

"Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth." Psalm 127:4

Session 4: Your Child's Development: Godward Orientation (Chapter 3)

- I. Children interpret the shaping influences of their lives through the Godward orientation of their hearts**
- II. Your children are designed for worship**
 - A. They will either respond with praise to God or they will bow before idols
 - B. Our children are instinctively and compulsively worshipping people
 - C. See Romans Chapter 1
- III. Why do children fail to worship the God they are made to worship?**
 - A. They do not cease being worshippers
 - B. They end up worshipping and serving created things rather than the creator
 - C. They exchange the truth of God for a lie
 - i. This is what happens with all children, they will worship God or idols
 - ii. Your children are dazzled by God or they make the great exchange and worship created things rather than the Creator
- IV. These idols are not statues, but the subtle idols of the heart**
 - A. Note the graphic depicting the Idols of the Heart
 - B. Examples
 - i. Power and influence
 - ii. Pride and performance
 - iii. Possessions
 - iv. Pleasure and sensuality
 - v. The fear of man or the desire for the approval of others
 - C. All of these things are indications of worshipping the wrong things
- V. Showing our kids the wonder and glory of who God is**
 - A. One of the most important callings God has given us
 - B. We want to show them that God is the one true object of worship
- VI. The one truth that will help your children respond well to shaping influences is to have the true maturity of understanding who God is**
 - A. Therefore we must help them to see the wonder of who God is
 - B. Psalm 145
 - i. No one can fathom the greatness of God
 - ii. "One generation will commend your works to another"—*This is parenting*
 - iii. The acts and attributes of God

- iv. This psalm is a job description of parenting and how to worship God
- C. Remember that your children's worship will tell them how to interpret life**
- D. You must give your children a vision for God and for God's glory**

VII. Note the brief survey of the Psalms that talk about the wonder of God

- A. Psalm 4:6-8 "You have filled my heart with joy."
- B. Psalm 16:11 "You have made known to me the pleasures of life."
- C. Psalm 27 "I want to dwell in the house of the Lord."—Knowing God is the greatest deliverance
- D. Psalm 63 "You are my God; earnestly I seek you, my soul thirsts for you."
- E. Psalm 73 "Whom have I in heaven but you?"
- F. Psalm 81 "You will be satisfied."

VIII. The Kingdom parable in Matthew 13

- A. The man gives all he has to acquire the precious treasure of the field—this is what the kingdom of heaven is like
- B. Your children must come to the place where they say, "I must have God."
- C. Your most important calling as a parent is to show them the glory of God**
- D. If you want your children to have a reason to sing on Sunday, you must present to them a glorious God
- E. Only the worthiness of God will keep your children from the allure of mainstream entertainment**

IX. Why is this so important?

- A. What we do with God determines how we interpret life
- B. Solid and lasting joys are found in knowing God
- C. Rather than helping kids see the glories of God, many parents are feeding the idols**
 - i. We fill our kids' lives with stuff
 - ii. We take joy in seeing their joy in stuff
 - iii. We fill their lives with busyness and activities that relegate God to a place of almost irrelevance in their lives

X. If you are going to show your kids the wonder of God, you must be dazzled by God yourself

- A. You can't give away something you don't have
- B. Your children can see and embrace the glory of God!
 - i. Reference the note from one of Tedd's children. Your kids can get it
- C. You must be dazzled by God's glory so you can bring that to your children
- D. Do not focus on your failings, but on your desire to know God's goodness and glory

Take Home Principle #4: If you are going to show your children the wonder of God, you must be dazzled by God yourself.

Homework: Read chapter 3 in the book "Shepherding a Child's Heart". Try to have a date night to discuss the following questions:

1. How would we evaluate the spiritual environment that we have set in our home?
2. Would we be satisfied if our child grew up to adopt the same type relationship that we have with the Lord? What would we like to be different?
3. What can we do to help our children consistently see the wonder and beauty and value of Christ in our home?

Additional Resources: familylifetoday.com

"Rebuilding a Safe House" by Joshua Staub

"Dedicated" by Jason Houser

"Hardwired for Awe" Paul David Tripp