

PARENTING HACKS

TWO BIG MISTAKES

Genesis 1-3 & Ezekiel 18:1-4, 20 Proverbs 22:6 & Proverbs 1:1-6

- (1) Don't forget the first story in the Bible
 - ✓ Perfect **PARENTING** + Perfect **ENVIRONMENT**
+ No **SIN NATURE** = **REBELLION**
- (2) Don't count on a promise God never made
 - ✓ It's a **PROVERB** not a **PROMISE**
 - ✓ It doesn't say they will **COME BACK** - It says they won't **DEPART**

PARENTING HACKS: How To Stack The Deck In Our Favor

- (1) Make sure we're aiming at the **RIGHT GOAL**
Mark 8:36
- (2) The **EXAMPLE WE SET** will always trump the **WORDS WE SAY**
Luke 6:40 Deuteronomy 6:6-9
- (3) Model a proper respect for **AUTHORITY**
Romans 13:1 Titus 3:1 1 Peter 2:13-14 Hebrews 13:17 Colossians 3:20 Ephesians 6:1-3
- (4) Resist a **KID-CENTRIC** marriage
Ephesians 5:21-6:4
- (5) Take a genuine **INTEREST** in their **WORLD**
John 1:14 Philippians 2:3-5
- (6) Pick your **BATTLES** carefully
Ephesians 6:4 Colossians 3:21

Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 24, 2017

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. This weekend we heard there are two extremes in parenting: “Head in the Sand” and “Easily Panicked.” What few words would you use to describe the type of parenting style you experienced while growing up?

2. Can you think of anything you were taught by your parents or parental figures that made an impact on you and that you want to pass on?

Are there any traditions from your upbringing that you still practice today?

3. Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Larry reminded us that children tend to follow our example more than the words we say. Yet often we spend more time talking *to* or *at* people with less focus on the example we’re setting. Galatians 5:22-23 gives us a list of things we can practice to set a good example for those closest to us. As you read through each fruit of the Spirit, pick 3 or 4 of them to write down and give an example of how you could demonstrate each of them to your children, friends or family.

Galatians 5:22-23 *New International Version (NIV)*

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Go back through the fruit of the Spirit and number them from 1-9 in terms of which fruit you’re practicing the most (1) and which needs the most work (9).

2. Discipline can be a very polarizing topic with almost every parent having a different view. The good news is God is pretty specific about how and why he disciplines his children. What insight does Hebrews 12:4-11 give and how can that help us in our own parenting (future parenting or grand parenting)?

Hebrews 12:4-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

God Disciplines His Children

⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,

and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

⁶ *because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,*

and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

What's your first response to the idea that God disciplines those he loves?

How does this verse align or differ from your own experience of discipline while growing up?

3. No matter how we may have hurt people in the past, we have an opportunity to seek forgiveness today and heal relationships. Unfortunately, many of us seeking forgiveness use statements such as "I'm sorry" which risks little vulnerability (eg. "whatever I did I'm sorry") and seldom brings healing. On the flip side, asking someone to forgive us is incredibly vulnerable and often opens the door to genuine healing. How might the verses below help those truly seeking someone's forgiveness?

Matthew 5:23-24 *New International Version (NIV)*

²³ "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

James 5:16 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Romans 14:19 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Ephesians 4:32 *New International Version (NIV)*

³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

How comfortable do you feel asking for forgiveness when in the wrong on a continuum from never to sometimes to always?

TAKING IT HOME

As you think through this week's teaching and homework, is there anything you'd like to work on to help you set a better example to family or friends in the upcoming weeks?

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.



RM SEVENTEEN

PALOMAR EXPERIENCE

REAL MAN WEEKEND – “The Palomar Experience” - Oct. 27-29

Lookin' for some crazy guy stuff to do? Want to kick back or get refocused on God? Join us for another epic man's weekend that will get you recharged and refreshed as Chris Brown leads us into a look at what a real man is and isn't! The weekend will also include plenty of man event options like paintball, high ropes course, skeet shooting, archery, zipline, horseback riding, etc. Space is limited so don't delay! Register online at northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend.