

Yours, Mine & Ours

Raising Kids Without Losing Your Mind (Week 4)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Ideas

You will lose your mind parenting and your kids will lose their way if you don't have a clearly defined target.

Key Scriptures

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.

Deuteronomy 6:1-2

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher. Luke 6:40

Parents, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare. Proverbs 15:1

When God paints the target, families can not just survive, they can thrive.

Raising kids without losing your mind:

1. Keep first things first.
2. Keep a healthy perspective.
3. Keep them talking.

Start talking.

- What are one or two stories of working/raising kids that has made you feel like you were losing your mind?

Start thinking.

- Read Deuteronomy 6:1-2. What do these verses call us to do? Who should we do it for? What is promised if we do?
- Read Matthew 22:37-39. How do these two commands sum up all the "law and the prophets"?
- Read Luke 6:40. The word for "student" is from the Greek word for "disciple". How does this relate to an adult's responsibility toward children?
- Read Ephesians 6:4. Who carries the greater responsibility in this verse, parents or children? Why?
- How do the Luke and Ephesians verses allude to the need for an ongoing process as adults lead the next generation?
- Read Proverbs 15:1. How would you rephrase this in your own words?

Start sharing.

- What are the negative impacts of making children the center of your world?
- How does having a healthy perspective toward leading/raising kids help?
- Joel made the statement: Listen to your kids when they are young, so they will talk to you when they are older. Why is that important?

Start doing.

- How can you focus on loving God and loving others this week?
- How can you lean in and engage kids in conversation this week?

Closing prayer.

Jesus thank you for loving us! Thank you for our families around us. Help us be faithful to lead and love the next generation with wisdom and humility. Forgive us for those days and times we miss the mark. Help us to keep first things first, to keep a healthy perspective when the days and year feel long, and to continue engaging them in genuine conversation. Help us be a blessing to kids and establish a legacy of faith for generations to come.