

## Raising Biblically Based World Changers

by Craig Groeschel, Summit-Axis podcast 12/19/17

What to do in this post-truth culture?

Jesus spent a few years with a few leaders and then gave them the freedom to do it in their culture. Communicate values, and clearly extend trust. They have permission to help create the plan.

Give them leadership, give them leadership-but what if they fail? How do you cultivate failure?

Generation before, too many had helicopter parents...and now scared to death of failure, never had the gift of failure. Failure is often the first step to success. Innovation comes from failure...seen historically.

I.E. Peter...it's when he was aggressive, like walking on water, when we fail, it's because we did not get out of the boat.

Celebrate failure, you tried, you pushed it, it failed...Try again. No shame, no guilt, no remorse. Muscle grows when you push it to failure.

We are failing if we don't push into things until they fail.

MODEL this for your children: TRY, FAIL, ADJUST, and LEARN

As parents, Don't be afraid of failure, we often fail if we don't encourage them to push beyond their limits at times... failure should be handled in the context of relationships, and relationship need conversations...as you learn to celebrate failure as a step forward.

Younger youth need your physical presence and you need to watch for clues from words, actions, responses.

Sometimes with boys you need to spend time next to them...along side them in an activity before they will talk. Girls usually need a space of time for face to face!

In older youth, they need your emotional presence, even if it's at midnight! And again look for clues. Don't act shocked, disappointed, sad, Ask questions and listen...wow, tell me more, what did you think about that? Is that right? How did that make you feel? Highest priority is to keep the communication lines open.

Some kids write...out their feelings/thoughts.

Use Food....it creates environment where kids hang out together, have mentors around,

What is being emotional present with kids? Emotional available and present! Many parents are in the room, yet "not there!" Be there! Completely engaged with what they are saying...don't look at them through our own lens, feel empathy about what they are going through...we often minimize what they are going through...oh yeah, that happened to me...no, it's different, we also minimize peer pressure...we minimize what is a very serious hurt to them,

They are going through things at an earlier age than what we did, and they don't have all the bases to make good judgments about it...like glimpses through other people's lives, intimidation, online bullying, earlier exposure to items of sexual lust and pornography.

They will engage with parents/adults if they sense we have empathy for their situation – and that will not happen if they hear accusational type of statements, judgmental statements, quotes from Bible with condemning tones, or do you know where I stand on this???

How to lead well?

1. Recognize as a parent that God gave you these children. They are on loan from God! God gave you the ability to lead, guide, love, and shape them for the world they live in.
2. Recognize what culture tries to teach you about parents:

Culture says you need kids who are well-rounded, well-educated, and happy. However, that is not what the Bible tells us. Biblically speaking, we want kids who are God-grounded, God-fearing, and God-loving no matter what activities they pursue, or what level of education they gain, and to have a sense of peace and joy that is deep enough to withstand the storms and trials of life. We want kids to be specializing in their divine destiny with their giftings and callings as well as a passion for that. Don't need well educated teen without being morally and scripturally grounded, **we need to unleash Christ-centered, Biblically centered world changers!**

In the home, we need to cultivate the climate and till the soil, to be able to plant spiritual seeds in the soil of our youth, then let God bring the harvest. Children have more spiritual capacity than you can imagine. They can fall deeply in love with Jesus and impact and be bold witnesses for Christ to impact communities and schools, etc. Use language like that ...you believe in them, encourage them toward righteousness in areas of their life rather than preaching away the sins. Link to the goodness of God to things you see them do...praise effort, integrity, etc....We see greatness in you from the beginning, sent from God for a purpose and destiny. Speak to them with words like: We see the goodness of God in you through ...You honor God with ...Celebrate integrity seen by...I see the passion of Jesus in you when...

Don't focus on behavior, because they will mess this up...help them see themselves as a leader. How you see them, helps them see that too!

Don't focus as much energy on behaviors that can change, but a deeper focus on what God is doing and can do to prepare them for their future. Parents may need to ask God for this wisdom, whom He gives when His people ask. God is ready, waiting and willing to partner with you in the quest to help your children grow in their faith and into their God-purposed destiny!