

# GRACE BASED parenting



Session 1

## The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting



# The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting

## Introduction

God left behind a job description for parents that want to raise

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- A. God wants us to raise kids who love Him, live for Him, and make an \_\_\_\_\_ in their world.

*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. God has given us the perfect vehicle to make this happen – His \_\_\_\_\_!

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

- I. **Understanding the role of grace in a family frees parents up to raise kids who make an extraordinary \_\_\_\_\_ with their lives.**

- A. Grace is not so much what we do, but \_\_\_\_\_ we do what we do.

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. Ephesians 4:15*

# The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting

- B. Grace-based parenting is simply treating your children the way God treats His!

*For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17, emphasis added.*

- **Grace-based parenting:** Accepts children regardless of merit, serves children's needs without sense of obligation, and motivates children to a higher holiness without condemnation.
- **Grace-based parents:** Joyfully recognize the God-given potential in every one of their children and sacrificially do what they can to maximize that potential for God's glory...regardless of that child's behavior.

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

- C. Grace-based parenting \_\_\_\_\_ the heart of God.

- He knows our deepest longings.
- He sees our truest needs.
- He understands our greatest challenges.
- He envisions our highest potential.

- D. Grace-based parenting happens when we apply God's love to four key dimensions of our children's lives.

# The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting



II. Parents who are fueled by God's grace have a practical, personal and powerful \_\_\_\_\_ on their children.

A. Grace-based parenting has many benefits:

- It brings the best out of everyone involved.
- It curbs sibling rivalry.
- It empowers kids to focus in school.
- It inclines children to be a good friend and to choose their closest friends wisely.
- It guides kids when they have to deal with difficult people.
- It gives children greater respect for leadership.

# The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting

- It helps kids respond positively to discipline and correction.
  - It sets children up to be greater assets to the future.
  - It leans children toward choosing a gracious spouse.
  - It helps children avoid extremes.
  - It naturally draws children to the heart of God.
- B. We need to build grace into our homes because our homes are the single most strategic influence on our \_\_\_\_\_.

## Conclusion

### Three steps to becoming a grace-based parent:

- A. Letting God's grace into your heart. *(See appendix on page 120-121.)*
- B. Letting His grace transform the way you view yourself and live your life.
- C. Letting God's grace define the way you treat your children 24/7/365!

*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord...* Psalm 127:3a

## Making This Yours

### Getting It Started

1. What do you think your parents thought their job description was as you were raised?
2. When you became a parent, what did you think your job description was?
3. Based on what you see among the Christian community, what do you think the typical Christian parent thinks their job description is?

## The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting

4. Is there anything about the grace-based parenting model that scares you?
5. Is there anything about the grace-based parenting model that frees you up as a parent?

### Taking It Deeper

1. As you look at Luke 10:27, how does that verse translate into day-to-day living at your house? Are there any other ways you want to live out Jesus' command in that verse with your family?

*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*

2. Read Ephesians 4:29-32. How are you doing in following Paul's advice here? Is there some forgiveness needed on your part toward your parents or your child(ren)? What are you waiting for?

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4: 29-32*

# The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting

## Steps to Forgiveness

### Seeking Forgiveness:

- ✓ Admit wrong doing without excuses.
- ✓ Say you are sorry and mean it.
- ✓ Ask for their forgiveness.
- ✓ Commit to changing this behavior.

### Granting Forgiveness:

- ✓ Seeks God's help.
- ✓ Listen and accept their repentance.
- ✓ Be generous and gracious.
- ✓ You have the opportunity to forgive someone even if they haven't asked.

## Bringing It Home

1. Look at the benefits of grace-based parenting listed below, and write each of your children's names next to at least one benefit and claim that for them. Make this a matter of prayer and an objective as you go through this study.
  - A. Grace-based parenting has many benefits:
    - It brings the best out of everyone involved.
    - It curbs sibling rivalry.
    - It empowers kids to focus in school.
    - It inclines children to be a good friend and to choose their closest friends wisely.
    - It guides kids when they have to deal with difficult people.

# The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting

- It gives children greater respect for leadership.
- It helps kids respond positively to discipline and correction.
- It sets children up to be greater assets to the future.
- It leans children toward choosing a gracious spouse.
- It helps children avoid extremes.
- It naturally draws children to the heart of God.

2. As Tim concluded this session, he said there were three steps to appropriating the power and presence of God's amazing grace. Where are you on each of these steps, and where would you like to be and why?

A. The first step in becoming a grace-based parent is letting God's grace into your heart.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Not Yet \_\_\_\_\_

✈ See the Appendix on page 120 - *How To Become A Friend Of God By Accepting His Grace.*

B. The second step is letting His grace transform the way you see yourself and live your life.

I'm here                    1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I want to be here    1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

# The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting

- C. The third step is letting God's grace define the way you treat your children 24/7/365!

I'm here                    1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I want to be here    1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- 3. As you commit to being a grace-based parent, what is one thing you are going to do this week to put into practice what you learned in this session?

# The Big Picture of Grace Based Parenting

## Prayer:

*Lord, thank you for your grace. Thank you that you love me as I am and that I don't have to earn your love. As I go through this study, please help me to love my children the way you love me – with grace. Amen*

## Prayer Requests:

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We encourage you to read **chapter one** of Tim's book, ***Grace Based Parenting***, in order to get the most out of the upcoming session of *Why Well Meaning Parenting Falls Short*.

