

Bold Parenting

Raising Kids to be More than Just Rule-Keeper

Authors: Dr. Lars Rood

REVIEW: Long-time youth ministry veteran and author, Lars Rood, takes on the challenge of parenting in a post-Christian world with this insightful book. The book is a short and very easy to read book that every Christian parents, no matter what age their children, should give a read. Just under 100 pages long this book is a challenge to parents to live out and pass on faith that is more than religion.

SNAPSHOT

Part 1: Understanding the Problem

The problem is simple, the number of people choosing to follow Christ is on a steady decline in America, while Christians, the church and parents are all struggling to figure out a way to pass down bold, lasting faith.

The first part of the problem are churches that are not bold enough anymore. The church has spent too much time focusing on the wrong things, and the generation wants less and less to do with it.

The second part of the problem is Christians are not living boldly. *“Christians don’t look, act, think, or respond differently than non-Christian do.”*

The third part of the problem is in the home and with narrowing parental faith. Parents have come to define faith and their spiritual life to just time in church and not the day to day life. Parental faith has also been narrowed down to moralistic, therapeutic and deistic. Parents are more concerned about their children being “good”, “feeling emotionally healthy” and a view of God that is limited to just one part of live, not all of life.

All this leads to a problem and less than bold faith with weak parenting.

Part 2: Knowing What Our Kids Really Need

Children need opportunities to cultivate and live bold faith, inside of bold churches and in bold families that are willing to live differently.

Bold churches are more than a place but a community of people who want to follow Jesus in new and exciting ways. Bold churches partner with parents providing other adults to models of authentic faith in life in their children.

Bold parents and families are willing to live an active faith in the home and out in the world. Actively



seek ways to serve, live, and share faith as models for each other but also in the culture.

What kids need most is a bold understanding of God and expectations. Kids need to see the kind of God that is actively a part of everything. Parents that provide their children opportunities to live, serve and dream beyond fears will grow their children up into adults that have bold expectations for themselves and the God they serve.

Part 3: Making the Changes to Help Our Kids Have Bold Faith.

What does it look like to boldly parent? What are the practical steps and ideas that can help parents raise kids that are more than just religious rule keepers?

It looks like allowing for questions and doubts by giving children different ways to express themselves, access to other Christ-modeling adults, and by being patient. It can be encouraging and affirming children's gifts and talents by allowing them opportunities to try new things and making decisions for themselves. It happens outside a parent's and a child's comfort zones, where success and failure is allowed in order to learn. Bold parenting is realizing that parenting is not done alone but by partnering with other adults, parents, and the church where prayers, helps, ideas can be shared.

Boldly parenting children is what is going to change families, revive the church and turn the next generation back to following Christ.

