



Opening Questions

- What is an important part of parenting?
- What's the best part of parenting—or—the part of parenting that's the most fun?
- What's one thing necessary for successful parenting?
- What's the hardest part of parenting? What comes easiest to you?
- Do you find it easy to talk about your faith to your kids?
- If your parents were believers when you were young, how did they talk about their faith?

Parents are the most powerful influence in determining if their children will continue in their faith tradition when grown. Not clergy. Not Sunday school teachers or camp counselors. Not peers or the media, youth programs, or service trips. Much research has documented this leading role of parents.

Children rarely rise above what they have seen and experienced in the home. Children replicate what they see and hear.

Group Questions

- Who modeled parenting to you?
- Who is a good model of parenting to you?
- Is there a movie or fictional book or show that you can think of that shows good parenting; or one that has a good father or mother figure?

If I play a role in the in what my child's faith will likely look like in the future, how do I answer these questions?

- What do I hope my faith looks like 1 year and 5 years from now?
- What do I hope my child's faith looks like 1 year and 5 years from now?
- Are we envisioning what we want their faith to look like?
- Do we hope their faith looks like our faith?



Initial questions possible answers: boundaries, communication, nurturing, connecting with them...

Today we will discuss connection and communication – organic discipleship

What we talk about with our kids will have an impact on their foundation, values, and worldview.

- People with a good vocabulary are usually readers or listen to people with a good vocabulary. You don't just develop a good vocabulary.
- Teaching them a new language or going to a new country
- Only hear it an hour a week they are not going to pick it up
- Mission field, they are immersed
- Culture and language

Studies show these conversations are most effective when they are natural, organic, and consistent.

- If it's a structured formalized approach, children begin to separate discussions about faith from every day ordinary life.
- It needs to naturally flow out in everyday conversations
- The approach is more important than the particulars
- Pursue your children

⁴“Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. ⁷Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. ⁹Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9



Potential Conversation Starters/Questions

How well do you think they know you?

- Childhood stories, testimony, what were you like in high school/college
- The biggest let down in my life was... up to this point, what has been yours?
- The greatest blessing in my life has been... what is yours?
- I want people to know me for... what do you want people to know or think about you?
- One of my favorite things to do it... what is one of your favorite things to do?
- Something that scares me or worries me is... what is something that worries you?

Highs and lows at the dinner table, on the drive to practice, or before bed.

How can I pray for you? Either both parents or one parent at a time.

- Then you can ask about it later
- Be consistent

Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control

- What does true love look like for the Christian?
- What does true joy look like for the Christian?
- What does true peace look like for the Christian?
- What does patience look like for the Christian?
- What does kindness look like for the Christian?
- What does goodness look like for the Christian?
- What does faithfulness look like for the Christian?
- What does gentleness look like for the Christian?
- What does self-control look like for the Christian?

As a group, what are some other questions you ask your kids to get conversations going that have been successful?

