

## MANA in the Morning June 2018: Parenting 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders

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Thank you for coming this morning and continuing to invest in your and your child's relationship with God.

At the outset we would like to ask you to be thinking about and jot down specific questions you may have as we go through the class because the June 24<sup>th</sup> Mana Class we will be a Mom & Dad Q&A class.

Other than my marriage, there is nothing that has driven me to my knees more, moved my heart more often, brought tears of joy and occasionally heart ache over time than my children and their spiritual, mental and emotional wellbeing.

### 5 Touch Points:

- \* Mold their hearts to love God
- \* Commitment to the body and how to develop Godly relationships.
- \* Connection & Acceptance
- \* Fun
- \* Continue to set an example.

### A. Molding the heart:

1. Teach: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ...impress them on your children... translated is diligently teach, sharpen, pierce. Similar to Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron"

Deut. 6:6 the commandments "are to be upon your hearts."

Teaching moments are not always formal. Most are informal and possibly most you are not aware of.

What is the spiritual culture in my home?

Are you consistently having family devotionals? If not why not? If so how's it going"

Are your kids having QTs? If not why not? If so how's it going"

Are the kids making the events? If not why not? If so how's it going"

These types of activities are meant to be purposed and intentional. It is important to have devos, QTs and make the various church activities but it is also so vital to have an idea how it is going for your child so you can continue to mold them.

Teach and expect our kids to be spiritual. As parents of 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders we can't continue to just correct the actions and behavior but must shepherd the heart. What worked at 5 years old won't at 12 years old.

Philippians 1:27 "whatever happens; conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel." We want the kids making good decisions when we are not around.

Learn your child's 'Why are they doing what they are doing so you can help them. "The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out." Proverbs 20:5

#### B. Commitment to the Body and One Another: We need the community of the believers.

Our kids can't learn to love the head(Jesus) without loving the body (the Church). Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

? Does your family have a healthy balance between your nuclear family, the church family, school, work and extracurricular activities? Most of the kids are at a different place in terms of sociability, level of maturity, number of kids in their age group at church, skill sets and preferences.

The world is educating parents that the kids have to be the best. We must show our kids that God's values are superior to the worlds. Jesus wants us to train into our kids that "The Kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field" or "like a merchant looking for fine pearls." Matthew 13:44-46(in his joy)

We can't allow school work, sports, and extracurricular activities to be what our kids are going to be known for and to be the priority in their lives. These are important but not eternal.

In this area of commitment to the body and personal relationships we as parent get a plethora of Golden Discipleship Opportunities(GDO's) to help us mold our kid's characters and values.

Areas the GDO's show up:

When our child is getting disciplined by others, especially when it is painful or hard to understand, a situation where they are getting corrected, or even at times over protecting them in difficult situations.

PROMOTE relationships in the church. Go the extra mile to have your kids build relationships with the other Kingdom Kids. We want our kids best friends to be other kids from spiritually strong families. "Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 Cor. 15:33 I have heard parents say that my child hangs out with good kids at school or in the neighborhood. Jesus told the Rich Ruler that " No one is good- except God alone." Luke 18:19

### C. Connection & Acceptance:

In the Book, Good Enough Parenting by John & Karen Louis, are the 5 Core Emotional Needs.

1. Connection & Acceptance
2. Healthy Autonomy & Performance
3. Reasonable limits
4. Realistic Expectations
5. Spiritual Values & Community

Read the Chapter 4 (see hand out)

### D. Fun, Fun and More Fun

What is your child's hot button?

Father/Son canoeing trip, jumped off cliff, paintball, lazer tag, go-karts, ball games, movie on a school night, concerts. Spend time and some money, invest.

"A hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life ." Proverbs 13:12

### E. Continue to set an example;

Titus 2:7 Parents! "In everything set them an example by doing what is good..."

As parents we paint a picture and reinforce a vision through our actions and words.

\*Being a great example

-Few things are more damaging to a child as hypocrisy in parents. Defined: a pretense of having a virtuous character, moral or religious beliefs or principles, etc., that one does not really possess.

-Showing humility and being humble is the answer. "I am sorry, I was wrong" and then changing (repenting) was the best thing I did and can do as a parent.

-Do not talk about the church, its leadership, members or any aspect of the Kingdom in a negative, gossipy or disunifying way. "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat of its fruit." Proverbs 18:21

-Advice, Advice, Advice Proverbs 12:15 "The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice." Let's not think we ever have this figured out.