

Chapter 4: The Battle for Your Children

Discussion: The challenge for week 3 was to have a date with your spouse without distractions and to discuss goals, dreams, fears, and shared memories. Share how that time impacted your relationship.

Awareness: What's true? What's happening?

1. Parenting can sometimes feel more like a war zone than a blessing. Why is it dangerous to buy into the social media version of parenting that only shows the highlights? If this is a problem for you, how can you change your habits to be more focused on your family and less on others' highlights?
2. Why is crowd-sourcing your parenting from an online crowd (Facebook, Instagram) less effective—and potentially more dangerous—than seeking it from a local church community? Who do you know in your church or community who shares your worldview and can relate to your struggles?
3. Parenting is spiritual warfare, but your kids and your spouse are not the enemy. When your child is acting like a “little terrorist,” what steps can you take to fight for joy and satisfaction in parenting? How does naming Satan as the true enemy change your heart toward your child?
4. The primary goal of parenting is not to raise happy children but to raise godly adults. Using the broccoli example, how can a simple act of childhood obedience be a form of spiritual warfare in that process? Is there a battle you are fighting for your child that has less to do with the “broccoli” and more to do with winning the battle against sin? How can you fight that specific battle?
5. Church isn't just a place that you go. What are the benefits of commitment to a local church family? How does being part of a church family provide protection for your children that your family cannot provide alone?
6. There are roughly 936 Saturdays between a child's birth and their 18th birthday. Does this realization make you feel urgent, encouraged, or overwhelmed? How should this count affect your weekly schedule?
7. What does a parent teach their child when they lie about their child's age to get them on social media? What silent lesson does the child learn about God and truth?

8. Why is a healthy marriage the greatest gift that parents can give their children? How does seeing parents love one another help children understand Christ's love for the church?

Ownership: Where does this show up in my (or our) life?

9. What is a parenting struggle that you have wrestled with this week?
10. What analog (non-digital) activities were your favorite when you were young? What analog activities do you incorporate into your child's schedule to ensure they aren't robbed of their Saturdays (or other free time) by screens?

ACTION: What are we going to do about it this week?

11. Is regular church attendance a priority for your family? What challenges would you face if regular church attendance were a priority? How might your family look different in a month, 6 months, and in a year if church attendance becomes a priority? How can you make regular church attendance a priority for your family?

Anchor Points

- **Psalm 127:3:** Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.
- **Deuteronomy 6:6-7:** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
- **Hebrews 10:24-25:** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...

Weekly Challenges

Family Challenge:

This week, choose one intentional "analog" moment and follow through with it. Create your own or pick an idea from the chapter, like a bike ride, hike, porch ice cream, or building a fire. Make this time more intentional by putting your phones away and having real conversations centered on what each person is grateful for.

Couples Challenge:

This week, start a group text with at least one other couple from your class. Be honest—share a real struggle you're facing in your marriage. Then engage. Don't let the conversation sit or become one-sided. Both husbands and wives should respond—together, individually, or both—so it becomes a mutual exchange, not just one couple carrying the weight.