

God-Honoring Parenting

**Valley Bible Church
2015 Parenting Conference**



Name: _____

Schedule

8:00 – 8:30	Check-in and Child Drop-Off
8:30 – 9:00	Welcome, Announcements, and Worship in Song
9:00 – 9:45	Session 1 – Successful Parenting
9:45 – 10:00	Break (Refreshments are located in the youth building)
10:00 – 10:45	Session 2 – Parenting and the Word
10:45 – 11:00	Break (Refreshments are located in the youth building)
11:00 – 11:45	Session 3 – Parental Roles
11:45 – 12:30	Session 4 – Saturday Wrap-up
12:30	Pickup Children
Sunday Morning (9:00 or 10:30)	Session 5 – Parenting and the Importance of the Local Church

Session 1 – Successful Parenting

Dale Whitehead

Every parent wants to feel successful. Every parent wants to feel as if his or her efforts are paying off. This is natural and understandable for what is more important to parents than their children? There is nothing more important. And this is continuously demonstrated by the amount of time, energy and resources that parents pour into their children. In fact, for many parents if they do not feel their parenting has been successful they will feel as if their life has not been successful. So how will most parents go about measuring the success or non-success of their parenting?

1. Most parents will measure the success or non-success of their parenting by the _____, but this approach is flawed.

a. It is flawed because parents are not in a position to dictate parental results because they do not have that kind of _____ (Jeremiah 10:23).

b. It is flawed because it is only God who is in a position to dictate parental results for He is _____ over all things (Psalm 115:3).

2. The best way to measure parental success is by whether or not we are in fact faithfully striving to bring _____ in all things, including our parenting.

- a. This is the best measurement of parental success because it is _____ and it is therefore something we can control by God's grace (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- b. This is the best measurement of parental success because it is also _____ (Psalm 24:1, Colossians 1:16).
3. Parents who are seeking to bring glory to God in all things including their parenting will make the _____ of their children their highest parental priority (Matthew 28:19, 20).
4. Though parents who are seeking to bring glory to God in all things may or may not be blessed with children who come to salvation, they can _____ that their parenting efforts have been successful (Psalm 127:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

Conclusion

What is successful parenting? Successful parenting is not about results. Successful parenting is doing all things to the glory of God including our parenting. For in doing so not only have we glorified God in our parenting but we have put our children in the very best position to know God and be blessed by God. This is how we should view successful parenting.

Session 1 – Additional Study

Do you believe that it is possible for those who have parented well, or in other words who have faithfully sought to put God's greatness on display, to have children who might reject their instruction as well as their example? Why?

Do you believe that it is possible for those who have not parented well, or in other words who have not faithfully sought to put God's greatness on display, to have children who might, in spite of their parents, choose to embrace God and His message of salvation? Why?

Do you believe that parents who have parented well, or in other words who have faithfully sought to put God's greatness on display, will have put their children in a much better position to be blessed by God than those parents who have not? Why?

How can parents put God's greatness on display in what they say to their children and how they say it to their children?

How can parents put God's greatness on display in what they do with their children and how they do it with their children?

Read Daniel 4:28-37 and then consider who should get the credit if our children turn out well and why.

Session 2 – Parenting from the Word

Randy Thompson

As parents it is critical that we know what God’s will is for us; to understand what His purpose and goal is for our parenting, how to Biblically define successful parenting, and the need for humility before God on the topic of parenting.

There are roles for parents, duties to execute. God wants specific things from us as fathers and mothers. And we will get to that. But the big question that we want to answer now is, “As parents, what does God want from our hearts?” We just got the purpose/goal, we need the heart before we move on to the roles.

To understand this, we will turn to the book of Deuteronomy. Moses is about 120 years old and Deuteronomy comprises the farewell speeches that he gave to Israel just prior to his death. This is just prior to the Israelites entering the land that was promised to them. Deuteronomy is the last thing that Moses said to his people. The most important things said before nothing more could be said.

Here in Deuteronomy, Moses spoke much about God’s character and God’s people’s response based on that character. This passage is specifically to the nation of Israel, but we can glean much about what God desires for all those who are called to be His.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

1. Parenting begins with a _____ with the only true God. (v4)

2. Parenting flows from an _____
_____ before God. (v5)

3. Parents must strive to intake _____
into their mind. (v6)
(Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Jeremiah 15:16)

4. Parents must strive to output the God's Word into _____
_____. (v7-9)

Speak God's Word

1. "Shall teach them diligently"

2. "Shall talk of them when..."

Display God's Word

Conclusion

God, in His Word, has told His children how to define successful Christian parenting – faithfulness. He also shows us what he wants from us – to bow before Him, intake His Word, and impart His Word to our children. The only remaining questions are: Will you bow? Will you intake His Word? And will you impart God's powerful Words to your children? I pray the answer is yes for each of us.

Session 2 – Additional Study

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 and answer the following questions.

Ask God to search your heart and show you how your life demonstrates what you view as the most important thing. What is the thing you want most?

If the thing you want most is not to glorify God, what should you do?

Read Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; and Psalm 119:9-11 and answer the following questions.

What can God's Word do powerfully in my heart?

Am I treasuring God's Word in my heart?

What does/would treasuring God's Word look like?

What differences would be evident in my life if I were treasuring God's Word in my heart (specific thoughts and deeds)?

Read Psalm 119 each day for one week.

What are all the different names that God gives to the Bible? What can I learn for how to view the Bible from this?

How is the Bible described? What can I learn for how to view the Bible from this? What place should the Bible have in my life?

How is the heart of the righteous man toward the Bible described?

Read Psalm 19 each day for one week.

What are the two types of revelation spoken of in this Psalm? How are they different? What is the impact of each on the recipient of the revelation?

What are the different names given to the Bible in Psalm 19:7-9? What can I learn for how to view the Bible from this?

What does the Bible do to the believer from Psalm 19:7-9? Am I experiencing this? Why or why not?

Does Psalm 19:14 describe my heart? If not, what needs to change so that it does?

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-15 and 1:5 and think about the impact a parent can have on their children and children's children when they themselves are faithful to study the Scriptures.

Does "faithful" describe you?

If not, what would have to change for you to be described as faithful to study the Scriptures and faithful to teach it to your children?

Session 3 – Parental Roles

Dale Whitehead

We are to do all things to the glory of God or in other words we are to be striving to display God's greatness in everything that we do including our parenting. And if we do this and do it well then we can consider not only that our lives have been successful but also more specifically our parenting as been successful as well. For our success in life, as well as our success in parenting, is not determined by what our lives produce for that is in the hand of God, but rather by how our lives are being lived or in other words by whether or not we are living our lives to bring glory to God or not to bring glory to God.

But now having said this. It is important for us to understand that apart from us bowing before God and His Word, as evidenced by our constant and persistent desire not only to embrace the Word but to pass the Word on to others and more specifically to our children, there is no possible way for us to do all things to the glory of God nor to display His greatness in all things. We can only do these things if we in response to God bow before God and His Word.

And this bowing before God and His Word will impact every area of our lives and every area of our parenting. One of those areas that we will be considering this morning are parental roles.

1. The _____ parental role is to bring up his children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

2. The mother's role is to _____ the father in bringing up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord for she, according to God's design, is her husband's helper (Genesis 2:18).

3. The father and the mother will _____ therefore be involved in bringing up their children “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

a. “to bring up” –

b. “discipline” –

c. “instruction” –

d. “of the Lord” –

4. The parental roles of the mother and the father will require them to work _____ together with their children in order to achieve maximum effectiveness.

a. This harmony is best achieved when the husband in the oversight of his family strives to _____ his wife (Ephesians 5:25).

b. This harmony is best achieved when the wife in her assisting role strives to be _____ to her husband or in other words to honor her husband (Ephesians 5:22-24).

- c. This harmony is best achieved when they both, the father and the mother, are striving to speak with _____ (Romans 14:19).
- d. This harmony is best achieved when both the father and the mother are striving to not _____ or exasperate the children (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21).
5. So what are some ways that parents can provoke or exasperate their children?
- a. They can provoke their children through _____ .
- b. They can provoke their children through _____ .
- c. They can provoke their children through _____ .
- d. They can provoke their children by failing to _____ them.
- e. They can provoke their children by being far quicker to _____ than to praise.

Conclusion

The father's role is to bring us his children in the discipline and the instruction of the Lord. The mother's role, as the wife of the father, is to assist the father. And they both need in their respective roles to be working together harmoniously with their children. But neither the father nor the mother will be able to do these things, and to do so to the glory of God, unless they choose to bow before God and His Word.

Session 3 – Additional Study

What would the leadership role of bringing up his children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord require of the father?

What would the assisting role of bringing up her children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord require of the mother?

How difficult would it be for a husband to bring up his children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord if his wife did not believe that he loved her?

How difficult would it be for a husband to bring up his children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord if his wife was not subject to him.

How are you most likely to provoke your child?

Session 4 – Saturday Wrap-up

Randy Thompson

Session 1

Session 2

Session 3

Additional Thoughts – The priority of the Marriage Relationship

(Colossians 3:16-21)

1.

2.

3.

4.

Session 4 – Additional Study

Read Ephesians 5:18-33 and answer the following questions.

Husbands what is God's will for you regarding your wife?

Wives what is God's will for you regarding your husband?

What would it look like if you were living this out toward your spouse?

Read Colossians 3:16-19 and answer the following questions.

Husbands what is God's will for you regarding your wife?

Wives what is God's will for you regarding your husband?

What would it look like if you were living this out toward your spouse?

Read 1 Peter 3:1-9 and answer the following questions.

Husbands what is God's will for you regarding your wife?

Wives what is God's will for you regarding your husband?

What would it look like if you were living this out toward your spouse?

Read Philippians 2:3-8 and answer the following questions.

What would it look like if you were living this way toward your spouse.

Session 5 – Parenting and the Importance of the Local Church

Dale Whitehead

We love our children and we want the best for our children. This of course would mean, if you are a professing believer, that you would want them, more than anything else to come to salvation and then to grow along with yourself, in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

If this is what you want then I would hope that you able to see how important the local church could be in helping you to reach that goal and therefore would do whatever you can do to not only keep yourself attached to this fellowship and involved in this fellowship but also your children as well.

So why would the local church be so important in this Christian parenting process?

1. The local church provides parents with the opportunity to demonstrate the genuineness of their _____ (John 13:34,35; 1 John 4:7-11).

2. The local church provides parents with the opportunity to be exposed and to expose their children to additional _____
and to a much broader spectrum of _____ .
 - a. Parents are to be teaching their children but they should not be the _____ ones teaching their children (Romans 12:3-8).

- b. Parents have spiritual gifts but they don't have _____ the gifts
(1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11-16).
3. The local church through its leaders provides spiritual _____
_____ for the parents as they seek to bring spiritual care and
oversight to their children (Hebrews 13:17).
4. The local church provides positive _____
that can benefit both the parents and their children (Hebrews 10:24,25).

We as parents care about our children. And if we are a true believer then we will
above all us want our children to come to faith and then to grow and in the grace and
knowledge of the Lord Jesus. And if this is what we want we need to understand the
importance of the church in helping you reach to goal.

So hopefully in understanding the importance of the church you strive to make sure
that not only you remain closely attached and involved in the church as best as you
but also your children.

Session 5 – Additional Study

Read Ephesians 5:25-27.

Reflect on Christ's love for the church.

Ask God to fill you and your family with that kind of love.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-13.

Why is the church called the body of Christ?

What significance should that have on our attachment to the church and our involvement in the church?

Why are some excuses that professing Christians give to justify their lack of attachment or involvement?

Do you believe that your attachment and involvement is glorifying God?

Do you believe that your management of your children's attachment and involvement in the church is glorifying to God?

Valley Bible Ministries to the Family

Marriage and Parenting

- A 16 week marriage and parenting class (8 weeks on each) will be held beginning August 30 during the 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School in room 104.

Children and Youth

- Babies/Toddlers – Nursery care during Sunday Worship Services
- Baby & Preschool Play Days – most Thursdays (August - May)
- Sunday School/Children's Church (PreK-4 grade) – Sunday's
- AWANA – Sundays during the school year (3-8 grade and High School)
- Summer Vacation Bible School
- CIA (grades 5-6) – Sundays
- GLORY (grades 7-8) – Sundays and most Thursdays
- POWERHOUSE (grades 9-12) – Sunday and most Wednesdays
- Many youth outings, sports days, summer swim parties, and theme parties.
- Annual Camps: Summer & Winter Camps, Soccer Camp, and Father/Son Camp.

Adult

- College Group – Fridays evenings and Sundays
- Career Group – Fridays evenings.
- Growth Groups – Adult Bible studies that meet weeknights at various homes.
- Men's Ministry – Monthly breakfast out and a Spring Man Camp.
- Women's Ministry – Weekly Wednesday Bible Study (August - May), Quarterly Women's Coffee Connections, and an annual fall retreat.
- Adult Education Classes – Sundays at both 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services
- Evangelism Explosion (evangelism training) – Thursdays (Fall & Spring Sem)
- Spanish Ministry – Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
- Deaf Ministry – Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (Sunday School) and 10:30 a.m. (Worship Service).
- Website – Church calendar, info, and Bible study resources in English, Spanish and ASL.
- Counseling Ministry – Personal care to anyone struggling with life issues and sin.

Family Fun

- Trunk or Treat + Chili Dinner – October 31
- Summer Co-Ed Slow-pitch Softball league – Sundays (May through August)

The Valley Bible Counseling Center

We offer Bible-based counseling to anyone who is experiencing a hard struggle with difficult life issues. All we need for life and godliness is detailed in God's Word. Our counselors are dedicated to helping you know what God has to say about those struggles and encourage you to practically apply it.

Counseling Issues

Trials and suffering are common and even expected in our lives (1 Peter 4:12). God offers us grace, peace, growth, and even joy in tribulations (2 Corinthians 12:9; John 16:33; Romans 5:3-5; and James 1:2-4). Some issues that we have addressed with adults include depression, trusting God, anger, grief, marriage, parenting, worry, addictions, OCD, communication, abuse, forgiveness, pornography, suffering, etc.

Our Counselors

The men and women who serve as volunteer counselors have proven themselves to be doers of the Word (James 1:22) and faithful servant-leaders at Valley Bible Church. They are lay people who have been carefully selected to care for you.

The Counseling Process

Each biblical counseling session usually takes about an hour, once a week, and requires Bible homework. There is no charge for counseling. Men will be counseled by men, women by women, and couples by couples. (We do not usually provide counseling to minors without their parents attending.)

The Counselee's Commitment

Counselees are asked to agree to (1) accept the authority of the Bible, (2) make every effort to attend each counseling session, (3) to do the assigned Bible homework, and (4) to attend a weekly Bible-teaching church service so that all resources of the church body may be used to help them grow. (They are encouraged and welcomed to attend Valley Bible Church.)

How to Get Started

If you would like to meet with a counselor, please call the church office at (661) 942-2218. Our staff will call you back to get some more information and begin the process of matching you up with a counselor. The counselor will soon call you to set up a time to get together. Our counseling center is also open to people who are not affiliated with Valley Bible Church.

**Valley Bible Counseling Center, 3347 W. Avenue J, Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 942-2218**

