

FIGHT

Fight For Your Kids
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Discussion Notes
The Crossing Church
Las Vegas, Nevada

OPENING

Families are the most complex, frustrating and life-giving relationships in our lives. I don't know where you are in your relationships, but over the next few weeks we are going to be talking about families. You might wonder why we would name a family series "FIGHT". It is because great families don't happen by accident. If you want a great family, you have to fight for it. God says it is worth fighting for.

SCRIPTURE¹

Romans 12:9-10 "Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other."

1 Corinthians 13 "Love never gives up. Love believes with relentless conviction. Love doesn't compete. Love doesn't boast. Love honors by considering first the needs of others. Love does not keep score of the others' mistakes. Love looks for the best, believes the best, love never fails."

Ephesians 5:15 "Be careful how you live, don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of opportunity in these evil days."

OBSERVATION

"The greatest contribution to the kingdom of God may not be something you do, but someone you raise."
(Andy Stanley) This is the greatest journey of a parent's life from take-off to landing.

There are normal families and then there are families raised by Biblical principles.

Question: Describe a "normal" Biblical family.

Rather than modeling our families after Biblical families, we need to concentrate on raising our kids by Biblical perspectives. For example, God requires us to take delight in honoring each other and this includes our children.

Question: How do we do that? What does it look like?

Our family values are a result of either what we create or what we allow.

Question: When it comes to faith, what are you allowing. What are you creating?

Question: What do your kids/family value?

APPLICATION

Be wise and create opportunities in these evil days.

Create space for moments and memories.

- Avoid over-commitment to extra-curricular activities.
- Create moments that are not necessarily massive or magnificent, but are simple moments that resonate.

¹ All scripture is TNLV unless otherwise indicated

Question: How many dinners do you typically have with your kids/family each week?

Create appropriate boundaries.

- Keep your pace of life sustainable.
- Be willing to say “no” FOR your kids.
- Create guardrails around your family’s behavior and life.
- Treasure your time with your kids so they know you love them in your heart and your schedule.
- Involve them in conversations when setting boundaries.

Question: How many hours a week do your kids/family spend on technological devices?

Create environments filled with healthy aspirations.

- Let your love be like the love God has for you. Let it be deep and wide and honest and sacrificial and selfless. And let it be obvious.
- Hate things that are destructive to your family.
- Fill your home with things that bring a strong, positive environment to your home.
- Make sure your love is unconditional and not dependent on your aspirations or expectations.
- Know your kids’ interests and what brings them joy and excitement.
- Let the expectations you place on them be around things that involve character and faith and not goals scored.

Question: What are your kids/family’s interests and what would they most like to do with you?

Create a faith-filled focus and future.

- Your greatest priority as Christian parents is to transfer your children’s dependence away from you until it rests solely on God.
- Partner with the ministries and God-centered people of The Crossing as you raise your children.
- Guide your children to see that faith is a daily walk.
- Pray and have spiritual conversations with your kids wherever the opportunity arises.
- Take them to serve alongside you as you invest time in sharing God’s love with other people.
- Don’t be normal or like everybody else. If you want what few families have, you have to do what few families do.

Question: What ministries are you exposing your children to at The Crossing and elsewhere?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for my family and these kids you have entrusted to my care. Help me to provide a God-centered home and example for them so that they have a firm foundation in You when they are no longer dependent on me. Help me to show them relentless love that is not contingent on their behavior, but modeled after the love You show to me. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Child dedication is available at all four services on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 8, 2016. You can register online at www.thecrossinglv.com/childdedication.

Financial Peace University classes begin on Sunday, April 24th at 3:30 p.m. or on Tuesday, April 26th at 6:30 p.m. Weekly sessions are 1 ½ hours long for nine weeks. Registration is available on-line.

The next Discover opportunity is Sunday, May 1st from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm in the Venue. RSVP at thecrossinglv.com/discover.