



SESSION 1: THE BIG PICTURE OF GRACE BASED PARENTING

God left behind a job description for parents that want to raise _____.

God wants us to raise kids who love Him, live for Him, and make an _____ 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

God has given us the perfect vehicle to make this happen – His _____!

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

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

Grace is not so much what we do, but _____ 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. Eph. 4:15

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*

- **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. Rom. 5:8

Grace-based parenting _____ the heart of God.

- He knows our deepest longings.
- He sees our truest needs.
- He understands our greatest challenges.
- He envisions our highest potential.

Grace-based parenting happens when we apply God's love to four key dimensions of our children's lives.



Aim them at _____.

Build _____ into their heart.

Create an atmosphere of _____.

Focus on their 3 _____.

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

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.

We need to build grace into our homes because our homes are the single most strategic influence on our _____.

Three steps to becoming a grace-based parent:

- Letting God's grace into your heart.
- Letting His grace transform the way you view yourself and live your life.
- Letting God's grace define the way you treat your children 24/7/365!

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



SESSION 2: THE TRUTH BEHIND GRACE

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

- When a parent enforces rules with a strident and heavy hand, they tip into the discouraging style of **legalistic** parenting.
- 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.
- 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.



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

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

Legalism

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

Legalism _____ grace.

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

License

License lacks clearly defined rules and standards.

License _____ 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

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.

There is an inseparable relationship between grace and _____.

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

The graceful _____ 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**.

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



SESSION 3: TRUE INNER NEED #1 - A SECURE LOVE

All children long for a love that is secure.

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*.

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 _____.
2. A Significant _____.
3. A Strong _____.

Every word you say, every decision, and every _____ 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

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

Some children feel that they have to _____ for their parent's love.

Some children feel that they have to their _____ parent's love.

It's much easier to transfer a secure love to our child's heart if we work from a clear _____ of love...

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



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

We need to _____ them as they are.

- Children feel accepted when we appreciate the things about them over which they have no control:
 - Their gender
 - Their physical features
 - Their IQ
 - Their physical abilities
 - Their mannerisms
 - Their emotional capacities
 - Their learning styles
- 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

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

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

We need to give them regular and generous helpings of _____.

- Every child was born to respond to meaningful touch.
- The hugs and kisses that children receive from their parents becomes a reservoir of security in their hearts.
- 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 9:36-37



SESSION 4: TRUE INNER NEED #2 - A SIGNIFICANT PURPOSE

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

There is a deep longing in the heart of every child to make a _____.



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

Parents need to have a deliberate and gracious involvement in identifying and developing _____.

Children have 4 levels of purpose that need to be developed.

1. A _____ 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

2. A _____ Purpose



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

3. A _____ Purpose



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

4. A _____ 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

There are 3 powerful ways to build a significant purpose into a child's heart.

1. Give them regular _____ .

- 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

2. Give them focused _____ .

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

3. Give them graceful _____ .

- 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

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: TRUE INNER NEED #3 - A STRONG HOPE

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

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.

Parents who model a strong trust in God _____ a confident hope into the deepest recesses of a child's heart.

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

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 _____.

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

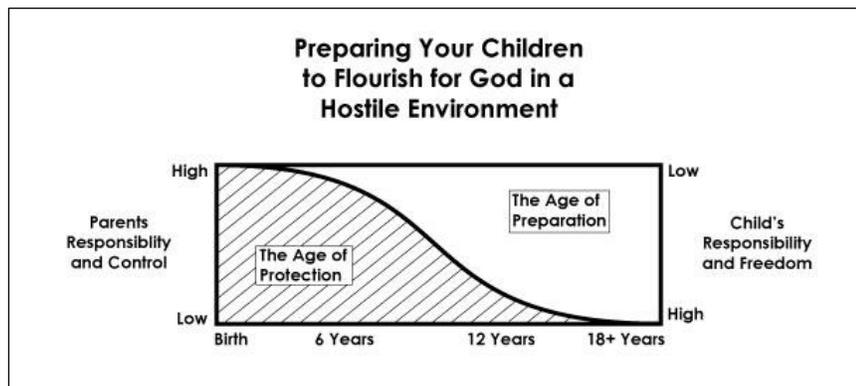
Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:25, 33

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

- There are 2 extreme views of helping children that undermine their ability to develop a strong hope:
 1. Hardly helping them at all.
 2. 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.



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

Children develop a strong hope when they know their parents recognize their God-given _____ 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

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

1. Many parents preoccupy themselves with raising _____ 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 _____ kids.

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

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

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.

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

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.

