

May 14, 2023

HeartWise in Parenting (Proverbs)

Strengthen the godly bond between parent and child.

Bumper In

Hook – Scott and Hannah (5min)

- Greeting, Happy Mother's Day (Hannah)
 - o Say "hi" to my mom who watches every week.
 - o **Coloring bookmark – in bulletin**
- We have been parenting for 21 years –
 - o A combined 42 years of experience!
 - o Or if you add our kids' ages – 85 years.
 - o Does it work that way? It feels like way more sometimes.
- God's Wisdom for Parenting (four ways to strengthen the relationship)
 - o Some of you tired of the school year.
 - o Some of you are like...kids shmidze. They are fine...I think.
 - o Some of you are feeling like a failure.
 - o Some of you don't have kids – but we are all kids, and today's main point is...

Four Ways from Proverbs to strengthen the godly bond between parent and child.

Prayer

Stay Connected. (5min, -25)

- *Like a bird that strays from its nest is anyone who is far away from home. Proverbs 27:8
NCB
 - o (Free range vs helicopter)
 - o We have different opinions, but Bible is clear that we need to INVEST in our kids.
- Influence will wane if you don't stay involved.
 - o When they are kids – you have ALL the influence. *I brought you into the world and I can take you out of it!*
 - o As they get older, you gain influence by connecting with them.
 - Not trying to be their best friend.
 - Don't lead with the lecture.
 - o *The fact is that adolescents need adults to become adults, and when adults are not present and involved in their lives, they are forced to figure out how to survive life on their own.
 - Chap Clark, *Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004), 42-43

"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."

- Story – Ruth’s Movie

- Get into their world (with limits)...for me – video games, boba, four girls...four fashion styles.
- Going with Ruth to anime movie – didn’t get it (still don’t get it) but I am still involved, still ask about it, still watch it...sometimes.
- Ariel – part of your world!

- Strengthen the godly bond between parent and child.

Train Them. (5min, -20)

- *Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. Proverbs 1:8-9 NIV
- Training takes time.
 - First 9 chapters of Proverbs – father to child. Huge amount of time.
 - Childhood is a 20+ year training for character (more than behavior).
 - You don’t just want your kids to do what you think – you want to train them to think.
- Set the example.
 - *The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them. Proverbs 20:7 NLT
 - You are first spiritual example for kids. (cf. Deut 6)
 - Stats and stories show the same thing – kids care about consistency. How consistently do you attend church? Do you live your faith at home? They are watching.
- Discipline consistently.
 - Train your child in the way they should go (Prov 22:6) – but that is a proverb, not a promise.
 - Rules without relationship leads to rebellion. Josh McDowell
 - But no boundaries leads to insecurity (psychology).
 - Kids need them.
 - You know you were not perfect as a child!
 - One of our kids (age 3 or so), stay in that room while you were eating your food...so they stood on the line...staring at me. Then inch by inch closer. Then put the foot on the line...what would happen? (Kids are trying to wear you down!!)
 - I stood up. My child ran for their room! But then we had a talk.
 - Boundaries can build bonds. Kids know you care.
 - Strengthen the godly bond between parent and child.

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”

Listen Compassionately. (5min, -15)

- *Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.
Proverbs 14:26 NIV
 - Fearing the Lord provides safety – for ourselves and our kids (even as adults).
 - Why? Keeps lines of communication open, they won't get a lot of compassion from other places.
 - Even if you totally disagree with what they are saying, you can always listen first.
 - Even if you don't think it is a big deal, if your child thinks it is a big deal – it is a big deal.
 - This is called ... compassion.
- Some ways to listen compassionately.
 - **Initiate.** Set a time to ask regularly (for each child). When will yours be?
 - **Be available.** Have margin for needed time at the worst possible time. (with limits)
 - **Be safe.** Don't freak out; your kid can't handle your raw emotion – especially about their failure. Everyone needs space to process feelings before they are evaluated (right/wrong).
- Story – Hard Times
 - I have gone through a lot of hard stuff and shared a lighter version with my kids – so they know they can talk with me...and they have. They have gone through their own hard and dark times. The goal is to listen compassionately.
 - One of my kids came and shared with me, and I could tell it took a lot of courage just to start talking to me about this. As they shared, it was really hard to hear, but I said a quick prayer and continued listening, and made sure I was a safe place. All this child needed was to know they were still loved – they felt terrible about themselves but I was able to help them know unconditional love.
 - When the conversation was over, I went for a walk around the block – I cried and I prayed. I later talked it out with Scott and with a key friend.
- Strengthen the godly bond between parent and child.

Ask for Forgiveness. (5min, -10)

- *Foolish people laugh at making things right when they sin. But honest people try to do the right thing. Proverbs 14:9 NIV
- There are no long-term relationships without forgiveness.
 - Pastor Becky Sweeney. In Real Time podcast, ep. 28.
- My mom was willing to apologize when she had messed up, and that always made a big difference to me.

- I had friends who had parents who would not apologize (“I won’t apologize because I tried my best”), and I heard about the pain that caused them.
- Why don’t we apologize as parents? ARROGANCE.
 - o When I was a younger dad, I loved throwing my kids in the air, swinging them around, and telling them to jump to me. When they were scared, I would say, “I have never dropped a child...ever.” (you know where this is going...)
 - o Then one day I was swinging Hope, one handed on a hot and sweaty-hands type of day, and she slipped, landing flat on her back.
 - o I definitely apologized, and I couldn’t arrogantly say I had never dropped one of my kids – but that has helped me be humble.
- That has helped because every one of my kids, as they have gotten older, has told me some ways where I have messed up. I want them to know that door is open, and I won’t be defensive or attack them. I haven’t always agreed, but I have apologized for a lot. That has grown the bond.
- Strengthen the godly bond between parent and child.
 - o Everyone in here is a child, and some people are parents.
 - o We are all going to fail – and we all need Jesus.
 - o Accept His forgiveness and be willing to admit you are wrong.

Punch – Hannah Wrap Up (5min)

- I fail all the time as a parent, but I wanted to end with two positive stories.
- I did a “Spring Break Date” with each of my kids, and I asked Ben if he wanted to go to a movie, since he loves movies. He said, “No actually, I would rather go out for dinner because you can’t talk to each other when you are watching a movie.” (I’m not crying...you’re crying.)
- Last year, I took my three teenage daughters to Women’s Retreat. We stayed up late, laughed so hard that we broke one of the beds! And the day we left, we spent an hour in the Prayer Garden praying and reflecting together.
- Strengthen the godly bond between parent and child.

Prayer

Benediction – The “foolish” plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God’s weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength. 1 Corinthians 1:25