



**Parent Connection:
Gospel-Centered Families**

April 9th, 10:30 a.m., Room 305

Name _____

1. Circle your preference: I would like to meet weekly/ twice monthly / or monthly and this is why:
2. I would like to meet from October through April / May / June / July / August / September.
3. I would like to see these elements of the Parent Connection continue in future classes:
4. I would like to see our 1 ½ hour session formatted in this way:
5. Next session, I would like to talk about these areas of parenting/marriage/family:
6. I like the idea of having a panel of experienced parents to interact with about parenting or marriage topics. Yes / No Why?
7. Additional ideas/suggestions/comments:

Psalm 127

1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

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.

Psalm 128:1-4

How joyful are those who fear the LORD—
all who follow his ways!

² You will enjoy the fruit of your labor.
How joyful and prosperous you will be!

³ Your wife will be like a fruitful grapevine,
flourishing within your home.

Your children will be like vigorous young olive trees
as they sit around your table.

⁴ That is the LORD's blessing
for those who fear him.

Looking at Psalm 127 and 128
What would you identify as
the primary Ingredients for
parenting success?

- Fear of the Lord
- Faithfulness
- Diligence

- “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving”
([Colossians 3:23-24](#))

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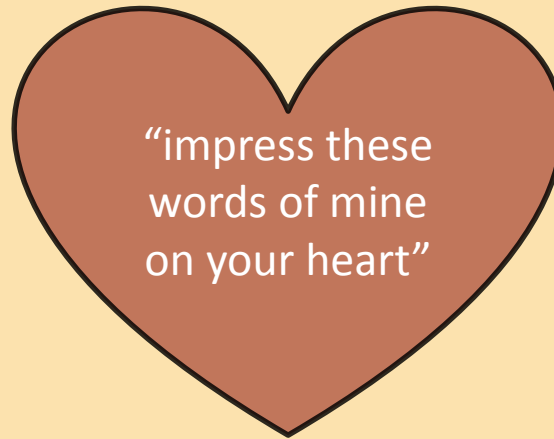
principle

Our responsibility, as parents, is to shape our children's hearts; it is God's role to change it. He has not given us the transformational power.

We, as parents, have the privilege to do the "work of change," only God has the power to make the change.

Watch over your heart with all diligence,
for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23



What is Word-Centered success?

Deuteronomy 6:7-9

Impress them on your children.

Talk about them

- when you sit at home and
- when you walk along the road,
- when you lie down and
- when you get up.

Tie them as symbols on your hands and

- bind them on your foreheads.

Write them on the doorframes of your houses and
on your gates.



How do these psalms identify that children are a blessing?

What makes them gifts from God?

What kinds of things can you do
regularly that reminds you, and shows
them,
that they're a blessing?

- Be grateful
- Point their eyes (and yours) toward Him in everyday things
- Show kindness and love
- Spend time together
- Be available
- Talk together
- Pursue conversation
- Eat together
- Create together
- Play games
- Create memories
- Remember shared experiences
- Celebrate God's goodness
- Pray together

- ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

evaluate

- to judge something with respect to its value, worth or significance.

evaluate

An iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg is above the water line, and the much larger base is submerged below. A small ship is visible on the water's surface near the tip of the iceberg. The background is a blue sky with light clouds. The water is a deep blue, and the bottom of the iceberg is dark.

What?

Outward Behavior =
external expression of
what we value and believe

How?

- Our behavior is influenced by:
- our core beliefs which are shaped by our culture, upbringing, temperament, Bible influence, etc. many of which we may not be aware we are influenced by
 - our perceived and actual limitations

Why?

Ultimately, our actions/behavior reflect our deepest values and commitments. If our behavior doesn't line up with what we think we value, we have a gap (discrepancy) between what we say we value and what we do.

CONSIDER YOUR APPROACH

OWNERSHIP PARENTING	AMBASSADORIAL PARENTING

- **Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)**
- ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Gospel-centered identity

Ownership Parenting vs. Ambassadorial Parenting

Ownership parenting is motivated by what parents want **for** their children and **from** their children. It is driven by a vision of what we want our children to be and what we want our children to give us in return.

This vision can easily be driven by selfishness, fear, pride or arrogance.

- Do we control outcomes we want for them out of fear?
- Do we want people to see us as a successful parents out of arrogant pride?

Gospel-centered identity

Ambassadorial Parenting—

The ambassador's goal is to do the will of the one who sent him. S/he recognizes that an ambassador does not represent his/her own interests and power, but is to faithfully represent the message, methods and character of the leader who has sent him/her.