

OUT OF CONTROL PARENTING

September 13-14, 2014

- **Open in prayer.**
 - o Pray for God's love to permeate our lives in a way that equips us to parent our children through the rhythm of grace.
- **Opening discussion.**
 - o Do you ever feel like you've failed as a parent?
 - o None of us has a perfect home or perfect kids, and we're definitely not perfect parents.
 - o Read value two of Transformation Church: The Transformative Gospel of Grace
We are committed, through the Spirit's enabling power, to be a community that invites and seeks out the wounded, the broken-hearted, and the marginalized so that they can be transformed by the Gospel of grace into the image of Jesus, joining Him in His mission to transform the world. We are committed, through the Spirit's enabling power, to the belief that Grace is Jesus Himself coming to live in and through His people. Life in the Kingdom is empowered by the King of Kings, not human effort.
 - o How does this value, especially the second half, fit our parenting style?

How Do You Parent in an Out of Control World?

- **Let God parent you first.**
 - o Read Romans 8:15.
 - o It's not about your kids; it's about God living in and through you.
 - o God doesn't want to fix your kids. He wants you and your kids to know Jesus.
 - o He gives us love and identity...and that's what our kids need...love and identity.
 - o How do you let God parent you on a daily basis?
 - o In what areas of your life do you need to be reminded that you don't have to live in fear because you're a child of God?
- **Our "Abba" gives us Love and Identity**
 - o Read and discuss 1 John 3:1.
 - o Discipleship is growing in our love for Jesus and what He has done for us. How is this definition different than what we usually hear about discipleship? How often do you marinate on what Jesus has done for you?
 - o Our natural default is to place our identity in our jobs or how we are perceived. Jesus says our identity should be in Christ and Christ alone.
 - o What happens when we place our identity in our jobs, our parenting, or our kids? Vicki said, "The more we rest in grace, the more we have that grace to give to our kids." How does this change the way we parent?
 - o Discuss these statements:
 - If my kids don't live up to certain expectations, then I've failed as a parent.
 - God doesn't expect us to be the savior of our kids, just like we can't be our own savior.
 - Good parenting doesn't equal good kids.
 - Our identity, value, and acceptance isn't based on how our kids turn out. It's based on Jesus.
- **Our "Abba" gives us Purpose**
 - o Read and discuss Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (The Shema: listen with your heart to obey)
 - o Why do you exist? Why do your kids exist?
 - o What's the difference between moving them toward "not messing up" to "loving God with all their heart, soul, and mind"?
 - o What does this verse say about living in relationship with God, with yourself, and with your children?
 - o What's the difference between teaching your kids the law and teaching them about God's upward, inward, and outward love?
 - o Read and discuss Matthew 22:37-40 (The Great Commandment) in light of parenting.
 - o Read and discuss Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission) in light of parenting.

- **Our “Abba” gives us Discipline**
 - o Read Hebrews 12:5-6.
 - o Discipline is an act of love. Kids don’t need us to be friends, but to be parents.
 - o Dads, you need to get involved in discipline.
 - o Why did Pastor Derwin say, “Don’t parent out of past parenting behavior or out of fear”?
 - o Why is it important for men to serve in TC kids and for you to be in a TC Group?
 - o What did Vicki mean when she talked about “helicopter moms”?
 - o Why is over-parenting dangerous?
 - o Why are we afraid to let our kids fail?
 - o What can failure do for our kids?

- **Parent your children’s hearts, not their actions.**
 - o Read Mark 7:21-23.
 - o What does this verse say about where evil comes from?
 - o What does this statement mean, “The Gospel works inside out...not outside in”?
 - o Discuss the statement, “Parent through relationship, through listening, and through being a part of their lives.” How that can change your parenting?

- **Be the parent your children can call when they mess up.**
 - o Don’t parent out of your own mistakes, your own past, or your own fears. What does this mean in your parenting?
 - o Read about the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:17-18)
 - o Perhaps you currently have a prodigal son or daughter. Pray for the parents in your group as well as their prodigal kids.
 - o Read Luke 15:20.
 - o What does it mean for you to watch for opportunities to meet your kids where they are and to be an expression of God’s love?
 - o Compassion means to suffer with. Do you have compassion for your kids wherever they are, whatever they’re doing?
 - o Don’t lose hope for your kids!

Soul-tattoo: Study this week’s TC Group questions.
Pray and ask God to help you learn how to parent.

CALENDAR

Backpack Meals Food Collection
Transform U: Finance Workshop
BECAUSE Campaign

Pick up a list!
September 16, 23, 30
Because.TransformationChurch.tc