



Real Good Parenting | Shawn Johnson | 3.19.23

Weekly Study

SHARE

This week Shawn reminded us that we have the perfect Father in heaven that has parented us and has promised to perfectly parent our kids. While digging into the Word of God, he gave us several ways we can be a real good parent in a culture that defines *real good parenting* unlike how God defines it. Whether we were parented well ourselves or not, we can take the Truth of God and with His help we can change the direction of our kids' lives and the generations to come.

GROW

Read Proverbs 22:6 MSG; Psalm 128:1; Psalm 139: 13-16 MSG

In some contexts, the word *train* refers to the process of teaching a newborn to eat. This is a beautiful picture of what God does with all of us. God's spoken Word tells us to, "taste and see that the LORD is good! (Ps. 34:8). God wants us to get a small taste of Jesus so that we'll want a lot more of Him. Then that desire grows throughout our lives. As parents we are invited to train up our kids with the gentleness, goodness, beauty, and joy of Jesus. As we lead our own lives, we also lead them to see how good the Lord is. We lead them to taste and want more of him just as we are doing as parents.

Do you see yourself the primary disciple-maker; spiritual leader of your kids, or have you intentionally/unintentionally handed off that responsibility to someone else?

How can you intentionally train your kids to walk in the light and love of Jesus?

What does it look like to make time for conversations, spontaneous lessons, and explanations of the goodness of the Gospel of Jesus?

Consider the unique way the Lord has made your kids. What might be the most effective way to train each of them according to their uniqueness?

MOVE

Read Isaiah 41:10; James 1:5; Proverbs 3:5-6

Shawn said this week that as parents first we must show up for our kids and ask God for wisdom in each season to raise them knowing Jesus. We are to show up the best form of ourselves as we can and only, God can do the work. So, let us all take another DEEP breath and ask God to give us wisdom where we need wisdom. Strength where we need strength. Hope where we need hope. Energy where we need real energy. Patience where we need patience and joy where we need joy returned. Our perfect Father is the only ONE who can supply this and perfectly parent our kids. He sees us and promises to never leave us and that is a good, good Father. He has got us!

How have you allowed God, your Heavenly Father perfectly parent you? How are you allowing him to do that now?

Where are you experiencing fear as you are currently parenting? And if you are not a parent yet, where do you experience fear in the thoughts of becoming a parent?

How does hearing that God has got you and you and your kids change the way you experience your parenting?

Paul Tripp says that *“parenting is one of many graces God gives to his fragile creation to teach them of their need for him. Not only do we need him to guide and direct our steps in the home, we can learn about the way our Heavenly Father loves us, his children.”* This is why Shawn landed on the major point of the importance of our relationship with God and seeking him in relationship. God is the POWER source and as we have been reminded repeatedly, we are in desperate need of him, and he is not disturbed by it at all. He is so thankful for our coming to him as he can perfectly parent us and our kids as we confess our neediness to him. He is perfect and we are not, so let us take another DEEP breath and allow God to be only what he can be for us, through us and to his children. He is a good, good Father.

Re-read the quote from Paul Tripp. What are some thoughts that have come from this?

How has your perspective on God as a Father poured into the way you love your own kids? Or how you will one day love the kids God places in your life?

After hearing Shawn’s talk on parenting, what were the initial emotions that ran through you? Anxiety? Sadness? Grace? Hope? Share with your group and if you are in a co-ed group you may want to split into a smaller group to provide a safer space if needed.

P R A Y

Commit to praying for one another asking God to help you love your kids and train them up in the way of him as you entrust them back to Him whose they are. And if you are not a parent yet, pray over that for one another, being sensitive to where everyone is at in the conversation of parenting.

