

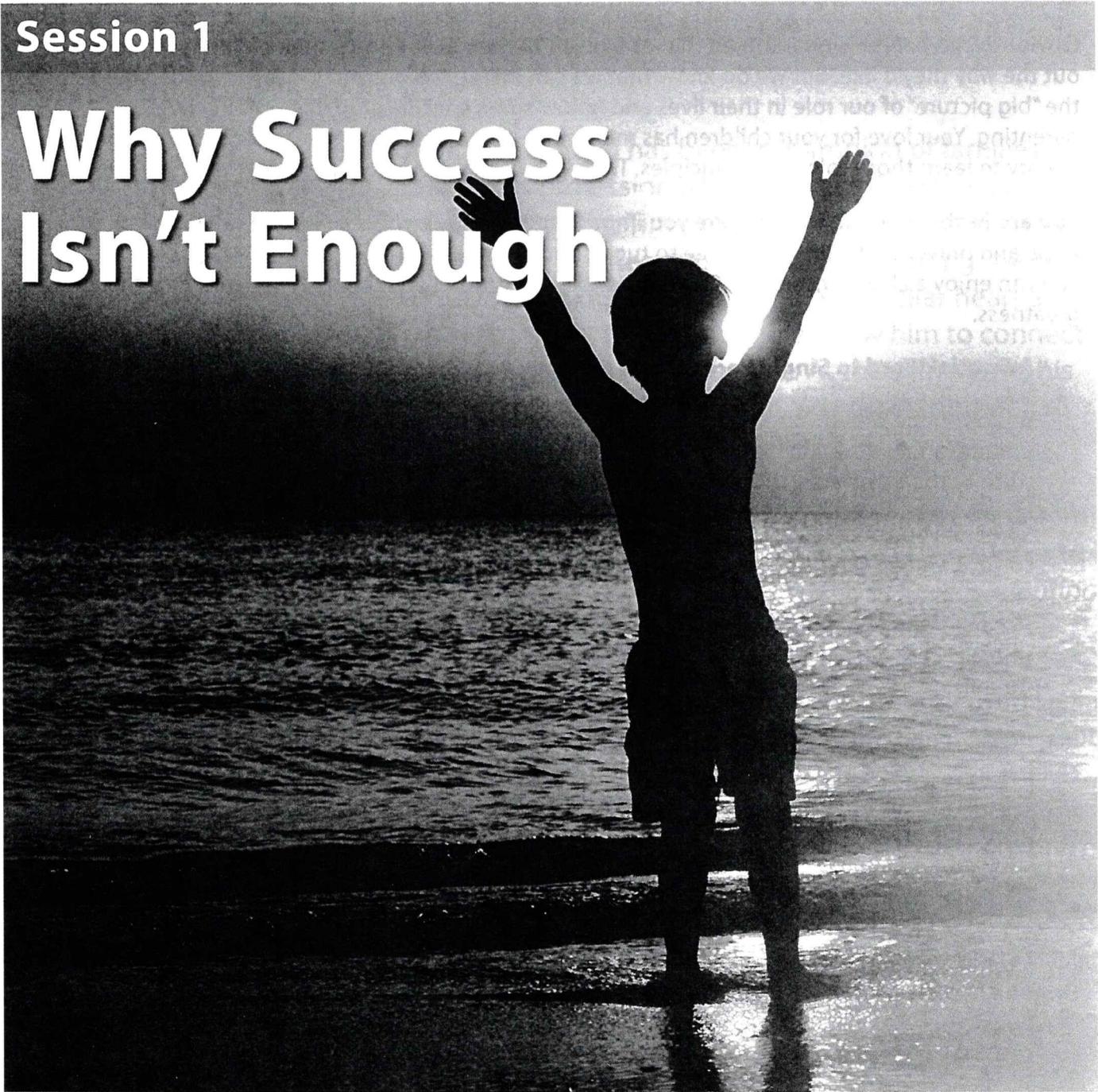
GRACE BASED parenting[®]

VIDEO SERIES

Aiming Your Child at True Greatness

Session 1

Why Success Isn't Enough



Introduction

- Conventional wisdom says that our role as parents is to raise kids aimed at a future of success.
- We're going to learn how to use the power of God's grace to raise kids who end up living their lives for something bigger than the shallow marks of success—even bigger than life itself.
- It's easy to get preoccupied with preparing our children for what they ultimately **do** rather than who they ultimately **are**.

I. Grace Based Parenting

- A. Grace-based parenting is a comprehensive _____ that enables a parent to connect to a child's heart in a way that empowers that child to live a life that makes an eternal difference.
- B. Grace-based parenting is the fusion of God's grace and _____ embodied in a single philosophy of parenting.

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ... For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Romans 6:1, 2, 14

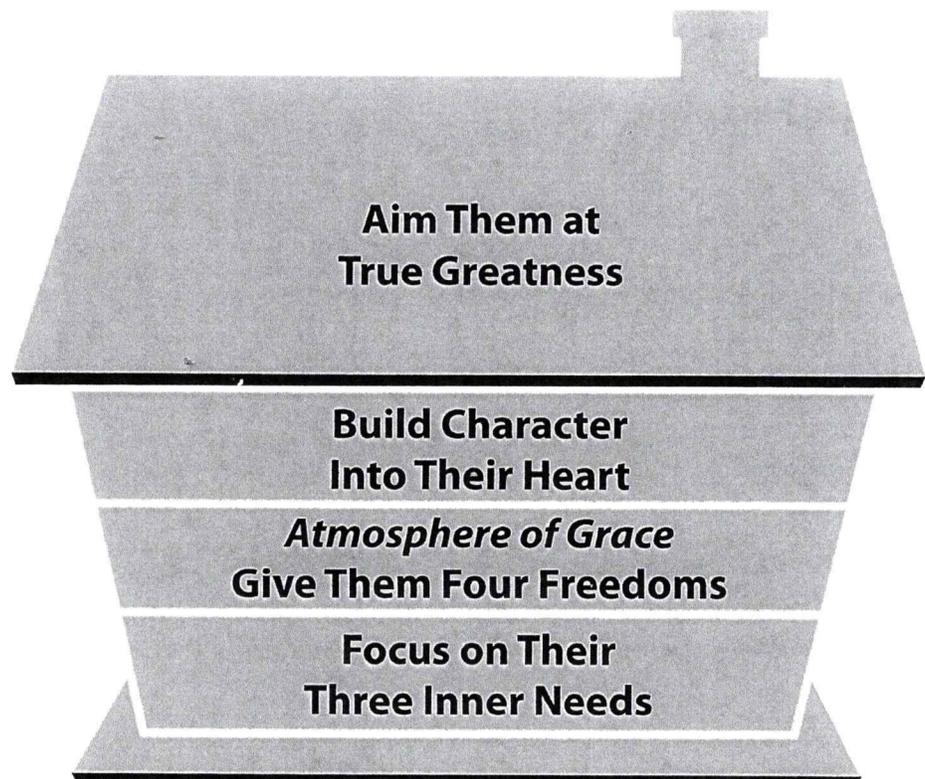
- C. Grace-based parenting is simply treating your children the way _____ treats His.
 - God sees His children's truest needs.
 - God understands His children's deepest longings.

Session 1

Why Success Isn't Enough

- God recognizes His children's greatest challenges.
 - God envisions His children's highest potential.
- D. Grace-based parenting uses these same priorities as four _____ to build the inner core of truly great kids.

The Big Picture of the Grace Based Plan for Parenting



By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 1 Corinthians 3:10

- E. Grace-based parenting has _____ benefits that make our roles as mothers and fathers far more effective and enjoyable.
- It brings the best out of everyone involved.
 - It minimizes sibling rivalry.
 - It empowers our children to be better friends.
 - It gives children a greater respect for our leadership.
 - It helps them avoid extremes in their thinking and emotions.
 - It inclines their hearts toward God.

II. True Greatness

- A. True greatness is a much higher and nobler _____ than conventional success could ever be.
- Success looks inward; true greatness looks upward, then outward.
 - Success loves what it sees in a mirror; true greatness grieves over what it sees through its window.
 - Success is about my agenda; true greatness is about God's agenda.
 - Success accommodates selfishness; true greatness celebrates selflessness.
 - Success pays off for now; true greatness pays off forever.

Session 1

Why Success Isn't Enough

True Greatness: A passionate love for God that demonstrates itself in an unquenchable love and concern for others.

He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " Luke 10:27

- B. True greatness is _____ to any parent who is willing to put their faith in God's power and allow His amazing grace to work in him/her.

Conclusion

- God has left us a plan for parenting that is in perfect alignment with His heart of grace.
- The remainder of our study is going to focus on the fourth level of our grace-based parenting plan—aiming our kids at a future of true greatness.

Taking It Deeper

1. Tim contrasts the essence of success to true greatness in the chart below. Why do you think so many well-meaning parents still steer their children toward success when the essence of true greatness is so much more noble?
 - Success looks inward; true greatness looks upward, then outward.
 - Success loves what it sees in a mirror; true greatness grieves over what it sees through its windows.
 - Success is about my agenda; true greatness is about God's agenda.
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Bringing It Home

1. Tim lists some benefits of grace-based parenting that can make our role as parents much more effective and enjoyable. As you look at this list, choose two that you would love to see some results from in your home. What impact would that have in your home?

Benefits of Grace Based Parenting

- a. It brings the best out of everyone involved.
- b. It minimizes sibling rivalry.
- c. It empowers our children to be better friends to the people in their lives.
- d. It gives children a greater respect for our leadership.
- e. It helps them avoid extremes in their thinking and emotions.
- f. It inclines their hearts toward God.

Session 1

Why Success Isn't Enough

2. As you think about the definition of true greatness, is there anything you've been thinking about doing for someone else that would demonstrate your passionate love for God? Can you put it on your calendar and see it through?
3. How has this session challenged and/or confirmed your perceptions and assumptions about parenting?
4. As you commit to raising your children for true greatness, what is one thing you are going to put into practice this week that you learned in this session?

Bonus Section for Single Parents, Blended Families, and Other Unique Family Configurations

1. Am I doing what I can to remove residue from the past that is distracting me from carrying out the principles of this session? If there is more I can do, what am I going to do about this?

2. When it comes to applying the principles of this session, how am I going to deal with the additional stress on my family that is caused by:
 - Added Fatigue
 - Financial Pressure
 - Guilt
 - Unresolved Anger
 - Regret
 - The Reactions of My Children

3. Regarding this session, who can I count on to come alongside of me with encouragement and assistance? How am I going to communicate my needs?