



Life Is Complicated. We Can Help.

Parenting

#nplifeiscomplicated

Week 3

September 27, 2020

Bottom Line: You have the greatest potential to influence your child.

Icebreaker: What's the "rule" you most remember growing up? What is something good you learned as a child that still guides you today?

Key Verse: *Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], and when he is old he will not depart from it.* Proverbs 22:6 NKJV

Andy Stanley has hopefully and accurately said, "Your greatest contribution may not be something you do, but someone you raise." (And if you don't have children, don't check out. One of the greatest contributions you may make in life is helping weary or struggling parents, encouraging them and their children in the right way. *You* are vital too. Children need all the love and investment they can get.) What we do in life pales in comparison to the investment we make into the next generation. It may not seem like it, but even their friends and social media do not impact them as we do.

There are five stages parents have with children: Connection (birth-age 1); Discipline (ages 1-5); Training (ages 5-12); Coaching (ages 12-18); and Friendship (adult). Students of human development say that a child's worldview and faith is generally developed by age 13. How should we then train them? Teach and coach them in how to **REVERE GOD**. This is of utmost importance. Teach them how to revere God with their time and money, the two things that cause us most anxiety and struggle in life. **RESPECT OTHERS**. This begins with reverence for God and showing humility toward others. We teach them to appreciate the uniqueness, value the worth, and affirm the dignity of everyone because God made them. You will never win anyone to Christ who does not feel your respect. **BE RELIABLE**. Without reliability, we cannot earn trust. Without trust we cannot have relationships. We earn trust by telling the truth, keeping our promises, and having discretion. Those without discretion gossip and say the wrong thing. **BE RESOURCEFUL**. This means I make the most of what I have, and I find solutions that others have overlooked. There will always be something wrong in life, so resourcefulness is essential. **BE RESILIENT**. You don't give up when you get it wrong or stumble. You don't fall apart when things fall apart. You bounce back and recover from loss, failure, or disappointments. Nothing is perfect, but God is good. These are the essential things the next generation must know. We have a great responsibility and opportunity to teach them. You teach best by who you are.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

If you are a parent, the time you spend raising your children is the most valuable time you have. Reflect and discuss.

If you have or have had children, what stage did you find most challenging? The most rewarding? Why? What encouragement would you give another parent for that stage?

We revere God by the way we manage our time and treasure. How can a parent teach reverence in these areas?

Respect for others appears to be at an all time low in the United States. What contributes to that? How can we overcome it?

God says that when we disrespect someone He made, we are disrespecting Him. Reflect and discuss. Is there anything we need to change in our homes? At work? In our attitude toward different races?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Reliability grows from keeping promises. Kids learn what truth is by the way you keep your promises. How did that play out in your own childhood?

Discretion, or careful, non-gossipy speech, is rare. What advantage does a person give themselves who has discretion?

Resourcefulness is doing the best you can with what you have. It erases envy. How can you teach resourcefulness to children in a day of so many options?

What opportunities do we as adults have to show children how to react and bounce back when they fail?

Is your life a witness that life can be good in a broken world? How? Your greatest ministry will come out of your biggest heartache/failure. Discuss.

How does all of this work with adult children?

NEXT STEPS

1. Talk with others in a similar situation, and discuss strategies for training your family in the five areas.
2. Select one of the five areas where you are weakest, and intentionally grow up in it.
3. Pray regularly for your influence on the children in your life.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: You have the greatest potential to influence your child.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Proverbs 14:26

Tuesday: 1 Peter 2:17

Wednesday: Luke 16:10

Thursday: 1 John 4:4

Friday: Galatians 6:9

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)