

## Week 15: Parenting Review & Affirmation

### Evaluating How You Use Your Authority as a Parent

What kind of picture are your children getting of God's authority by the way you exercise your authority in their lives?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

How often do you combine moments of discipline with patient, insight-giving instruction?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What changes, in the way you look at little moments of discipline, need to take place in you and in the way you respond to your children?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Is your exercise of parental authority consistent because it is driven by God's call or is it inconsistent because it is shaped by the emotion of the moment?

---

---

---

---

---

---

Do you humbly own the rebellion of your own heart as you deal with the rebellion of your children in a way that causes you to exercise authority with patience and grace?

---

---

---

---

---

---

In moments of discipline, do you often point your children to the hope and help that is to be found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# KNOWING & SHEPHERDING OUR KIDS

## KNOWING THEM

- 1) They are more PRIVATE
- 2) They are more ANXIOUS
- 3) They are more RESTLESS
- 4) They are more TECH SAVY
- 5) They are more NURTURED
- 6) They are more ENTREPRENEURIAL
- 7) They are more INCLUSIVE

### ***Simultaneous realities for them:***

***The Extinction of Childlikeness***

***The Extension of Childishness***

## THE PARADOX OF THEM

- They are independent yet dependent on their parents
- They are trendy yet traditional in practices
- They are both often alone yet never alone
- They have it so good yet have it so difficult
- They experience virtually no dramatic moments yet feel so much drama
- They are cognitively advanced yet emotionally behind
- Their life is both authentic and artificial
- Their world is easy but very hard

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SHEPHERD THEM

### Challenge #1: Empowerment without Wisdom

Kids today are empowered with resources, thanks to smart devices, but many lack the maturity to wisely use that power. Common sense is becoming uncommon in our smart world.

#### Shepherding Opportunity:

How do we lead our kids to explore a world beyond screens and theories and lead them with first-hand experiences?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Challenge #2: Stimulation without Ownership

Kids today spend more time in supervised activity than ever before with little opportunity to take ownership of their activity. This creates feelings of anxiety and unpreparedness.

#### Shepherding Opportunity:

How do we lead our kids to participate in ownership of their actions and activities as they mature?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Challenge #3: Privileges without Responsibility

Culture has ambushed kids, giving them a sense of entitlement to so many benefits that people once worked for and earned through responsible action.

#### Shepherding Opportunity:

How do we lead our kids to break free from the shackles of entitlement?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Challenge #4: Involvement without Boundaries

Kids enjoy options everywhere, but with those options come anxiety because they can become overwhelmed by all that is available to them with seemingly no boundaries.

#### Shepherding Opportunity:

How do we lead our kids to understand the need for and how to establish healthy boundaries?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Challenge #5: Individualism without Perspective**

Kids long to be their own person as they mature but will simply react to the shifting world around them without a clear understanding of where they belong in the world.

**Shepherding Opportunity:**

How do we lead our kids to understand their identity in Christ and their place in God's bigger story?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Challenge #6: Accessibility without Accountability**

So much is accessible to kids but with reduced accountability for their actions, ethics and values and a lower expectation of them by adult leaders.

**Shepherding Opportunity:**

How do we lead our kids to understand the importance of accountability and responsibility and to embrace it in their lives?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Challenge #7: Fluidity without Integrity

Kids live in a world of constant updates and upgrades. Nothing stays the same, and as a result they can lack a firm foundation and sense of security.

#### Shepherding Opportunity:

How do we lead our kids to understand the foundation that their lives should be built on and where their security comes from?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Challenge #8: Opportunity without Resilience

With so many options, kids can hop rapidly from one opportunity to another when their current opportunities become difficult and, as a result, fail to develop “grit” or the ability to adapt and recover from mistakes and failures.

#### Shepherding Opportunity:

How do we lead our kids to deal with hardship and learn qualities of determination and perseverance?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Challenge #9: Consumption without Reflection

Kids are growing up in a world that is wide but seldom deep. They can be consumers of everything yet remain superficial because they haven't been taught to critically reflect on what they consume.

### Shepherding Opportunity:

How do we lead our kids to think critically and develop a biblical worldview?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### AS YOU SHEPHERD THEM, REMEMBER TO...

- 1) **Initiate action**
- 2) **Include them in the process**
- 3) **Imagine the best, not the worst**
- 4) **Inspire them with the big picture**

### RESOURCES TO HELP YOU SHEPHERD THEM

- "Parenting- 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family" by Paul David Tripp
- "Family Worship" by Joel R. Beeke
- "Boundaries with Kids: How Healthy Choices Grow Healthy Children" by Dr. Henry Cloud
- "Boundaries with Teens: When to Say Yes and How to Say No" by Dr. Henry Cloud
- [www.gospelcoalition.org](http://www.gospelcoalition.org)- *helpful articles and videos with a strong Gospel perspective on all areas of life*