

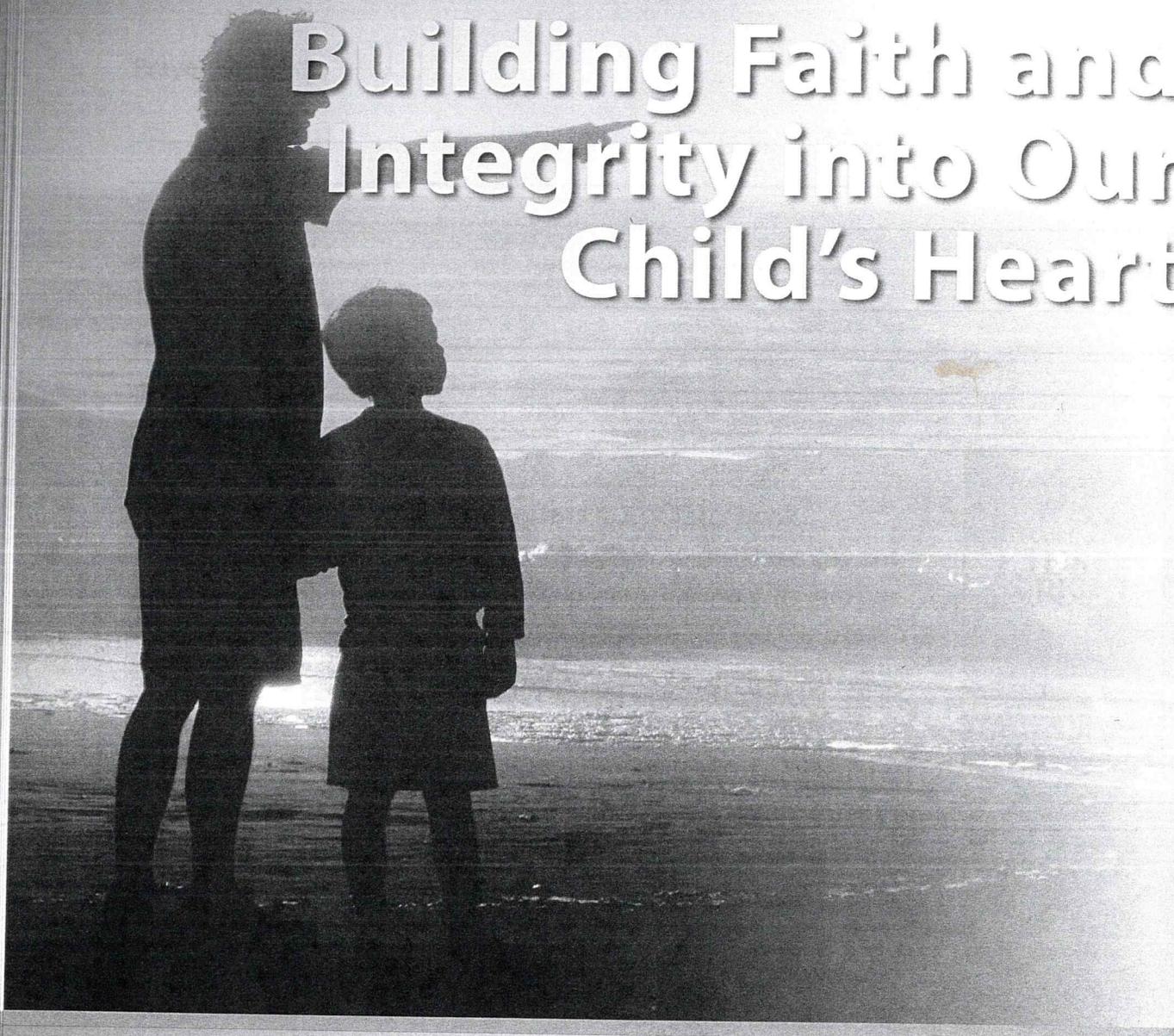
# GRACE BASED parenting<sup>®</sup>

VIDEO SERIES

Building **Character**

## Session 2

# Building Faith and Integrity into Our Child's Heart



## Introduction

- If we want to raise children who stand strong, we must build the character traits of faith and integrity into their hearts.
- Faith becomes a character trait when it starts to manage their lives.
- Integrity becomes a character trait when it starts to dominate their personal choices.

### I. Our children need decisive and specific **FAITH** in Christ if they want to enjoy the most meaningful levels of true greatness.

**Faith: *Being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we cannot see.* Hebrews 11:1**

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*  
Hebrews 11:6

- A. Children need faith in Christ because they are born enemies of God, enslaved to sin, and doomed to die.

*For the wages of sin is death.* Romans 6:23a

- B. Faith in Christ is the only solution to these on-board problems.

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C. There are four major obstacles to building a strong faith into our children's hearts.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ our children to make a commitment to Christ.

*When he (the Holy Spirit) comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father ... and in regard to judgment because the prince of this world now stands condemned. John 16:8-11 Parenthesis added.*

2. Assuming that training about the Christian life offsets a \_\_\_\_\_ on our part.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ the spiritual heavy lifting to the professionals at a church or Christian school.

4. Allowing our \_\_\_\_\_ to hold back our children from experiencing a great spiritual journey through their childhood.

## II. Our children need a strong commitment to **INTEGRITY** if they want to enjoy the most meaningful levels of true greatness.

**Integrity: What you are when no one is looking.**

## Building Integrity with Our Child's Heart

A. A commitment to integrity has many benefits.

- Integrity protects our children.

*LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart ... he keeps his oath even when it hurts ...*

Psalm 15: 1-2, 4b

- Integrity simplifies our children's lives.

B. There are three essential ingredients to building a heart of integrity:

1. The first essential ingredient of integrity is \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus said: "...the truth will set you free." John 8:32b

2. The second essential ingredient of integrity is moral \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Conviction: What a person is willing to die for.**

- Until you have something worth dying for, you have nothing worth living for.
- Four things worth dying for:
  - Faith
  - Family
  - Friends
  - Freedom

3. The third essential ingredient of integrity is \_\_\_\_\_.

Integrity will give our children a good reputation in the eyes of some people and a bad reputation in the eyes of others.

*Jesus said, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11-12*

## Conclusion

- The level of our children's faith and integrity will have a hard time rising above the standard we set as parents.

*The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out. Proverbs 10:9*

- It helps if we keep in mind that parenting is a character profession.

*The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him. Proverbs 20:7*

## Making This Yours

How did you do implementing the one practical application you committed to in the previous session?

### Getting It Started

1. How did the faith of others influence your decision to come to faith in Christ? If you are still deciding to put your faith in Christ, what are you expecting of others who claim to be Christians?
  
2. Tim says that faith becomes a character trait when it starts to manage our lives. What do you think that looks like? Can you think of an example from your own life?

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3. If integrity is what you are when no one is looking, what does that mean to you?  
Can you give an example?
  
4. We all want to be a good representation of what we say we believe. What can you be doing in your day-to-day life to make sure your reputation is one of faith and integrity?

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### Building Faith and Integrity Into Our Child's Heart

#### Taking It Deeper

1. Why do you think the scriptures say that it is impossible to please God apart from faith? What is it about our faith that pleases God? What are some of the benefits of faith according to Romans 5:1-2?

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Hebrews 11:6

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

Romans 5:1-2, NASB

2. Read the two passages below. How does the admonition to take every thought captive in 2 Corinthians 10:5 enable us to be the person spoken of in Psalm 15? Have you had any recent success at taking your thoughts captive and making them obedient to Christ? Was it easy? How did obeying this scripture change the outcome of the situation?

*Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart ... he keeps his oath even when it hurts ... Psalm 15: 1-2, 4b*

*We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5*

### **Bringing It Home**

1. Because our children's salvation is important to us, it is easy to push them to make a commitment to Christ. How are you doing (or did you do) at trusting God when it comes to your child's salvation? What does that say about your faith? How can you be praying for their journey of faith?

2. If you agree that Faith, Family, Friends and Freedom are convictions worth giving your life for, what are you doing to model these convictions to your children? If you could add two more convictions to this list, what might they be? What are some of your biggest obstacles to living out these convictions?
3. How has this session challenged and/or confirmed your perceptions and assumptions about parenting?
4. As you commit to raising kids who turn out right by building their character, what is one thing you are going to do this week to put into practice what you have 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?

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Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for providing a solution to our dilemma of sin and separation from you. My heart's desire is for my children to know you personally. Please take my fears away and keep me from saying one thing and doing another. Help me to trust in you as I guide them in their own journey of faith. May my life be a true illustration of these all important character traits of faith and integrity. Amen

Prayer Requests:

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We encourage you to read **chapters 6-7** of Tim's book, ***Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right***, in order to get the most out of the upcoming session — *Building Poise and Disciplines into our Child's Heart*.



Faith and integrity take practice. Go to [gracebasedparenting.com](http://gracebasedparenting.com) for some more ideas on how to build these traits into a child's heart.