

BREAKOUT: Wisdom for Fathers

Intro: embracing every season

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Psalms 127:3-5

*[3] Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
[4] Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.
[5] Blessed is the man
who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. (ESV)*

1. Commissioned by God

A God-Given Task

Ecclesiastes 3:9-13 - What gain has the worker from his toil? [10] I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. [11] He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. [12] I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; [13] also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. (ESV)

Family is God's Powerful Plan

Psalms 78:5-8

*[5] He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,
[6] that the next generation might know them,*

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*the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,
[7] so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;
[8] and that they should not be like their fathers,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God. (ESV)*

Stewardship is Required

- Steward your relationship with God
- Steward your relationship with your Wife

Vision is Needed

Habakkuk 2:14

*[14] For the earth will be filled
with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea. (ESV)*

Value what God Values

2. Navigating the Hearts of Our Children

The Heart of Kids

- Glory war

Romans 1:24–25 - *Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, [25] because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (ESV)*

- Foolish

Proverbs 22:15

*[15] Folly is bound up in the heart of a child,
but the rod of discipline drives it far from him. (ESV)*

Genesis 8:21 - *And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, **for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth**. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. (ESV)*

Learn to Capture Your Kids

Proverbs 11:30

[30] The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise. (ESV)

- Skill that goes beyond behavior and externals to understand the matters of the heart...desires, cravings, motivations
 - The heart is the seedbed of our desires
 - Don't provoke to anger
 - Not settling for behavior modification

"When the goal is short-term behavioral change rather than long-term character development, children consider parents their adversaries rather than facilitators of godly character growth. ... Behaviorism may be popular – it may even work, but it obscures the gospel. When we can use incentives or punishments to get the behavior we want without God and his redemption, we are teaching our children that they can live in God's world without Christ and do just fine."

- Tedd and Margy Tripp, *Instructing a Child's Heart*

- Capturing the heart through loving, listening, laughing, living
- Identifying the cravings and motivations of the heart...idolatry
 - Your own – significance, control, comfort
 - Your child's – peer pressure (fear of man, rejection), low self-esteem (self-pity, pride), wanting all things (coveting)
- Within corrective Discipline (2 Timothy 3:16 – *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*)...done in gentleness with the view of redemption

“The goal of parental intervention is restoration. You who are spiritual should restore him gently. You may be tempted to respond to your son’s failure with anger or impatience, but your son needs restoration. Your role is to bring your child encouragement. He needs to know that there is grace, forgiveness, and mercy for those who turn to Christ.”
 - Tedd and Margy Tripp, *Instructing a Child’s Heart*

A Brief Word on Instruction:

- *Formal Instruction*
- *Situational Instruction*

3. Working Toward a Godward Orientation

Early Years

- Establishing authority
- Knowledge of right and wrong
- Obedience
- Winning their hearts

Elementary Years

- Honoring authority
- Recognizing and understanding temptation
- Character development (trustworthiness)
- Addressing the heart (what did you do?, why did you do it?, Jesus died for it)

Teen Years

- Oriented to God’s authority (journey of moving from authority to influence)
- Responding to quickening of Holy Spirit (turn them to the Lord, not your desires, wants, dreams)
- Fruits of genuine conversion - ownership of faith (moving on from external prompts to internal motivation; sorrow over sin)
- Capturing the heart (parents before peers)

Conclusion: equipped for the job

2 Peter 1:3 - *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, (ESV)*