

parenting 101 – opening day

Mark & Cathy Dattoli, 630-832-7615

Goals of the 6 weeks

- Build relationships with one another
- Discuss major concerns; Learn from each other
- Discover your innate strengths and weaknesses
- Consider new approaches; Pick up practical tips
- Develop effective techniques; Gain confidence
- Discern Scriptural wisdom and apply biblical principles
- Apply a parenting approach for making better decisions
- Think thru options about discipline, day-care, school choices, saving for college...
- Become a better parent

Introductions

- Mark & Cathy Dattoli, facilitators
- Joe & Courtenay Zurenko, hosts

As parents, what are your hopes, fears and questions?

Course material

- Pre-reading assignment for next week

Biblical thoughts: hopes

- *He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. **Malachi 4:6***
- *How joyful are those who fear the Lord, and delight in obeying his commands. Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. They themselves will be wealthy, and their good deeds will last forever. **Psalms 112:1-3***

Biblical thoughts: fears

- *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. **2 Timothy 1:7***
- *Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. **1 Corinthians 16:13***

All from: New Living Translation

parenting 101 – week 2

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Follow-up thoughts from last week

Hopes

Respectful of adults/parents
Compassionate
Successful; enjoy life
Healthy
Healthy identity in Christ
Live *in* the world, but not *of* it
Courage with God
Secure in God

Fears

Harmful impact of our mistakes
Bad things in the world
Unable to provide for them

Questions

What resources were helpful
Learn from others

Last week's handouts — Responses/Reactions??

- Quotes on Parenting
- 12 Golden Rules for Raising Children

Today's Discussion Topics: Family Planning/Birth Control, Nursing, Day Care

Scripture

- *Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted.
Unless the Lord protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good. Psalm 127: 1*

- What does this passage imply about parenting?

*Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.
Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands.
How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them! Psalm 127: 3-5*

- How should we understand this passage?

Family Planning: 3 Views

- Secular Outlook
 1. The world is over-populated; we have a responsibility to "Mother Earth"
 2. "Cats for Kids"; "What to Expect..."
- The RC Church View
 1. Intercourse must remain open to the transmission of life
- A Protestant View
 1. God... richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 1 Tim 6:17
 2. A nice, detailed explanation of family planning options (see back of page)

For Next Week

1. First, complete the survey before reading the Parenting 101 text
2. Read pages 1-6

parenting 101 – week 3

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Any follow-up thoughts from last week?

- Family Planning/Birth Control, Nursing, Day Care, “*Children Won’t Wait*”

Today’s Discussion Topics: How children come to faith & Modeling a good marriage

Scripture on Children & Following Christ

- *Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. Lu 18:16*
- *[Jesus] “If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ...Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors.. So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.” Lu 14:26-33*

Scripture on Husbands and Wives

- *So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Eph 5:33*
Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. Eph 5:21-25
You husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered. 1 Pet 3:7
The husband should fulfill his wife’s sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband’s needs! 1 Cor 7:3
I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman. Job 31:1

Breakout Questions

- **Wives:** How can you show respect to your husband? Why is that so important? How do wives “submit”? How is it different that “submitting to one another”?
- **Husbands:** How can you love/honor your wife better? ...love like Christ loves? If you’ve seen the *Fireproof* or *Courageous* movies, what messages did you get?

parenting 101 – week 4

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Happy Father's Day!

Scripture on Children & Fathers

- ☪ *Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers. Proverb 17:6*
- ☪ *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children. Proverb 13:22*
- ☪ *Where there are no oxen, the stable is clean. Proverb 14:4*

Week 4 (Week 4 shortened to put away chairs & complete a survey)

Handouts

- Class members' family structures
- Gender-specific weaknesses; Dog Brain Diagram

Group Discussion & Sharing

- Follow-up thoughts from last week "Modeling a Good Marriage"
- Questions/Comments on Parenting 101 Text
- Class Connections & parties
- Aug 2 Seminar; July 13 cookout after church; Mark & Cathy's phone number
- "Supernatural Marriages" elective in Fall? Co-hosts?

Breakout Topics

- Common weaknesses of moms & dads; Optional "peer-mentoring"

Week 5 (Tentative)

Handouts

- God's Pattern for Discipline; Consequencing Bad Behavior
- Quotes to Supplement Parenting 101 Text

Group Stories & Thoughts

- Dobson's guidelines on spanking
- Brain waves story
- The Highly Sensitive Child (book)

Breakout Topics

- Disciplining our children

Week 6 (Tentative)

Handouts

- Resources List

Group Stories & Ideas

- Practical tips; Holiday ideas; Saving money
- Ultimately, what drives parental success?
- Experiences with public, private & home schooling
- Common Core Standards

Breakout Topics

- School choice; Shared Resources

parenting 101 – week 5

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Handouts

- God's Pattern for Discipline; Consequencing Bad Behavior
- Quotes to Supplement Parenting 101 Text (previously titled "Virtues for New Parents")

Spanking

- Proverbs 23:13 (NLT) "Don't fail to discipline your children. They won't die if you spank them."
(NIV) "If you punish them with the rod, they will not die."
- Psalm 23:4 (NLT) "Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me."
- Let's be tolerant of differing opinions
- Benefits & downsides of spanking
- Dobson's guidelines on spanking

Other Stories & Thoughts

- 1-2-3 Magic
- The Strong Willed Child (book)
- Not withholding food, affection, love, communication
- Time Outs, timed by age
- If you can't do the time, don't do the crime
- Letting them feel the guilt
- Quiet Outs: giving kids some control
- Grounding cautions: Not "here/now/over"; escalating/overwhelming discipline
- Withholding privileges
- Least means; 5-minute increments to earlier bedtimes
- Rewarding is not bribery; \$1 per car trip
- Sorting out who's at fault: disciplining both
- Remembering to restore the relationship; restate your affection/confidence
- The Highly Sensitive Child (book)
- Brain waves story
- Adjusting your style; accepting reality

parenting 101 – week 5

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Any follow-up thoughts from last week?

- Family Planning/Birth Control, Nursing, Day Care, Children Won't Wait
- Were breakouts good?

Today's Discussion Topics: How children come to faith; Resources; Holidays; Modesty; Devos; Sempre Fi

Scripture on Husbands and Wives

- *So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Eph 5:33*

The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs! 1 Cor 7:3

You husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered. 1 Pet 3:7

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. Col 3:18-19

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Some Thoughts on: What Drives Parental Success

Scripture

- ☺ *The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord. Prov. 21:31*
- ☺ *For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Phil 2:13*

Pray

- ☺ Pray to be good parents; for wise decisions by us & kids; Seek out others to pray regularly also
- ☺ Pray for their salvation & spiritual growth, their future spouses

Be Mature

- ☺ Put away childish things; Put your family first; Be balanced & moderate; Work hard but have fun
- ☺ Prov. 23:4 “Don’t wear yourself out trying to get rich. Be wise enough to know when to quit.”
- ☺ Never lie or deceive; Honor your word; Limit your promises (“Lord willing, we expect to...”)
- ☺ Value tradition but don’t be a slave to it; Start your own family traditions that work for you
- ☺ Control your anger; Speak calmly; Discipline following God’s pattern with Adam & Eve

Model a Great Marriage

- ☺ Know & use your spouse’s love language; Love, respect & submit to each other
- ☺ Be romantic but discrete; Disagree away from the kids; Parent in solidarity; Dad is the family leader
- ☺ Be modest; Use a great resource for pre-teen girls: the Modesty Survey at TheRebelution.com

Love Kids in a Way they can Understand

- ☺ Know & use your kids’ love languages; Respect their privacy; Apply the Golden Rule as parents
- ☺ Touch as appropriate, respecting boundaries and kids’ preferences
- ☺ Express your love in words daily, especially through times when kids are hardest to love
- ☺ Let them know you are proud of who they are, not (solely by) what they do or how they act
- ☺ Listen, and mirror back to them feelings they can’t express in words; Seek hard to understand them
- ☺ Spend time with them; Enjoy them; Let them help plan events/vacations/etc.

Model Faith

- ☺ Celebrate “spiritual” birthdays annually; Take “Celebrate God” weekends; Keep a family prayer journal
- ☺ Trust God in tough times; Serve others as the “priest” you are; Give of your best; Love not the world
- ☺ Let them see you study Scriptures & love/serve others and outcasts; Be authentic yet optimistic

Train

- ☺ Dobson: Willful disobedience? you must win decisively; Childhood immaturity? surround them with love
- ☺ Intentionally teach them what they won’t be taught at church or school; Develop your own curriculum
- ☺ Guide them wisely; Steer them away from unrealistic/edgy/risky choices; Think wisely about college
- ☺ Teach them to be leaders/entrepreneurs, to be assertive, to “do hard things,” & to put God first
- ☺ Give them important responsibilities; Make each of them a needed part of the family
- ☺ Coach, give them opportunities, then trust them when they earn it; Counsel sympathetically
- ☺ Encourage them to be active in a good church youth program; Monitor their friendships