



A PARENTING SERIES

Teach Them to Fight

#NPParenting

Week 5

5 of 5

June 5, 2016

Bottom Line: Our job as parents is to help our kids win battles so they will succeed.

Icebreaker: What type of person do you hope your children (or other young people you know) will become?

Key Verse: *Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*
1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

Parenting today has challenges previous generations could not have imagined. The world is more connected than it ever has been. Our kids have access to more information than any other generation before them. With such access, we must take the mantle of protecting our kids seriously. Unfortunately, most people protect their kids by shielding them from the world instead of teaching them how to fight against the world for themselves.

Protection is good when kids are young, but we must recognize that our kids will one day have to make decisions without us there to protect them and hold their hands. It happens much sooner than you think. To make them ready for these moments of temptation and testing, we need to teach them how to fight.

Every day our kids enter into a spiritual battlefield. Paul put it this way: *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”* (Eph. 6:12). With all that stands against them, we must equip them to stand.

We must also teach them to lead a quiet life. Much sorrow is found by trying to have the newest and best thing. We want our kids' personalities to shine, but we also want them to be people who are respected for minding their own business and working hard. We want our kids to see that their best life is not found in having the next best thing, but through living with quiet contentment that can only be found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said we must teach our kids to know God intimately, live with an eternal perspective (God's Word and people), and to guard their hearts intensely in four areas: Sexual, Alcohol, Drugs, and Greed.

How does the world undermine the Christian call to lead a quiet life with contentment?

Though this seems like a rhetorical question, if you don't have difficult conversations with your kids, who will?

What are the most damaging messages your kids are receiving from their culture?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What does it mean to live a quiet life? How can you encourage your kids to do this even if they don't have a "quiet" personality?

What do you want your children to know about the way the world works? What are you doing to teach them this reality?

What are some essential battles all people face spiritually? How well prepared are your children for their age?

How can you find out the spiritual maturity of your children? What specific things are you doing to make disciples in your own home?

How do you teach your kids to live a life of holiness without becoming self-righteous?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Pray together asking for God's blessing on the families represented around NewPointe. Ask that this series will bear gospel fruit in their families and homes. Pray that we would send our kids out into the world focused and ready for battle, knowing they can find help and strength in the Holy Spirit.
2. Some people are less comfortable talking to their kids about serious topics like dating, sexual morality, and spiritual maturity. This is nothing to be ashamed of. Brainstorm together ways to have natural conversations with your children about these things. If you have young children, how can you begin these conversations early to make them a more natural part of your family rhythm?

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Our job as parents is to help our kids win battles so they will succeed.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	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:

Day 1: 1 Corinthians 6:18

Day 2: Deuteronomy 6:18

Day 3: Genesis 4:6-7

Day 4: Philippians 4:13

Day 5: 2 Corinthians 13:5

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)