

SESSION 30 – Decisions

I. INTRODUCTION

There is almost nothing more important in raising kids than parental _____.

II. DECISIONS

1. Technology

- The new _____ is that we have instant access to technology.
- Key Questions to ask:
 - How much screen-time are your kids allowed to have each day?
 - When and who gets a Facebook or social media account?
 - At what age can the kids have a smart phone?
 - Who's going to monitor your kid's texts and instant messaging?
- Play _____ and lay some ground rules.

2. Friends

- Healthy friendships are _____ to kids.
- Friends can also be a negative influence.

“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)
- Key Questions to ask:
 - How much time are your kids allowed to spend with their friends?
 - With whom and how long are they allowed to stay out at night?
 - Where do you stand in regard to sleepovers?
 - Will your child be allowed to date?
- _____ your kids to recognize worthy friends.

3. Schools

- Many families will have a _____ as to where you send your kids to school.
- Reevaluate each of your kids' school needs each year.
- School is NOT primarily _____ for your kids' education.

4. Family Size

- God ultimately decides whether, when, and how many in regards to the number of kids you will have.
- Romans 8:28 says He works all things for _____ for His children.
- Family size should probably be an _____ conversation.

5. Family Time

- Fight to have _____, unhurried quality time as a family.
- Key Questions to ask:
 - To what degree are you willing to allow your kids to be active outside the home?
 - Will you have a sit-down family meal most nights?
 - How many sports will your kids play?
- Create an environment of _____.
- You will also want to make some decisions around the spiritual _____ of your family.

6. Discipline

- Discipline should be fair, age-appropriate, consistent, and restorative.
- We must be careful not to _____ our children or to discipline for the wrong reasons.

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them.”
Ephesians 9:10 (ESV)

7. Equipping Your Kids to Make Wise Decisions

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...” Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

- The _____ goal of parenting for the Authentic Man is to raise God-fearing, grace-dependending, Jesus-following adults who will be a bright light.

“All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:16-17 (ESV)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

- Jesus died on the cross to offer us _____ for when we fall short as fathers.

“Now may the God of peace – who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood – may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21 (NLT)

DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss with your group any challenges your family faces with social media and technology. How are you managing social media and technology?
2. Have you ever struggled with over-disciplining or under-disciplining you kids? Evaluate if your discipline is fair, age-appropriate, consistent and restorative for your kids.
3. In what areas have you needed to show grace to your kids and what areas have you had to ask for grace from your kids?
4. Closing Challenge: Discuss what it would be like to create a community of men and to initiate taking them through this material on fatherhood. Imagine the influence that would have on both them and their kids' (some of whom may be your own kids' friends!)

ANSWERS

I. INTRODUCTION

There is almost nothing more important in raising kids than parental **unity**.

II. DECISIONS

1. Technology

- The new **reality** is that we have instant access to technology.
- Key Questions to ask:
 - How much screen-time are your kids allowed to have each day?
 - When and who gets a Facebook or social media account?
 - At what age can the kids have a smart phone?
 - Who's going to monitor your kid's texts and instant messaging?
- Play **offense** and lay some ground rules.

2. Friends

- Healthy friendships are **beneficial** to kids.
- Friends can also be a negative influence.

"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm." Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

- Key Questions to ask:
 - How much time are your kids allowed to spend with their friends?
 - With whom and how long are they allowed to stay out at night?
 - Where do you stand in regard to sleepovers?
 - Will your child be allowed to date?
- **Equip** your kids to recognize worthy friends.

3. Schools

- Many families will have a **choice** as to where you send your kids to school.
- Reevaluate each of your kids' school needs each year.
- School is NOT primarily **primarily** for your kids' education.

4. Family Size

- God ultimately decides whether, when, and how many in regards to the number of kids you will have.
- Romans 8:28 says He works all things for **good** for His children.
- Family size should probably be an **ongoing** conversation.

5. Family Time

- Fight to have **unrushed** unhurried quality time as a family.
- Key Questions to ask:
 - To what degree are you willing to allow your kids to be active outside the home?
 - Will you have a sit-down family meal most nights?
 - How many sports will your kids play?
- Create an environment of **fun**.
- You will also want to make some decisions around the spiritual **rhythms** of your family.

6. Discipline

- Discipline should be fair, age-appropriate, consistent, and restorative.
- We must be careful not to **over-discipline** our children or to discipline for the wrong reasons.

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them.”
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7. Equipping Your Kids to Make Wise Decisions

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...” Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

- The **ultimate** goal of parenting for the Authentic Man is to raise God-fearing, grace-depending, Jesus-following adults who will be a bright light.

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- Jesus died on the cross to offer us **grace** for when we fall short as fathers.

“Now may the God of peace – who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood – may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21 (NLT)