

## **SESSION 26 – GRACE BASED**

### **I. DAD'S JOB**

1. The job of a dad is to connect to the \_\_\_\_\_ of your child in such a way that it makes it easier for them to connect to the heart of God.
  - Our heart connection to our kids is highly influenced by our heart connection with Jesus.

### **II. TYPES OF FATHERS**

#### 1. Fear-Based Fatherhood

- \_\_\_\_\_ cannot be our starting point in our role as a dad.

“Courage is when you’re scared to death but you saddle up anyway.”  
- John Wayne

#### 2. Performance-Based Fatherhood

- Sin management and spiritual behavioral modification is not a fun home to grow up in if you’re the kid.

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ - Based Fatherhood

- God is a parent. ... He is parenting us.
- God is a God of \_\_\_\_\_ .

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”  
1 Peter 4:10-11 (ESV)

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”  
2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)

- Grace based parenting is simply treating your kids the way \_\_\_\_\_ treats you.

### III. A GRACE BASED DAD

1. A grace based dad gives his kids the freedom to be \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - Be careful of trying to make moral or biblical issues out of your arbitrary preferences.
  - Everything changes when we let God's \_\_\_\_\_ take over.

2. A grace based dad gives his kids the freedom to be \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - We want to create a home where our kids don't have to wear a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Our homes need to be a safe place for our kids to work through all the dangerous and fragile stuff of their lives.

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." Colossians 4:6 (ESV)

3. A grace based dad gives his kids the freedom to be \_\_\_\_\_ .

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." Ephesians 4:31 (ESV)

- If we are just trying to control our kids, we \_\_\_\_\_ them, but when we keep them under control everything changes.

"See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled." Hebrews 12:15 (ESV)

- The best way to make sure that they speak \_\_\_\_\_ to us is to speak respectfully to them.

4. A grace based dad gives his kids the freedom to make \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - Home must be a place where disappointments are tolerated and where hurts are endured and where mistakes never mean the end of a relationship.

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the ones he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." Hebrews 12:5-6 (ESV)

- Discipline and correction and boundaries are all forms of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Jesus gives us the freedom to be different, vulnerable, candid and to make mistakes.

### **DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. Tim says that “our heart connection to our kids is highly influenced by our heart connection with Jesus.” Share what this looks like in your life.
2. Compare and contrast fear-based, performance-based, and grace-based fatherhood. Which of these is your natural tendency?
3. Tim shares four different kinds of freedom that grace based dads offer to their kids. Which of these do you find the most difficult offer to your kids?

## **ANSWERS**

### **I. DAD'S JOB**

1. The job of a dad is to connect to the **heart** of your child in such a way that it makes it easier for them to connect to the heart of God.
  - Our heart connection to our kids is highly influenced by our heart connection with Jesus.

### **II. TYPES OF FATHERS**

#### 1. Fear-Based Fatherhood

- **Fear** cannot be our starting point in our role as a dad.

“Courage is when you’re scared to death but you saddle up anyway.”  
- John Wayne

#### 2. Performance-Based Fatherhood

- Sin management and spiritual behavioral modification is not a fun home to grow up in if you’re the kid.

#### 3. **Grace** - Based Fatherhood

- God is a parent. ... He is parenting us.
- God is a God of **grace**.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”  
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“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”  
2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)

- Grace based parenting is simply treating your kids the way **God** treats you.

### III. A GRACE BASED DAD

1. A grace based dad gives his kids the freedom to be **different**.
  - Be careful of trying to make moral or biblical issues out of your arbitrary preferences.
  - Everything changes when we let God's **grace** take over.
2. A grace based dad gives his kids the freedom to be **vulnerable**.
  - We want to create a home where our kids don't have to wear a **mask**.
  - Our homes need to be a safe place for our kids to work through all the dangerous and fragile stuff of their lives.

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." Colossians 4:6 (ESV)
3. A grace based dad gives his kids the freedom to be **candid**.

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."  
Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." Ephesians 4:31 (ESV)

  - If we are just trying to control our kids, we **deflate** them, but when we keep them under control everything changes.

"See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled." Hebrews 12:15 (ESV)

  - The best way to make sure that they speak **respectfully** to us is to speak respectfully to them.
4. A grace based dad gives his kids the freedom to make **mistakes**.
  - Home must be a place where disappointments are tolerated and where hurts are endured and where mistakes never mean the end of a relationship.

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the ones he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." Hebrews 12:5-6 (ESV)

  - Discipline and correction and boundaries are all forms of **grace**.

- Jesus gives us the freedom to be different, vulnerable, candid and to make mistakes.