves. This would be a great time to read Group Commitments That Insure Success on page 7. If your group is more than 10 people, it is a good idea to divide it into discussion groups of no more than 10-12 people. This way there will be more time for individuals to share during the discussion time.

In this first session, Tim will introduce us to the grace-based parenting model. As you will learn in this session, there are four parts or dimensions that make up this grace-based plan for parenting. In this particular study, we're going to be looking at the first two parts or dimensions of the grace-based parenting plan that are developed in the book, Grace Based Parenting. Enjoy learning about raising our kids the way God raises His – with grace!

Introduction

God left behind a job description for parents that want to raise **Great Kids**.

- A. God wants us to raise kids who love Him, live for Him, and make an **impact** in their world.

He answered: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Luke 10:27

- B. God has given us the perfect vehicle to make this happen – His **grace**!

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

- I. **Understanding the role of grace in a family frees parents up to raise kids who make an extraordinary **difference** with their lives.**

- A. Grace is not so much what we do, but **how** we do what we do.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. Ephesians 4:15

- B. Grace-based parenting is simply treating your children the way God treats His!

*For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17, emphasis added.*

- **Grace-based parenting:** Accepts children regardless of merit, serves children's needs without a sense of obligation, and motivates children to a higher holiness without condemnation.
- **Grace-based parents:** Joyfully recognize the God-given potential in every one of their children and sacrificially do what they can to maximize that potential for God's glory...regardless of that child's behavior.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

- C. Grace-based parenting _____ **mirrors** _____ the heart of God.
- He knows our deepest longings.
 - He sees our truest needs.
 - He understands our greatest challenges.
 - He envisions our highest potential.
- D. Grace-based parenting happens when we apply God's love to four key dimensions of our children's lives.



II. Parents who are fueled by God's grace have a practical, personal and powerful influence on their children.

A. Grace-based parenting has many benefits:

- It brings the best out of everyone involved.
- It curbs sibling rivalry.
- It empowers kids to focus in school.
- It inclines children to be a good friend and to choose their closest friends wisely.
- It guides kids when they have to deal with difficult people.
- It gives children greater respect for leadership.

- It helps kids respond positively to discipline and correction.
 - It sets children up to be greater assets to the future.
 - It leans children toward choosing a gracious spouse.
 - It helps children avoid extremes.
 - It naturally draws children to the heart of God.
- B. We need to build grace into our homes because our homes are the single most strategic influence on our _____ **society** _____.

Conclusion

Three steps to becoming a grace-based parent:

- A. Letting God's grace into your heart. *(See appendix on page 120-121.)*
- B. Letting His grace transform the way you view yourself and live your life.
- C. Letting God's grace define the way you treat your children 24/7/365!

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord... Psalm 127:3a

Session 1

The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting

Don't Miss: If you are limited by time and need to choose just a few of the questions to discuss as a group, we want to suggest the following. Encourage the participants to do the other questions at home.

Getting it Started: #3, #5

Taking it Deeper: #2

Bringing it Home: #2, #3

Close this session by having you or someone else pray the prayer at the end of Making This Your's. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants.

Remind the participants to read Chapter One of ***Grace Based Parenting*** in order to get the most out of the next session.

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 2

Why Well-Meaning Parenting Falls Short



Session 2: Why Well-Meaning Parenting Falls Short (20 minutes)

Welcome everyone back and recognize any new members of the study. In this session, we will look at how we can easily get off track in our parenting role. Good intentions simply aren't enough when it comes to fulfilling this all important responsibility of parenting and grandparenting. We need a plan and, in this session, Tim introduces a refreshing alternative to the flawed parenting tracks that our culture offers us.

Introduction

The job of raising great kids and enjoying the process along the way has become extremely complicated.

- Our culture _____ **competes** _____ against us.
- Sometimes our spiritual leaders _____ **mislead** _____ us.
- Our past can _____ **handicap** _____ us.
- Our kids can _____ **resist** _____ our best attempts.

I. Some parents end up off course because of flawed assumptions about what it takes to groom a child for a great future.

- A. Some parents assume that kids have enough built-in _____ **moral** _____ structure.
- ***They don't.***

Session 2

Why Well-Meaning Parenting Falls Short

B. Some parents assume _____ **obedience** _____ to a stricter and tighter standard of behavior creates safer and better kids.
– ***Not necessarily.***

C. Some parents assume raising kids in a more _____ **controlled** _____ environment helps gain more favor from God.
– ***It doesn't.***

II. Some parents end up off course because outspoken voices within their _____ **spiritual _____ community give arbitrary parenting options an almost “biblical” priority.**

A. Choices such as how you feed an infant, how you correct an errant child, or how you educate your child have been framed by some Christian leaders in ways that leave parents thinking that they have no other spiritual options.

B. These narrow views of conscientious Christian parenting can cause good moms and dads to feel guilty and constantly second-guess themselves.

III. Some parents end up off course because they are raising their children within a Christian _____ **sub-culture _____.**

A. It's hard to raise kids who develop a passion for God when they live in an environment that doesn't really need Him.

- B. God has called families to serve as porch lights of faith and truth to the community around them.

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Matthew 5:14-15

- C. Families committed to being lights in their community:

- Study the Bible more.
- Care for each other more.
- Reach out to hurting neighbors more.

IV. **Some parents end up off course because they've adopted a flawed model of parenting.**

- Fear-Based Parenting.
- Image-Control Parenting.
- High-Control Parenting.
- Herd-Mentality Parenting.
- Duct-Tape Parenting.
- Life-Support or 911 Parenting.

V. Grace-based parenting provides a refreshing alternative for raising kids.

- They spend their time entrusting themselves to Christ.
- They live to know God more.
- Their children are daily recipients of the grace these parents are enjoying from the Lord.
- They tend to be far more peaceful and very much in love with God.
- They are especially graceful when their children are hardest to love.
- They tend to be extremely grateful people.
- They're seldom afraid.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:18-19

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

Conclusion

Great kids don't happen by _____ **accident** _____.

- A grace-based plan for parenting empowers parents to create an atmosphere of grace in their home, meet their children's true inner needs, build character into the core of their heart, and aim them at a truly great future.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 3:18

- Parents who want to raise truly great kids find their task so much easier and their efforts so much more rewarding when they parent their children in the power and influence of God's grace.

Session 2

Why Well-Meaning Parenting Falls Short

Don't Miss: If you are limited by time and need to choose just a few of the questions to discuss as a group, we want to suggest the following. Encourage the participants to do the other questions at home. To get things started, have one person share how they implemented last week's lesson into their life.

Getting it Started: #3, #4

Taking it Deeper: #1

Bringing it Home: #1, #3

Close this session by having you or someone else pray the prayer at the end of Making This Your's. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants.

Remind the participants to read Chapter Two of Grace Based Parenting in order to get the most out of the next session.

Why Well-Meaning Parenting Falls Short

Session 2

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 3

The Truth Behind Grace



Session 3: The Truth Behind Grace (22 minutes)

Welcome everyone back and recognize any new members of the study. In this session, we will learn the importance of balance in our role as a parent. Tim will help us reconcile two huge concepts that run throughout the scriptures when it comes to our responsibilities as a parent. Tim will also steer us away from two extremes that can undermine our ability to love our kids the way God loves His— with grace.

Introduction

Grace helps parents maintain _____ **balance** _____ in the midst of so many competing concerns and demands.

- A. When a parent enforces rules with a strident and heavy hand, they tip into the discouraging style of **legalistic** parenting.
- B. When a parent takes kindness and accommodation of their children's wants to toxic levels, they tip into the debilitating style of **license-based** parenting.
- C. A grace-based home sets high standards for children without falling into the extreme traps of legalism on the one side and license on the other.

***Grace makes it a lot easier to keep
the bubble in the middle.***

- D. Grace is the ideal plan for raising truly great kids.

I. **Grace-based parents avoid a _____ **toxic** _____ attitude towards morality as well as improperly responding to a child's unique behavior.**

A. **Legalism**

- Legalism imposes _____ **arbitrary** _____ rules and man-made expectations on an equal plane with rules and standards God outlines in the Bible.
- Legalism _____ **insults** _____ grace.

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

B. **License**

- License lacks clearly defined rules and standards.
- License _____ **cheapens** _____ grace.

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Romans 6:1-2

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say, "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. Titus 2:11-14

II. Grace-based parents view their children the same way God views His.

- Grace doesn't deal with children according to their sins.
- Grace doesn't focus its attention on what is wrong with a child.
- Grace doesn't measure a child's value according to how well they adhere to a list of moral and spiritual laws.
- Grace does not revert to condemnation, traffic in guilt, or leverage with shame.
- Grace sees children according to what they can be rather than what they can do.

III. There is an inseparable relationship between grace and truth.

- A. A truly grace-based home is a home that holds up truth that is tempered by grace and practices grace that is tempered by truth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One, and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1, 14

- B. The graceful balance between rules and relationship empowers parents to maintain strong moral standards without having to jeopardize their heart connection to their children.
- Rules without **relationship** leads to **rebellion**.
 - Relationship without **rules** leads to **resentment**.

Conclusion

Children need parents who administer grace within the context of clearly defined biblical and moral boundaries.

- Truth is a clear light that illuminates our children's way through the dark and shadowy corridors of youth.
- Grace is the heart commitment to keep that light shining brightly no matter what.

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Don't Miss: If you are limited by time and need to choose just a few of the questions to discuss as a group, we want to suggest the following. Encourage the participants to do the other questions at home. To get things started, have one person share how they implemented last week's lesson into their life.

Getting it Started: #2, #4

Taking it Deeper: #1

Bringing it Home: #1, #4

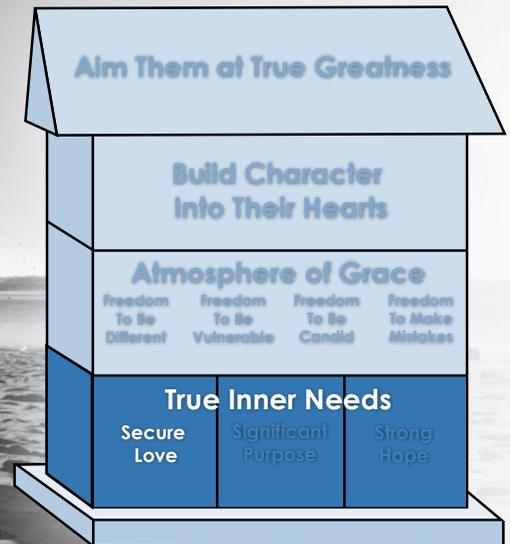
Close this session by having you or someone else pray the prayer at the end of *Making This Your's*. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants.

Remind the participants to read Chapter Three of ***Grace Based Parenting*** in order to get the most out of the next session.

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 4

A Secure Love



Session 4: A Secure Love (18 minutes)

Welcome everyone back. In this session, we will begin to unpack the three non-negotiable needs that every child is born with. We will learn how we sometimes unwittingly undermine our ability to meet this first need and three practical ways we can to meet our child's need for a secure love.

Introduction

All children long for a love that is secure.

- A. Every child is born with three fundamental, driving inner needs:
True Needs.
 - 1. A need for *security*.
 - 2. A need for *significance*.
 - 3. A need for *strength*.
See appendix on page 122 to see how satan appealed to these needs in a counterfeit way.

- B. Grace-based parents equip their children for a much more effective and meaningful future when they use each day to give their children:
 - 1. A Secure _____ **Love** _____.
 - 2. A Significant _____ **Purpose** _____.
 - 3. A Strong _____ **Hope** _____.

- C. Every word you say, every decision, and every _____ **action** _____ is an opportunity to meet these three true needs.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:7-11

I. Many children have a difficult time gaining secure love from their parents because that love is _____ **incomplete _____.**

- A. Some children feel that they have to _____ **compete** _____ for their parent's love.
- B. Some children feel that they have to _____ **earn** _____ their parent's love.
- C. It's much easier to transfer a secure love to our child's heart if we work from a clear _____ **definition** _____ of love.

Love is the commitment of my will to your needs and best interests, regardless of the cost.

II. There are three powerful ways to build a secure love into a child's heart.

A. We need to _____ **accept** _____ them as they are.

1. Children feel accepted when we appreciate the things about them over which they have no control:

- Their gender
- Their IQ
- Their mannerisms
- Their learning styles
- Their physical features
- Their physical abilities
- Their emotional capacities

2. We accept our children when we model the same endearing love that Jesus had.

Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14, NASB

B. We need to make sure they know they are _____ **affiliated** _____ with a loving and honoring home.

1. Homes of honor see each child's time, skills, and dreams as gifts to be cherished and stewarded carefully.

2. Homes of honor still have room for sibling rivalry and occasional disappointments, but for the most part, these are homes that show respect for a child's uniqueness and vulnerabilities.

The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him. Proverbs 20:7

- C. We need to give them regular and generous helpings of affection.
1. Every child was born to respond to meaningful touch.
 2. The hugs and kisses that children receive from their parents becomes a reservoir of security in their hearts.
 3. Both boys and girls need affection from both their mother and their father.

*Taking a child, he set him before them, and **taking him in His arms**, He said to them, "Whoever receives one child **like this** in My name receives Me..." Mark 9:36-37a, NASB (emphasis added)*

Conclusion

A secure love prepares them for a future of true greatness.

- Satan would love to help your child gain their sense of inner security from counterfeits like popularity and applause.
- Grace-based parents transfer a secure love to their child by accepting them as they are, creating a loving and honoring spirit within their home, and giving them generous helpings of affection.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:8-10

Don't Miss: If you are limited by time and need to choose just a few of the questions to discuss as a group, we want to suggest the following. Encourage the participants to do the other questions at home. To get things started, have one person share how they implemented last week's lesson into their life.

Getting it Started: #1, #2

Taking it Deeper: #1

Bringing it Home: #1, #4

We have introduced several questions that address the unique needs of single parents and blended families. If time permits, you may ask one of these parents to share an answer to one of these questions.

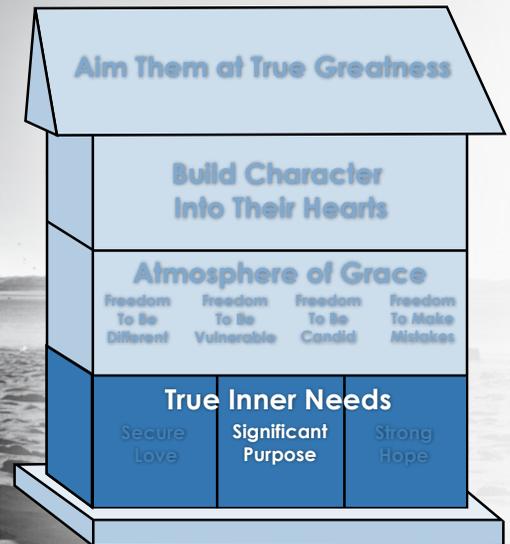
Close this session by having you or someone else pray the prayer at the end of *Making This Yours*. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants.

Remind the participants to read Chapter Four of ***Grace Based Parenting*** in order to get the most out of the next session.

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 5

A Significant Purpose



Session 5: A Significant Purpose (18 minutes)

Welcome everyone back. In this session, we are reminded that God made us all with a driving desire to make a difference with our lives. It is a parent's privilege to shepherd a child's heart toward a significant purpose. Tim will talk about 4 levels of purpose that we want to nurture in our child's heart and practical ways to achieve these levels.

Introduction

All children need to know they have a significant purpose on earth.

- A. There is a deep longing in the heart of every child to make a **difference**.

Although many people can contribute to this process, it is a child's parents that carry the greatest potential for influence.

- B. Parents need to have a deliberate and gracious involvement in identifying and developing **potential**.

I. Children have four levels of purpose that need to be developed.

A. A General Purpose

A general purpose empowers a child to grow up to play a strategic role in the larger family of man.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Philippians 2:3-4

B. A Specific Purpose

A specific purpose enables a child to use their God-given skills and abilities wisely.

C. A Relational Purpose

A relational purpose allows a child to navigate his or her social context in a much more deliberate and valuable way.

D. A _____ **Spiritual** _____ Purpose

A spiritual purpose helps a child develop a meaningful and eternal relationship with God, as well as prepares them to make a spiritual difference in other people's lives.

You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13,14,16

II. There are three powerful ways to build a significant purpose into a child's heart.

A. Give them regular _____ **affirmation** _____.

- Kids who hear well-timed affirmation from their parents are more easily convinced of their God-given intrinsic worth.
- Affirmation loves to catch children doing things right. It notices when they do things that don't come easily to them.
- We must avoid the trap of handing out a lot of empty praise.

I'll give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it full well.

Psalm 139:14, NASB

Session 5

A Significant Purpose

B. Give them focused _____ **attention** _____.

- It's hard to build a significant purpose into people who feel like footnotes to our daily lives.

C. Give them graceful _____ **admonition** _____.

- Everyone is born with a bent toward selfishness. The lure of sin loses a lot of its potency when a life of grace is attractively modeled.
- When our children fall short, discipline and consequences—gracefully applied—communicate the incredible worth you place on them.

It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ... Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ... All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Hebrews 12:7, 9, 11, NASB

Conclusion

It's never too late.

- We matter more to our kids than we realize. They were born with a need to make a difference. For good or for ill, we play the biggest role in determining what kind of difference they will ultimately make.
- Grace-based parents transfer a significant purpose to their children by giving them regular affirmation, focused attention, and graceful admonishment.

Session 5

A Significant Purpose

Don't Miss: If you are limited by time and need to choose just a few of the questions to discuss as a group, we want to suggest the following. Encourage the participants to do the other questions at home. To get things started, have one person share how they implemented last week's lesson into their life.

Getting it Started: #1, #3

Taking it Deeper: #2

Bringing it Home: #1, #4

We have introduced several questions that address the unique needs of single parents and blended families. If time permits, you may ask one of these parents to share an answer to one of these questions.

Close this session by having you or someone else pray the prayer at the end of *Making This Yours*. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants.

Remind the participants to read Chapter Five of ***Grace Based Parenting*** in order to get the most out of the next session.

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 6

A Strong Hope



Session 6: A Strong Hope (19 minutes)

Welcome everyone back. In this session, Tim will impress upon us the importance of transferring a strong hope to the heart of our children. God has provided many ripe opportunities in our children's daily lives to build this strong hope. As we strive to meet this true need in our children, we will learn that both protection and preparation play a big part.

Do we want to have the entire study here, with the answers filled in? (Without the space between questions for answers?)

Introduction

All children need to know they have a strong hope for the future.

- A. Parents who are deliberate about meeting their children's inner need for strength make it easier for their kids to:
- Grow up to be visionaries.
 - Trust in a better future.
 - Long for a greater good.
 - Ultimately put their hope in God.
- B. Parents who model a strong trust in God _____ **transfer** _____ a confident hope into the deepest recesses of a child's heart.

I. God provides unique dynamics of youth that lend themselves to transferring a strong hope into a child.

A. Our children's sense of hope is strengthened when we enthusiastically and sacrificially care for them during those years in their lives when they are primarily helpless.

- Children develop a strong hope when they can rely on their parents to lovingly and reliably meet their physical and emotional needs.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:25,33

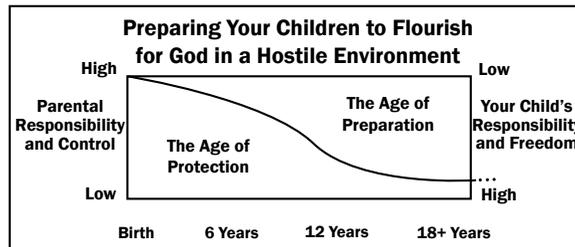
B. Our children's sense of hope is strengthened when we willingly start to hand over responsibility for their lives.

1. There are two extreme views of helping children that undermine their ability to develop a strong hope:

- a) Hardly helping them at all.
- b) Continuing to help them when they are really ready (and would prefer) to stand on their own two feet.

Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.
Ephesians 4:13-15

- Grace-based parents know the balance between **protecting** their children in their helplessness and **preparing** their children for independence.



from *Why Christian Kids Rebel*, page 195.

II. There are three powerful ways to build a strong hope into a child's heart.

- A. Children develop a strong hope when they know their parents recognize their God-given abilities and turn them into assets for the future.

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

- B. Children develop a strong hope when their parents lead them and encourage them to live a great spiritual adventure.

1. Many parents preoccupy themselves with raising safe children.
2. Kids raised in "safe" Christian environments can become:
 - Spiritually lazy.
 - Overly critical of people caught in the traps of the world system.
 - Naïve about the world system to the point that they can be easily programmed by it once they are out on their own.
 - Indifferent.

3. Grace-based parents don't make it their aim to raise safe kids. Instead, they want to raise strong kids.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

- C. Children develop a strong hope when their parents help them turn their childhood into a series of positive accomplishments.

1. Grace-based parents show their children how to:

- Work hard.
- Get along with difficult people.
- Solve confusing problems.
- Handle money.
- Repent.
- Forgive.
- Fear God a lot.
- Fear their fellow man very little.
- Laugh and cry at the right time.
- Bring the best out of the people closest to them.

2. Childhood provides ample time to give children outlets to turn these ingredients from "nice tries" to proven accomplishments that strengthen their sense of hope for the future.

Conclusion

A strong hope prepares our children for a future of true greatness.

- A. Grace-based parents transfer a strong hope to their children by:
- Turning their unique, God-given abilities into assets.
 - Leading the way in living a great spiritual adventure.
 - Working to turn both their victories and defeats into a series of positive accomplishments.

Don't Miss: If you are limited by time and need to choose just a few of the questions to discuss as a group, we want to suggest the following. Encourage the participants to do the other questions at home. To get things started, have one person share how they implemented last week's lesson into their life.

Getting it Started: #3, #4

Taking it Deeper: #2

Bringing it Home: #1, #3

We have introduced several questions that address the unique needs of single parents and blended families. If time permits, you may ask one of these parents to share an answer to one of these questions.

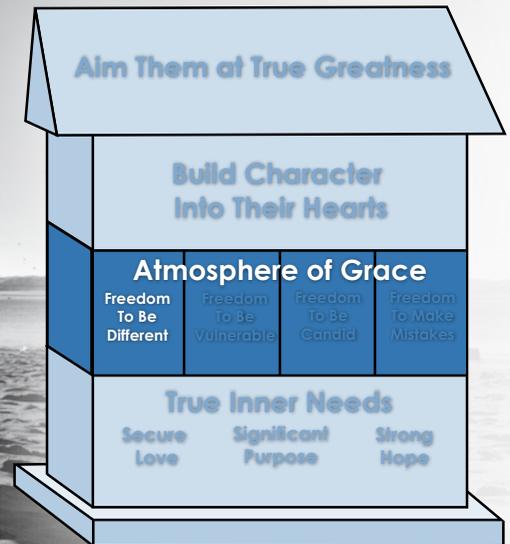
Close this session by having you or someone else pray the prayer at the end of *Making This Your's*. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants.

Remind the participants to read Chapter Six and Seven of ***Grace Based Parenting*** in order to get the most out of the next session.

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 7

The Freedom To Be Different



Session 7: The Freedom To Be Different (16 minutes)

Welcome everyone back. As parents, we all know that every child is unique and their individuality can sometimes drive us crazy. In this session, Tim will remind us that God is a God of variety and loves to make us all differently. A grace based home not only has room for those differences but actually celebrates them.

Introduction

Children are far more inclined to align their lives with God if they are raised within an atmosphere that reflects the heart of His grace.

- A. A grace-based home consistently communicates a love that isn't determined by a child's behavior.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him...As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust...But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children. Psalm 103:11,13-14,17

- B. An atmosphere of grace in our home encourages parents to:
- Listen more and lecture less.
 - Respond more and react less.
 - Engage more and dismiss less.
 - Pray more and judge less.

C. A grace-based home doesn't _____ **magnify** _____ minor issues or elevate non-essentials out of proportion.

I. **The first way parents can create an atmosphere of grace is to give children the freedom to be _____ **different** _____.**

A. "Different" in this context refers to attitudes and actions that are weird, bizarre, strange, goofy, or quirky but not necessarily _____ **sinful** _____.

1. Legalistic patterns of parenting emphasize the symbols of Christian behavior over the _____ **substance** _____ of Christian living.
2. Fear-based parenting grants more power and influence to the external forces of the world system than it does to the _____ **internal** _____ power and presence of God.

Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:4, NASB

B. It is very easy to react to our children's "different" behavior because:

- It annoys us.
- It embarrasses us.
- We jump to the conclusion that what they are doing is wrong.

II. Grace-based parents are careful not to make arbitrary standards and expectations _____ **biblical _____ issues.**

- A. Grace-based parents avoid the trap of using the _____ **Bible** _____ to justify their personal preferences.
- B. When a parent uses the Bible to speak out against a child that is “different” but not necessarily doing anything biblically wrong, that parent may be using the Lord’s name in vain.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Exodus 20:7

- C. Children are more inclined to respect and respond to a parent’s rules when they are:
 - Established in an atmosphere of grace.
 - Reasonable and logical.

III. Some “different” behavior might have its source in a genuine problem within the child’s _____ **heart _____.**

- A. Some “different” behavior is simply a child’s strength pushed to an extreme.
 - Grace-based parenting focusing on tempering the behavior without condemning or squelching it.

- B. Some “different” behavior is an outward expression of an inward struggle with sin, anger, or shame.
- Grace-based parents focus their attention on connecting with the heart of the child rather than attacking the external manifestation of their internal problems.
 - When the internal problem is corrected, the outside tends to take care of itself.

Conclusion

Giving children the freedom to be different sets them up to harness so much more of their God-given potential.

- Grace gives children the freedom to be unique.
- Giving children the freedom to be different communicates an unconditional love and an intrinsic worth that is at the heart of God’s amazing grace.

Don't Miss: If you are limited by time and need to choose just a few of the questions to discuss as a group, we want to suggest the following. Encourage the participants to do the other questions at home.

Getting it Started: #2, #4

Taking it Deeper: #1

Bringing it Home: #1, #4

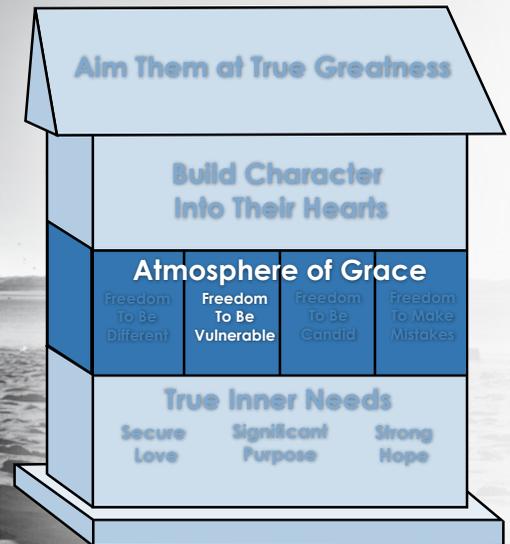
Close this session by having you or someone else pray the prayer at the end of *Making This Your's*. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants.

Remind the participants to read Chapter Eight of ***Grace Based Parenting*** in order to get the most out of the next session.

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 8

The Freedom To Be Vulnerable



Session 8: The Freedom To Be Vulnerable (19 minutes)

Welcome everyone back. In this session, Tim reminds us that childhood is a fragile time and home should be a safe place for our kids to process the things that go along with growing up. By giving our children the freedom to vulnerable, we extend God's grace to a needy heart.

Introduction

A grace-based home provides the ideal atmosphere for children to process the fragile nature of youth.

- A. Grace-based parents make it their aim to consistently communicate an affirming and accepting love – especially during the awkward periods of childhood.
- B. Grace-based parents offer a safe haven for a child's transparent heart.
- C. Grace-based parenting extends to our children the same _____ **tender** _____ **mercy** _____ that God extends to His children.

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

I. The second way parents can create an atmosphere of grace is to give children the freedom to be vulnerable.

- A. Children are born with an unsophisticated set of emotions.
 - 1. They are prone to vast mood swings, vain imaginations, and inordinate fears.
 - 2. They need parents who don't overreact, trivialize, or write them off.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

- B. Home must be a place where children don't have to wear masks over their emotions.
- C. Children need to know that they can voice their feelings and discuss their inadequacies without fear of them being attacked.

II. Grace-based parents help their children process the tension between the facts of a given situation and the feelings that might be distorting those facts.

- A. It's not uncommon for children's feelings about a given situation to have no connection whatsoever to the facts.
 - 1. The lack of maturity that surrounds childhood often makes it difficult for kids to see beyond their emotions.

2. Healthy adults are people who adequately process their feelings but make their decisions based on truth, facts, logic, and common sense.
 3. Grace-based parents carefully help children process their vulnerabilities so that they aren't ultimately defined or mastered by their emotions.
- B. Children need an atmosphere of grace that offers:
- love instead of lectures.
 - understanding instead of ignorance.
 - compassion instead of dismissal.

III. One of the best ways to help children process their vulnerabilities is by meeting their three driving inner needs.

- A. It's much easier for children to learn to face their fears and move beyond their embarrassments when they have been given a deep sense of security, a significance purpose, and a strong hope.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
2 Corinthians 12:9-10

- B. The best way to help kids gracefully deal with their vulnerabilities is by letting them see their mother and/or father trusting in God's secure love, significant purpose, and strong hope through the difficulties and fears they face as adults.

Conclusion

Giving children the freedom to be vulnerable allows them to safely voice their fears and share their inadequacies with their parents.

- Grace-based parents handle their children's vulnerabilities with respect.
- Grace-based parents avoid trivializing their children's fears or emotions.

Don't Miss: If you are limited by time and need to choose just a few of the questions to discuss as a group, we want to suggest the following. Encourage the participants to the other questions at home.

Getting it Started: #2, #4

Taking it Deeper: #1

Bringing it Home: #2, #4

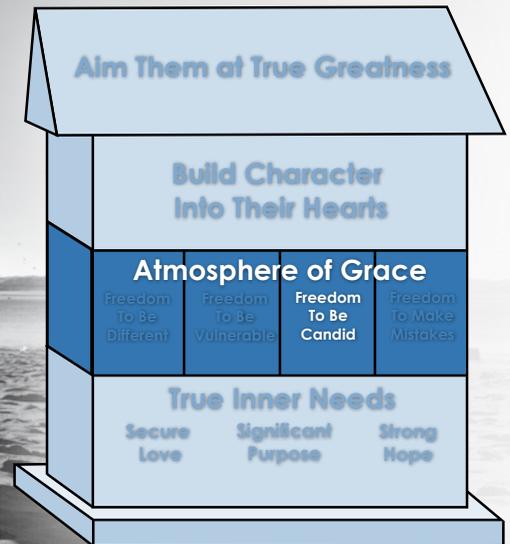
Close this session by having you or someone else pray the prayer at the end of *Making This Your's*. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants.

Remind the participants to read Chapter Nine of ***Grace Based Parenting*** in order to get the most out of the next session.

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 9

The Freedom To Be Candid



Session 9: The Freedom To Be Candid (21 minutes)

Welcome everyone back. Just because we love each other within our families, it doesn't mean that we always agree or please each other. The freedom to be candid bathes conflict with grace and promises a better outcome. Grace based families encourage a loving honesty that frees young hearts to forgive and move on.

Introduction

Truthfulness and forthrightness are supposed to be anchor tenants of an atmosphere of grace.

- A. Because people tend to communicate the uncomfortable issues within relationships from the platform of their feelings, graciousness is often forced out of the picture.
- B. To keep this from happening, grace-based families need a brand of honesty that consistently frames painful truth in a way that helps rather than harms. Candor is that brand of honesty.
- C. There is a high degree of fairness brought to bear within the true definition of *candor*.

I. The third way parents can create an atmosphere of grace is to give children the freedom to be candid.

- A. Candor allows for a verbal give-and-take between parents and a child that promotes honesty dipped in honor.
1. A grace-based atmosphere works to create a careful forthrightness that guards the other person's dignity.
 2. A grace-based atmosphere encourages children to talk about the deep, and sometimes troubling, issues they are working through in a way that builds them up and makes them better people.

...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.
Philippians 2:12b

- B. Candor provides a safe forum in which children can air their doubts, disappointments, and even their misguided beliefs.
1. During these times, children need parents who remain calm and spend time on their knees.
 2. Running truth through a filter of love moves honesty to the more others - oriented level of candor.
 3. If the family atmosphere is dominated by grace, children will not be defined by their struggles and controlled by the powers of darkness.

- **Strident, legalistic homes** set children up to be critical.
- **Fear-based families** set children up to be intimidated.
- **Lawless homes** set children up to be dishonoring and self-absorbed.

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

4. Grace-based parents _____ **encourage** _____ their children to openly and respectfully share their opinions.

II. **Grace requires that we exchange words about touchy subjects with a commitment to help – even heal – the other person.**

- A. We need to create an easy way for them to voice the cries of their hearts so we can help them process issues adequately.
 1. Grace makes room for children to tell their parents things about themselves that parents might not be excited to hear.
 2. Grace makes room for children to walk with their parents through adult issues they are struggling with such as sex, substance abuse, or spiritual doubts.
 3. Grace makes room for children to tell parents frustrations they are having with them as parents.

4. The best way to ensure that our children will speak respectfully to us is to make sure that we speak respectfully when we are voicing our disappointment with them.

See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:15

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6

Conclusion

Children brought up in grace-based homes enjoy a comfortable and easy outlet of communication with their parents.

- Regardless of age, children need to know that they can communicate the deepest struggles within their hearts without worrying about it costing them in the future.
- Allowing kids to be respectfully candid with their parents sets them up to enjoy an adulthood without regrets.

Don't Miss: If you are limited by time and need to choose just a few of the questions to discuss as a group, we want to suggest the following. Encourage the participants to do the other questions at home.

Getting it Started: #2, #3

Taking it Deeper: #2

Bringing it Home: #1, #4

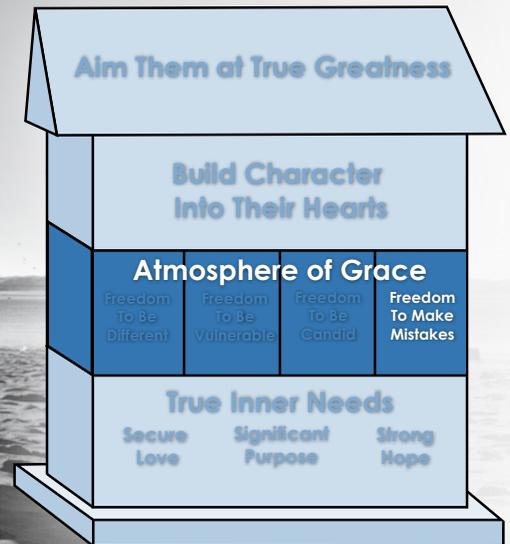
Close this session by having you or someone else pray the prayer at the end of *Making This Yours*. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants.

Remind the participants to read Chapter Ten and Eleven of ***Grace Based Parenting*** in order to get the most out of the next session.

GRACE BASED parenting

Session 10

The Freedom To Make Mistakes



Session 10: The Freedom To Make Mistakes (21 minutes)

Welcome everyone back. As adults, we realize that mistakes are a part of life. But how those around us allow us to process those mistakes makes the difference between learning from them or going undercover and making the same mistakes again. Responding with grace keeps the lines of communication open and allows parents to help their children through the hard lessons of childhood.

Introduction

How parents respond to what happens inside the walls of their home does more to affect the outcome of children's lives than any other single factor.

- A. A family of origin creates a group identity that ends up defining everyone in that home individually.
- B. Parents have a huge responsibility to pay attention to the kind of choices their children are making and the assumptions that drive those choices.
- C. Grace-based parents realize that they walk on feet of clay. This makes them a lot more sensitive to their children when those children disappoint them.

Session 10

The Freedom To Make Mistakes

- I. **The fourth way parents can create an atmosphere of grace is to give their children the freedom to _____ **make** _____ **mistakes** _____.**
- A. A grace-based atmosphere provides the optimum conditions for dealing with our children's sin.
- Grace utilizes a strong connection to their heart rather than fear or _____ **guilt** _____ to motivate them to righteousness.
 - Grace doesn't lower standards – if anything, grace is a higher _____ **holiness** _____.
- B. Pleasing God is contingent on a person's faith in Him, not on their ability to maintain a righteous and _____ **moral** _____ standard.
- And without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6*

...the righteous will live by faith. Galatians 3:11
- C. God wants a _____ **commitment** _____ to obedience that comes from a love for Him and a trust in Him.

II. Strident, legalistic, and fear-based families undermine a child's ability to develop a commitment to righteousness that comes from a deep love for God.

A. These types of homes promote obedience to a standard rather than obedience to God.

1. In these homes, a child's ability to obey God is dependent on their level of personal will-power rather than a clear understanding of their own weaknesses and a growing love for and trust in God.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 18:9-14

2. Guilt and fear can plague children in these homes without the children ever falling into sin.
- B. Graceless homes make it very difficult for children to utilize the presence and power of God to gain victory over their bent toward sinful behavior.

III. Grace-based parents don't over-react when their children struggle to do the right thing and make the right choices.

- A. In grace-based homes, parents don't preoccupy themselves with trying to keep sin out of their homes.
 - 1. Grace-based homes assume kids will struggle with sin and teaches them to tap God's power to help them get stronger.
 - 2. This attitude helps parents show their kids how to find greater victory when it comes to their sin.
 - 3. Grace is committed to bringing children up from their sin; legalism puts them on a high standard and works overtime to keep them from falling down.

- B. Grace understands that the only real solution for our children's sin is the work of Christ on their behalf.
1. You can encourage your children to struggle with their sin out in the open where you can talk about it and direct them to the power of Christ.
 2. It is easier for them to have victory when we can help them through their struggles.

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. Psalm 130:3-4

- C. Grace avoids condemnation.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. Romans 8:1-3

1. When children have the freedom to make mistakes, they adopt a humble attitude, experience remorse, and express a desire for forgiveness.

Conclusion

Grace-based homes provide the ideal context for kids to process the best and worst of childhood.

- A. Grace-based homes meet a child's true needs for security, significance, and strength, and use each day to meet these needs with love, purpose, and hope.
- B. They are homes where young and restless hearts are free to be different, vulnerable, and candid.
- C. They are homes where children are allowed to struggle with their beliefs and make mistakes on the way to finding their ultimate completion in Jesus Christ.

Remember:

- Grace is not so much what you do, but how you do it.
- Grace is simply treating your children the way God treats His.

Don't Miss: If you are limited by time and need to choose just a few of the questions to discuss as a group, we want to suggest the following. Encourage the participants to do the other questions at home.

Getting it Started: #3, #4

Taking it Deeper: #1

Bringing it Home: #3, #4

Close this session by having you or someone else pray the prayer at the end of *Making This Your's*. If time permits, this is a good spot to share special prayer needs focused on the children and grandchildren of the participants.

Congratulations!

You have raised the stock value of your family and the families of the participants by going through the Grace Based Parenting Study. You have formed some great relationships during this ten session study and we suggest that you continue these relationships. Here are a few suggests:

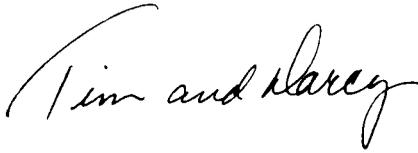
- Do another DVD study together. We suggest:
 - *Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right*
 - *Extreme Grandparenting: The Ride of Your Life*
 - *Basic Training for a Few Good Men*
- Do a book study together.
 - *Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right*
 - *Raising Kids for True Greatness*
 - *Little House on the Freeway*
- Encourage the participants to lead another group of parents and grandparents through this study.
- Look into getting a ***Raising Truly Great Kids Conference*** in your area. Go to our website at RaisingTrulyGreatKids.com
- Have Grace Based Parenting re-union in six months
- Keep up with the prayer needs of each other via email.

We invite you to visit our website www.FamilyMatters.net for many more family resources and valuable family encouragement and tips.

God's Word is essential as we become grace-based parents. We invite you to view our Read Through the Bible program at <http://www.FamilyMatters.net>. Click on the Tools link then select Read the Bible in a Year to see the schedule and sign up to receive the daily reading via email.

Thank you for being used by God in the lives of others. May God richly bless you.

Because Every Family Matters,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim and Darcy". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Tim" and "Darcy" being capitalized and prominent.

Tim and Darcy Kimmel