

The Loop

SMOKEY POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH | MAY/JUNE 2013



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MAKE WAR
ON SIN

MEN'S RETREAT

MAY 31-JUNE 2

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FORWARD

THE HEART OF A MOM

When we sat down and talked about how we wanted to approach this edition of the Loop, I was thrilled that we settled on the theme of parenting. With our upcoming parenting seminar on May 3rd & 4th as well as our annual VBS and other family activities approaching, it seemed such a perfect fit! And as a young single mom, I couldn't be more excited for what the spring and summer would hold for my son and me in the ways of learning and growing. It is such a joy for me to share my own heart on the beautiful subject of being a mom!

I won't ever forget the night that my mom called me to tell me that my son had a fever for the first time. The sensations of my heart racing, the emotions that flooded through me, the irrational urge to run out of my night at The Well (our young adults group) and race to my parents' house; it all held me captive for the remaining hours that I was away. And while I knew how good of hands he was in, I couldn't stop myself from forfeiting my independent night of rest and driving out to my mom's house to be with my baby. Of course this meant an extra 8 miles of driving and missing out on some extra hours of rest, but as I lay down in bed to the sound of my baby's quiet breathing, I knew it was worth it.

Parenthood is all about losing your rational brain and gaining your love brain. It's not rational to love something that wakes you up five times in the night, it's not rational to desire to be with that something on the one night that you get away. Parenthood is the one place where rationality dies out. It's the place where putting on sweats is dressing up, eating Kraft Macaroni and Cheese is fine dining, and where your child's laugh can take your breath away. It's giving up everything that made you the complex person you once were to just having the one thing that makes you who you are now, Mom.

I couldn't understand why no one could explain to me what it felt like to love your child, as I asked many times before my son was born. But now I know that it's because there is no rational explanation behind it, whatsoever. It's primal, instinctual, and so overwhelming that sometimes it feels like you're drowning in it. It precedes your every action, attaches itself to your every thought, and fills your life completely. And for me, it brought my previous understanding of God's love for me up short and allowed me to glimpse the multitude at how He really delights in us.

I'd like to share with you an excerpt of what I wrote that night:

"So tonight, I'm going to try to sleep if Grayson will let me. By three a.m. I'll be wishing I'd have just gone home, but for this moment when his sweet sleep breathing is like a lullaby, I'm glad to be here. Thank you Father for another day with him, another day with You."

God bless you as you endeavor on the great journey of parenting, may you always know that He's right at your side!

Emily Maywood

IN THE LOOP

What's Happening at SPCC

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS

Clothing Closet



Spring Cleaning? Have some children's clothes to get rid of? Don't put them in that garage sale pile! SPCC is once again collecting clothing for our annual Clothing Closet. Each year, we give away school clothes and haircuts to hundreds of families in our community.

Here's what we're looking for:

1. **New or used clothing for ages birth through teen.**
2. **Financial donations for new socks and other items.**
3. **Qualified hairdressers to donate time for children's haircuts.**

All donations can be dropped off in the church lobby all spring and summer. More information about the Clothing Closet will be available soon.

COMING UP

Blood Drive

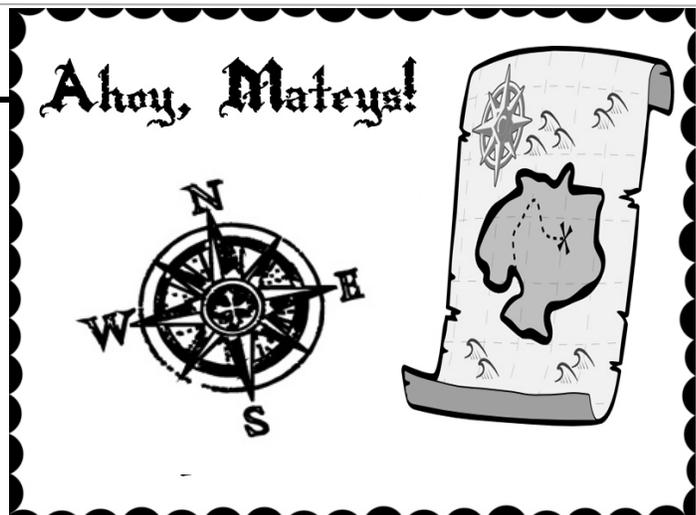
Join us at SPCC and save a life by donating blood! The Puget Sound Blood Center is hosting another blood drive here in the SPCC Children's Chapel on **Monday, May 20th from 1-6PM**. PSBC has asked that you register for a time slot ahead of time by registering online. The link is available on the SPCC website. Hope to see you there!



FOLLOW UP

MOPS Benefit Auction

The ladies of MOPS would like to thank everyone who was involved in the annual MOPS Benefit Auction! Together we raised over \$18,000 to help moms in our community! It was a great night of food, fundraising, and pirate-style fun! Thanks to pastors Mike Satterfield and Tim Quick for being so entertaining, and thanks to all who attended who made the night such a success!



5 SMOKEY POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH

WELL SAID

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.
Psalm 127:3-5

Here is a list of our newly baptized brothers and sisters:

Paula Anderson	Aliyah McKimmy-Diaz
Brittany Boyd	Jaiden Merchant
Matthew Chestnutt	James Merchant
Dakota Clifford	Pashience Merchant
Matt Davis	Anita Milam
Amanda Garcia	Jason Milan
Lucas Gibson	Justin Nelson
Emily Granard	Elijah Smith
Sarah Granard	Caden Storm
Adam Lefebvre	Gabriel Strong
Cameron Lefebvre	Lexi Vanney
Sarah McCreadie	

UPCOMING

Women's Summer Study

Ann Voskamp's **1,000 Gifts**

5 Week Study from June 11-July 9

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 PM

Signup online or weekend services on May 11/12 or May 18/19

Like most, Ann Voskamp hungers to live her one life well. Forget the bucket lists about once in a lifetime experiences. "How" Voskamp wondered, "do we find joy in the midst of deadlines, debt, drama, and daily duties? What does a life of gratitude look like when your days are gritty, long and sometimes dark? What is God providing here and now?"

In this 5 session, video based study, we will see what it looks like to live from the place that everything is from God, and learn to give thanks for the ordinary and extraordinary. Living life with a thankful heart really does change your perspective, you wont want to miss this!

Did you
Know?

Did you know all of SPCC's sermon audio is posted online? Go to www.smokeypointcommunitychurch.org>Resources and you'll find sermons to download to your MP3 player or burn to a disc!

UPCOMING

Vacation Bible School

Children's Ministry is gearing up for this years VBS! The theme this year is "Gotta Move!"

VBS will take place July 15-19. You're invited to come as a family and bring the neighbors! There are also many opportunities to volunteer with this special ministry. Turn to page 23 for more information.

SIGN UP NOW!

Men's Retreat



The Men's Retreat is coming up May 31st-June 2nd! Be sure to mark your calendars and sign up now for this awesome time!



Great Beginnings

Pastor Tim shares with us an update on our new FAM ministry

In February, we introduced SPCC's new FAM Ministry – Foster and Adoption Ministry. Pastor Tim spoke on the theme of fostering and adoption in weekend messages and we held a FAM information meeting the following weekend for families interested pursuing fostering or adoption or supporting families who do.

In the two months since, we have begun to take some practical steps to build an environment here at SPCC that values and supports caring for the children in our community who need a family. Once a month, volunteers are taking cookies and snacks to the Smokey Point D.S.H.S. office to say, "Thank you," for all the work they do caring for needy children. We've begun hosting the monthly Fostering Together support meeting here at the church, and we're pursuing helping with a much needed spruce-

up of the child visitation rooms at D.S.H.S. If you're interested in helping support families involved in fostering or adoption, there are several ways you can serve. Just contact the church office and we'll tell you about how you might help.

We've heard stories from many of you about how God has worked in your lives through your involvement in fostering or adoption. We thought we'd share a few excerpts from some of your stories.

Lucas shared the following at his baptism on Easter weekend.

"Before I was adopted I lived with a family that were not Christians. After I was adopted I started going to church with my parents and when I was three my parents told me about sin and how Jesus died on the cross for me. Even though I was young, I knew I needed Jesus

and wanted to live my life for Him. That was when I accepted Jesus into my heart.

Since then I have tried to learn more about Him. I am working on being more like Him by treating my brother kindly, making good choices, and having a good attitude. I think it's cool that I have been adopted twice, once by my parents and once into God's family. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a

"I think it's cool that I have been adopted twice: once by my parents and once into God's family."
-Lucas Gibson

future."

John shared a little of he and his wife's story. We've both foster-parented and adopted two kids, and we recommend it vigorously. The two kids we adopted were severe medical cases of alcohol, crack addiction, sufficiently that the mom of one little girl, Brenda, did not survive the birthing, and the mom of the other has disappeared back into



Listening intently! Justin Nelson with Pastor Duane waiting to be baptized on March 31st, 2013

prostitution. I had to apply heart massage nearly every day for the first 3 months of the first one, and she has survived and now has her first child, living in San Francisco on a very tight budget, but making it OK. The slightly less impacted child is still struggling with her left-over maternal addictions and other issues that have brought devastating repercussions from time to time. But she is making it now also.

It's not an easy go (*fostering and adoption*) for the typical America young couple with their habituated pattern of excess materialism, but it does make us grow by leaps and bounds!!! Our Lord had

I want to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit because I have asked Him into my heart and I want to follow Him and His ways. I am doing this so everyone knows that Jesus is my Savior."

-Justin Nelson

to be very patient with us!! Our circumstance made it not possible to look to local support systems as we were traveling to assignments in more than 40 nations while the kids were growing up, but they are light years

ahead of their peers now in understanding multicultural nuances!
Justin shared his baptism testimony over Easter as well:

“I have had a rough life, but when I was nine years old God gave me the best life a nine-year-old could ever have, a family who loved and cared for me and much more. They loved me so much they adopted me. I thank God for all He has done for me. I know that Jesus died on the cross and forgave me for my sins. And I will be with Him in eternity. I want to be baptized in the name of the

Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit because I have asked him into my heart and I want to follow Him and His ways. I am doing this so everyone knows that Jesus is my Savior. I asked Him into my heart when I was ten years old and I was at CAMA Camp. Now that I am a believer I feel stronger and have faith.”

If God lays on your heart a desire to be a foster parent or adopt, or you would like to know how to support foster or adoptive families, let us know. We'd love to have your involvement in FAM.

Pastor Tim Quick

***Under he goes! Lucas Gibson being baptized
by Pastor Duane***





THE FATHER HEART OF GOD

Pastor Mike Satterfield shares the importance of understanding God as our Father

It goes without saying that our earthly fathers have a strong hand in shaping how we see our Heavenly Father. In fact, I'd be willing to bet that if we sat down to coffee and I asked you to describe God (getting past all the Sunday School answers), most of you would be giving me a description of dear old dad (or not so dear). Its hard not

to project our image onto the clouds above and make God like our dads. Its also interesting that while God is neither a man nor a woman, He has chosen to reveal Himself to us primarily as the Father who sacrificed His only Son to die for our sins. This means that God identifies Himself primarily as masculine, though there are verses

that describe God as having more feminine attributes.

The life of a Christ follower is one of finding out who we are in Christ Jesus, not our former lives. It becomes essential for us to understand Jesus' relationship with the Father so that we can then see ourselves in Jesus' place (in righteous, right

relationship) just as Jesus took our place (on the cross). We have to ask the Spirit to move us beyond the place of transferring our dads onto God, and instead bring us to the place of seeing Him for who He really is.

Think about it this way – if we continue to put the image of our earthly dads over God (even the best of dads are still fallen, sinful men), then that’s going to affect our relationship with Him. God created the family to reflect that He is perfectly faithful, a generous provider, a loving and forgiving parent, a patient teacher, understanding counselor, wise communicator, strong yet intimate, affectionate, accepting, and on and on and on...

How did your dad rate? Mine fell short. I’ll bet yours did, too. As a dad, I fall short. I want my kids to see God the Father for who He is, not who I am. Take a look at that list I just gave you about how God desires to be seen through the lens of family. When do you have the hardest time believing those things to be true about God? Think

about that for a moment.

When my Abigayle was born, I was immediately smitten. I’d been through

We have to ask the Spirit to move us beyond the place of transferring our dads onto God, and instead bring us to the place of seeing Him for who He really is.

the births of boys who came out broad shouldered and ready to wrestle and fight and pit their strength against dad in an effort to discover if they had what it takes to be a man! But this creature...I was at a loss... her slender shoulders and soft eyes looking up into mine! This was something completely different! Now, I love my boys dearly – don’t get me wrong! But when we prayed for God to reveal to us our daughter’s name, I had no idea how appropriate it would be. Abigayle comes from Abba (daddy) and the Hebrew word that means “to delight.” Literally it means “father’s delight.” Just to drive it home, God told us to give her the middle name

“Joy,” so Abi is literally her father’s delight and joy (mine and her Heavenly Father!).

Everyday when I come home, she is the first out the door with a yell of “Daddy!” and lots of hugs, wanting to be held and loved. I take so much delight in her. Then one day it struck me. That’s how God feels about me. He gave me Abi to teach me about the love that He has for me as His child. As strong as the love that I have for her is, it is nothing compared the love that He has for me...and you. Ah, there’s the rub. Its been all good until now. Now you have to internalize this truth! Wrestle with it! Ask the Spirit to make it real in your heart, even when you don’t want to believe it.

Abba Father...He’s there for you when you sin. He’s

I believe one of the greatest needs in the church today is to understand this reality, that we are adopted children of the Father, and that He loves us dearly!

there for you when you fail. He's there for you when you're hurting, rejected, abandoned, when you lose someone in death, when the love of others is conditional, when life is unfair, when situations seem hopeless...

I believe one of the greatest needs in the church today is to understand this reality, that we are adopted children of the Father, and that He loves us dearly! The number one attack of our enemy is to distort the character of God so that you will live in constant anguish and doubt and unbelief. The call is to learn His character and His ways and the way that we do this is through His Word, through prayer, and through community with the Body.

And if you're still struggling with this and just need a picture, watch me close the next time Abi makes an

appearance after a worship service. Watch me delight in her, and then remember that God delights in you!

Pastor Mike

Father, I pray that you would renew our minds (Romans 12:1-2) by Your Word so that we might be free to walk and live in the love of our Father. When we are tempted to doubt Your love, remind us that it was You who bought us with the blood of Jesus (John 1:12), and that our security is in Your hands (John 10:28). Let the knowledge of Your love be the motivation that sets our hearts ablaze and ignites our pursuit of holiness (1 John 3:1-3). You are a good Father. Thank You for Your love!





The Goal of Parenting

Written By Will Walker

Parenting is filled with complexities, mysteries, and endless situations that call for practical advice. As parents, we often get so bogged down in questions of what to do that we lose sight of why we're doing what we do and how we should do it. My aim here is to take a big picture view of parenting. I will not answer all the questions, but I want to offer a way of thinking about parenting that will help with specific difficulties.

Consider the language Scripture uses to describe our relationship to God: Conversion is called being "born again" (John 3:3); our salvation is called an "inheritance" (1 Peter 1:3-4); God disciplines those He loves

The big picture of parenting is the big picture of the Bible because parenting is a depiction of the gospel.

(Proverbs 3:11-12); we

are called "children of God" (John 1:12, 3:1). Our father/child relationship to God is so significant that Sinclair Ferguson says, "This is the fundamental way for the Christian to think about himself:

'I am a child of God and his people are my brothers and sisters.'" Parenting is a picture of the gospel: to us, to our kids, and to the world around us.

On one hand, this sounds like good news because it roots the everyday, non-stop work of parenting in something big and meaningful. On the other hand, this could be discouraging because we all know that we are imperfect reflections of the gospel. This is an appropriate tension because the gospel is both bad and good news. We are simultaneously doing really well and really poor in our parenting, depending on the day and subject matter. That is our inescapable reality, and nothing speaks to that reality more effectively than the gospel.

The Goal of Parenting

Much of our parenting struggles are about not having the right goal. Every parent wants to raise a good kid, but what is a "good kid"? What shapes our understanding of the stuff that makes a child good ... what other people think of them, how well they do in school, how much they obey, how athletic or smart they are? These are all normal desires that parents have for their kids, but to the extent that any of these govern our parenting, they become idols. We bow down to goals of image, performance, control, and the like. We must subject our goals in parenting to God's goal for parenting. There are probably a number of ways to describe what God desires for our children. I will take my cue from the book of Proverbs: The goal of parenting is to glorify God by raising wise sons and daughters.

"Wisdom" in the Bible characterizes one who loves

God and knows how to live life according to the priorities and purposes of God. As John Piper counseled the congregation of Bethlehem Baptist, wisdom refers to “practical knowledge of how to attain true and lasting happiness.” The wise person is characterized by humility (Proverbs 11:12) and obedience to God’s commands (Deuteronomy 4:5-6). Piper also insists that wisdom results in a “sensitive, mature judgment or discernment of how the fear of the Lord should work itself out in all the circumstances not specifically dealt with in the Bible.”

A good kid, then, is one who is maturing in wisdom, learning to live in submission to God and to His will. This captures what we really want for our children.

The gospel starts with God; so we want to start from a God-centered view of parenting, not a kid-centered or culture-centered view.

The primary issue is not how well a kid stacks up to other kids or even to our expectations. God is the issue. Are our children oriented toward God? Do they honor Him? That is the starting point. Everything else follows. Dan Allender writes in *How Children Raise Parents*: “A parent has only one core task:

to reveal God.” How do we do that? Well, God reveals Himself to us in the gospel story of creation, fall, and redemption. Let’s consider how the gospel gives us a framework for parenting.

CREATION:

Identity and Purpose

In creation, the man and woman are set apart in distinction above everything else because they are made in the likeness of God. People are created in the image of God, which means we are made to live in unhindered fellowship with God and others, representing and pointing to the glory of God in all we do. We have a hard time imagining how great we are made to be. In *Created in God’s Image*, Anthony Hoekema makes this startling statement: “What we see and hear in Christ is what God intended for us.”

Not only does God create us with this unique identity (image-bearer), He also infuses our lives with purpose by giving us the task of subduing and ruling. God put Adam and Eve in the garden and told them to “work it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15). The story of creation is the story of God preparing the Earth to become His kingdom,

and raising kids is at the center of His plan.

In creation, God reveals Himself as Creator and Ruler, and in Him we understand our identity and purpose. The critical point is that we should have a high view of our children. They bear the image of God and are meant to live on the mission of God. So if the core task of a parent is to reveal God, then we must instill in our children a sense of identity and purpose that befits the children of God.

As a point of practical application: How do you talk about your kids? Do you talk as though their identity is based on their performance or failure? Do you convey that they are a burden, as if their purpose was simply to accommodate your lifestyle? Everyone instills some kind of identity and purpose in their children: a child-centered identity or a child-honoring identity, a life lived for self or for the kingdom of God.

A logical question at this point would be: “If my kids are created in the image of God, then why do they disobey so much?” Well, they disobey so much for the same reason we disobey so much. They are corrupted by sin, which is the next part of the story.

FALL:

Leaky Vessels

Before the fall, Adam and Eve knew who they were and what they were made for. There was no doubt or insecurity about these matters. It was not until sin entered the world that they began to fear and doubt. After the fall, they began to feel shame about who they were and experience struggle in their work. Their world unraveled, and all the

obvious— is connected to purpose. Children are leaky vessels that need to be constantly filled-up with the answer to these questions. In Grace Based Parenting, Tim Kimmel identifies our children’s three basic needs as security, significance, and strength. We will explore these basic questions and needs in a moment, but first I want to emphasize that the effects of sin in our children are not merely

the level of their identity and purpose. If he can get them to believe that they are nothing more than a sinner (a message propagated through much of the evangelical church), then he can render them useless in the mission of God. The modern view of the world and humanity belittles both our identity and purpose. The world is so vast. What importance could we possibly have if all we are is a blip on this little planet, which is nothing more than a spec in

EXPECTATIONS

Legalism requires external “obedience” but not transformation of the heart.

License “loves” a child so much as he/she is that it doesn’t require behavioral change.

COMMUNICATION

Legalism talks a lot about what a child should or should not be doing, but does not adequately address a child’s identity.

License talks a lot about identity and is concerned with self-esteem, but does not adequately speak of the actions that flow from one’s identity.

MOTIVATION

Legalism fosters a culture of performance and seeks to motivate children by fear of consequences.

License promotes a culture of permissiveness and seeks to motivate children by self-gratification.

certainties about God and life were clouded by sin.

Our children are born outside of Eden, and from birth onward they are looking for an identity and purpose. A brief survey of parenting wisdom confirms these core needs. Dan Allender suggests that children are asking two questions: “Am I loved?” and “Can I get my own way?” The first question is obviously tied to identity. The second question –though less

behavioral. These effects are profoundly linked to identity and purpose.

If a child sees his or herself as “just a sinner” then they probably won’t sense much ownership in the mission of God to establish His kingdom on the Earth.

Through a variety of means, Satan attacks our children at

the vast universe? The modern view is that we are insignificant. If a child sees his or herself as “just a sinner,” then they probably won’t sense much ownership in the mission of God to establish His kingdom on the Earth. But if our children understand themselves to be God’s children and ambassadors, then they will come alive to the mission of God and have a deep sense of fealty to the king and stewardship of His mission.

Sin has also affected our When you read the Bible you of the next part of the gospel

FUNCTIONAL PARENTING

FORMATIVE PARENTING

<i>Focuses on behavior (external)</i>	<i>Focuses on the heart (internal)</i>
<i>The goal is to get a child to act a certain way (behavior modification)</i>	<i>Aims to raise a child who wants to act that way (wisdom)</i>
<i>Parental authority becomes an end in itself (tends toward legalism or license based on which one will secure proper behavior)</i>	<i>Parental authority is a means towards the end of harnessing a child's will and imparting wisdom through instruction and discipline</i>
<i>Children earn a parent's acceptance through behavior or performance</i>	<i>Acceptance is unconditional and is the basis of a child's behavior (not the goal of it)</i>
<i>Disobedience is the problem, and it must be disciplined</i>	<i>Disobedience is a manifestation of the problem, and must be disciplined as a means of getting to the root of sin</i>

parenting. We demonstrate our tendencies toward legalism and licentiousness, not only in the way we relate to God, but also in the ways we relate to our children. Regarding licentiousness, Tim Kimmel points out that even Christian parents “erase clear moral boundaries” with their children. He adds, “It’s actually quite easy to become a bit desensitized by the boundary-less culture that we were raised in.”

Equally dangerous is legalistic parenting, which moves the boundaries in far tighter than they need be. The following chart outlines some of the errors in legalism and license:

see God’s law (behaviors and actions that He wants us to exemplify), but a closer look at the Bible shows us that God’s goal encompasses more than that. It’s not merely external conformity that God wants. He wants His children to become the kind of people who naturally live in accordance to His law. God’s goal for us is that we experience transformation in our mind, heart, and will, which then expresses itself in our behavior. If we want to raise wise sons and daughters, we must have a long-term vision for forming the internal world of our children (heart, mind, emotions) as the wellspring of their behavior. This is the aim

story.

REDEMPTION:

The Power of Grace

In redemption, God is renewing all things according to His original plan. God sent Jesus to re-establish the beach-head of His kingdom expansion and to redeem a people through whom He would expand His kingdom on Earth. In Christ, we are adopted into the family of God, wherein we regain our sense of identity as His children. In Christ, we are commissioned to disciple the nations, wherein we regain our sense of purpose. The gospel

restores us to the life we were made to live—fellowship with God and work in His kingdom.

Just as God meets our deepest needs in the gospel, we must answer our children's deepest questions of identity and purpose by embodying the gospel of grace in their lives. To do this, we must experience God's grace ourselves. God loves us unconditionally. He demonstrates His love by rescuing us even though we are proud and arrogant. He reconciles us even though we are His enemies and grants us ongoing access to His presence even though we continue to struggle with sin.

Our experience of grace leads us to ask: Do I show my children unconditional love by moving toward them in their disobedience, embracing them in their sin, and inviting them into relationship with me regardless of their condition?

God restores us to live the life we were meant to live. He prepares good works for us to walk in, gifts us accordingly, and supplies the strength to exercise those gifts. Again, we must ask: Do I empower my children by helping them gain a sense of their gifts and place in this world and even by involving them in my work? Gospel-centered parenting is not legalistic. It begins with

love and acceptance. It is not licentious because that love compels us to action. Just as Tim Kimmel has written, "grace does not exclude obedience, respect, boundaries, or discipline, but does determine the climate in which these important parts of parenting are carried out."

With our restored identity in mind, we provide our children a sense of secure love by accepting them as they are, giving them a sense of belonging in our family, and lavishing our affection on them. With our restored purpose in mind, we provide our children with significance by inviting them into the mission of God, affirming their strengths and gifts, and empowering them to take risks.

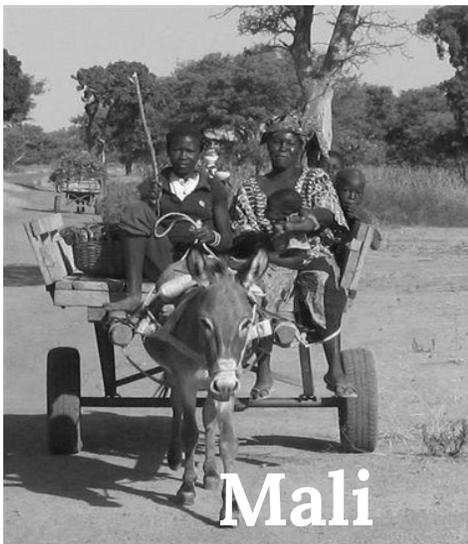
Gospel-centered parenting begins with understanding what it means to be a child of God. As we experience His grace toward us in Christ, we reveal God to our children.

Author: Will Walker
After six years as a missionary to college students at the University of Texas, and four years as an associate pastor at Coram Deo church in Omaha, NE, Will followed God's call to plant Providence Church in the fall of 2010. What drives his teaching and leadership is a growing hope that the gospel really does change everything. He attended Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Will and his wife, Debbie, are the parents of two boys, Ethan and Holden.

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Mali



Swaziland



Honduras



Gabon



Papua New Guinea



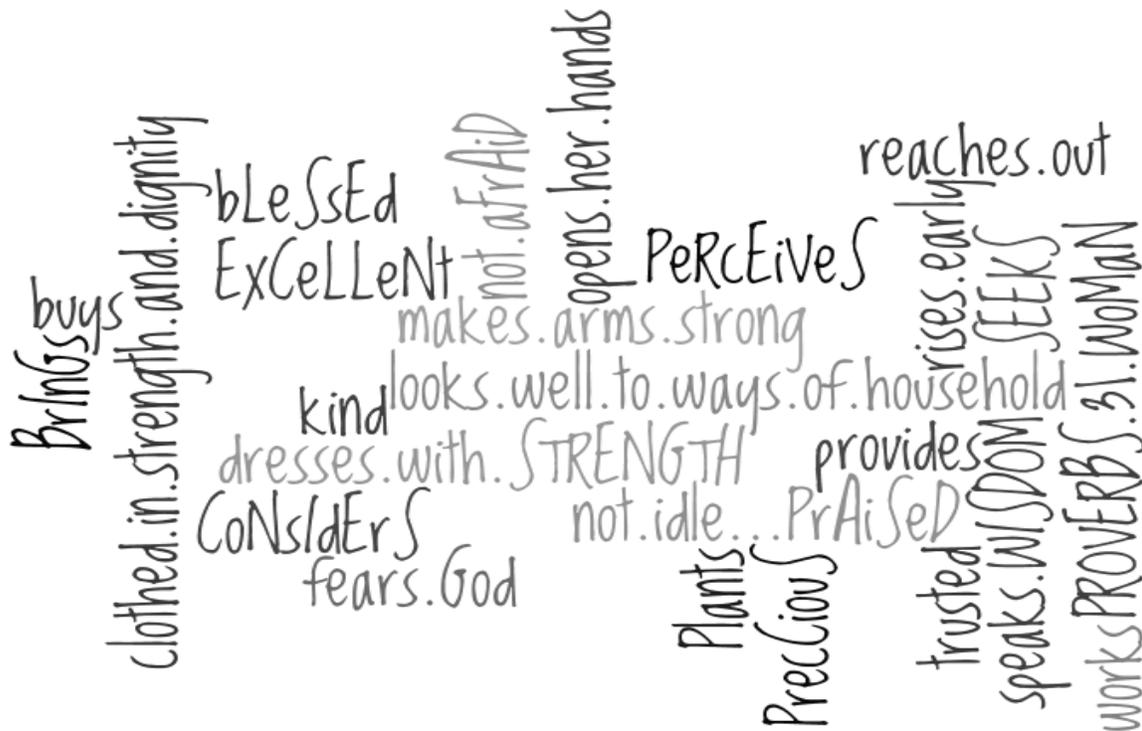
Kosovo



Guinea

Adult Ministries

THE PROVERBS MOM



The Proverbs Mom

I appreciate the Proverbs 31 mom. I can't relate to her, but I admire her. IN fact, it's hard to read about her without feeling a sense of inadequacy and under-achievement, almost feeling like a stalled car in the passing lane. I mean, this woman is incredible! If women feel a slight bit intimidated by her, most men I know couldn't hold a candle to her.

This Proverbs 31 woman has been renowned through the ages as the paragon of perfection, and for many good reasons. When I read the passage, this woman is so incredible I begin to speculate. I bet she even cooks seven-course meals on a nightly basis, burns approximately 15,000 calories a day, always carries a day timer, to relax she exercises to the Navy Seals training video, gets by on an average of four hours of sleep each night, drinks decaf during her waking moments (secretly I think she has high blood pressure), rarely

drives the speed limit, never forgets a birthday or anniversary in either her immediate or extended family, and leaps tall buildings in a single bound. Yes, it's supermom... the mom of all moms! Like I said, I admire her, but I can't relate to her. IN fact, after reading about her, I'm just plain exhausted!

There is another Proverbs mom that I admire. This one is a super mom as well. This one I can even understand, it's the mom of Proverbs 10:1.

"...A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother."

It seems that in the past few years, I've been in conversations with some great moms. Moms that have much to be thankful for, yet moms who are the moms of Proverbs 10:1. Somewhere along life's road, the child they've carried, and nurtured throughout the years, has taken a wrong turn, chosen the wrong path, and has been following a course of destruction. It is in sin's wake that we catch a sense of depth in the heart of a grieving mother, a mother "heavy of heart", a mother who mourns over her children. I wonder if moms perhaps have a tenderness of spirit with a capacity to hurt and grieve like no other, a heart most

vulnerable to this kind of pain.

We love the child that brings us joy, we rejoice, we celebrate, we boast and brag about their achievement, but the foolish child brings to the heart of this Proverbs 10:1 mom, a hurt down deep, an ache for the soul, a love that desperately desires all that is good for their child. It's a love that lays awake at night, wondering where their child might be, wondering what their child might be doing.

It's a love that somehow musters the strength to go about daily tasks, putting in a full day's work, while carrying a sense of heaviness inside. It's a love that is overwhelmed with a rush of sadness at moments, and while

It's the love that God is so well acquainted with, it's the mom He's met with time and time again, as she has laid her petitions for her children at His feet, and been given His strength to bear up under it all.

words don't come easily, the tears silently and gently flow down her cheeks. It's the love that God is so well acquainted with, it's the mom

He's met with time and time again, as she has laid her petitions for her children at His feet, and been given His strength to bear up under it all.

That's the mom I admire. That's the mom for whom I have the utmost respect, the mom of Proverbs 10:1. If I thought the Proverbs 31 mom had strength, it's this mom's vulnerability to human weakness that is her strength, for before God, in her weakness, God displays his strength and is ultimately glorified. How do I know this?

Because I am here today as a living testimony of a praying Proverbs 10:1 mom. God answered those tears. And for that I am eternally grateful. "Thanks mom, you are truly a super mom, a Proverbs 10:1 mom!!"

Pastor Bryce McFadden

What the Kids Think!

We asked some of our high-schoolers and young adults to complete this sentence: "The greatest way my parents have influenced me is..." Here's what they had to say!

"...by teaching me that my siblings are and will always be my best friends."

-Jessica Huston

"...that they have fulfilled their marital vows daily for 25 years is one of the greatest ways they have influenced me. They have shown me what commitment and faithfulness to a spouse looks like. Furthermore, (and I believe what separates them from many marriages of that age) is the fact that they still spend time with each other and show affection towards one another. If that weren't the most paramount, their common love and passion for Christ is by far the greatest example they have taught me. God is not a comfort blanket or an Easter/Christmas Eve affair. He demands our life and our actions to honor him daily." -Patrick Ulinski

"...by teaching me that Christ is in me, and He is my only hope of glory. Also, my dad taught me to chop wood." -Justin Goheen

"...by how they show love towards each other and family." -Heather Ulinski

Children's Ministry

Vacation Bible School



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JULY 15-19, THIS YEAR'S *GOTTA MOVE* VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

GOTTA MOVE ~ Keepin' in Step with the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also **keep in step** with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25

This year our *Gotta Move!* curriculum is designed to remind children that our God is faithful and will give us everything we need to walk with Him. He gives us His grace, His Word, His Son, His forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit. As children learn directly from Scripture, we pray that they will be eternally impacted by God's truths and the gospel.

As is the case with every Go Fish curriculum, there are two primary objectives:

1. To share the gospel of Jesus Christ
2. To teach the importance of the Bible

At a time when children are bombarded with messages from the world at a constant pace, events like VBS give us the opportunity to combat these messages with the sword of the



**PRE-REGISTRATION
BEGINS JUNE 1ST**



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REGISTRATION FORM FROM
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23 SMOKEY POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH

DON'T MISS OUT ON BEING PART OF OUR CONCERT CREW FOR VBS THIS YEAR!



Spirit! We have put a lot into the music, videos, and other entertaining elements of Gotta Move! However, the key to a successful VBS isn't our materials or your clever ideas. Our confidence must be in the sufficiency of Scripture and the power of the gospel.

As you well know, moving is something that children understand really well! Following Jesus meanstaking action. As we walk with God, He lets us know where to go through His Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit. God gives us everything we need to walk with Him, however, we need to "keep in step" (Galatians 5:25) and do our part. When we are faithful, God produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives as well. These fruits will be emphasized throughout the Gotta Move! experience.

We will have our exciting Opening and Closing Concert session with amazing songs, choreography, and lights as well as an amazing "extreme cuisine" puppet show skits! Families will rotate through our Bible Study, the NEW Double Dutch & Dance area, Crafts, Missions & Snacks bonding together and having a blast!

GOTTA MOVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join us this summer as part of our Gotta Move Concert Crew! You will have an amazing time movin' and shakin' no matter what role you choose! We need "ticket sales" (registration),

Design crew (decorations), Technical staff (sound lighting video logistics), Bible Study leaders, Set design leaders (Craft), Catering & Hospitality (Missions & Snacks), Double Dutch & Dance leaders (games), Groupies (family/group leaders), Special Needs Buddies, Security & Parking, First Aid staff, Production crew (behind the scenes planning and prep) and much more! It will take about 100 volunteers to put on this Concert Style VBS and it is so worth it for these kids and their families to hear about God's truth, the Gospel, and the importance of the bible! We want YOU for our Concert Crew!

Volunteers can start filling out Applications NOW!!! *If you know what you want to do fill out your application and turn it in ASAP as some jobs go fast! But we know you will have fun no matter what job you choose!!!*

This is an outreach event, so INVITE your neighbors and un-churched family and friends!

Registration will Open June 1st for Children and Families! You can print your registration forms online at the SPCC website or get one from Ms. Diona's office, and look for special registration opportunities in the bulletin in the coming weeks!!!

Children's Ministry

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Stacey, Emily, and Ben Johnson

I am sure many of you know Stacey is Pastor Jim's lovely wife, but what you might not know is she is one of our many faithful volunteers in our Nursery Ministry. Stacey and Jim have been at SPCC for 17 years and Stacey has been serving in Children's Ministry in some way since her kids were born, for over 13 years. She has also served as a deaconess and currently serves by making coffee at services, and by being a MOPS Mentor Mom. A few other things you might not know about her are that she enjoys writing, blogging and being outdoors.

In fact she is trying to publish a novel and wants to write more! She likes to hang out with her family and thrift store shop and garage sale (basically get a bargain)!

Along with Stacey, our Children's Ministry is blessed with her children Emily and Ben, who serve as LITs. Emily has been an LIT for four years, working in our 3 year old class, Discovery Club, and now in the Nursery. Ben has been an LIT for two years and works with our 2 year olds on Saturday nights. Both Emily and Ben do a great job working with the little ones, building

relationships with them, playing with them, and helping them in their classroom, as well as supporting our teachers! They both love working with kids and you can tell by the way they interact with the children and their great servant attitudes!

Emily likes to sing in choir, play the guitar and babysit. Ben just started playing the electric guitar and is excited to be going on the Breakout Mission's Trip to Oregon this summer.

When I asked Stacey about her experience in being part of Children's Ministry she said "I love the nursery because I get a baby fix and I love working with Emily. It's a fun way to serve and help out families." When asked about how has she grown from serving she said "Kids are needy and not always happy...you take them unconditionally! God uses that to grow me." Emily says "You can spend time with the children and bond with them" and Ben says "I like to interact with the kids and I have learned more about the Bible from helping with the lessons." It has been so awesome to see them serving together as a family! They don't all serve in the same area, but they all serve! It is awesome! I have loved seeing over the years, how the Johnson's have put in much thought and prayer over how, where, and when their family serves, so that they have a balance in spending time together, time in personal activities, and time serving the body here at SPCC.

Stacey would say to you, if you have ever considered serving in Children's Ministry, "Give this ministry a try. It may take time to find your fit. I do best with the

babies...toddlers are not a great fit for me, but I think you have to find your niche and be open to God." Emily would tell you "Do it, it's a great opportunity to show your love for God to the kids and to just have fun." And Ben would simply say "You should help out because it's fun!"

Thank you Stacey, Emily, and Ben (and you too Pastor Jim!) for serving our children and our families so well! We count you a blessing and are so thankful for you!

Diona Ries

PHOTO FINISH

Arrrrrrgh-MOPS Benefit Auction





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