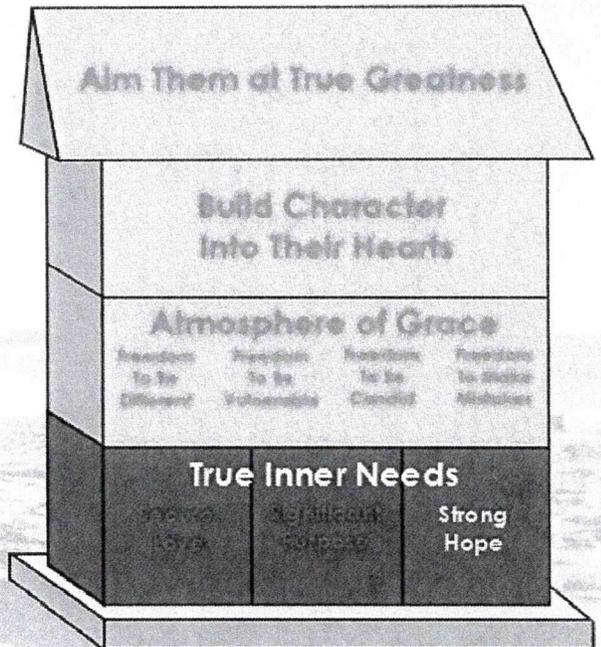
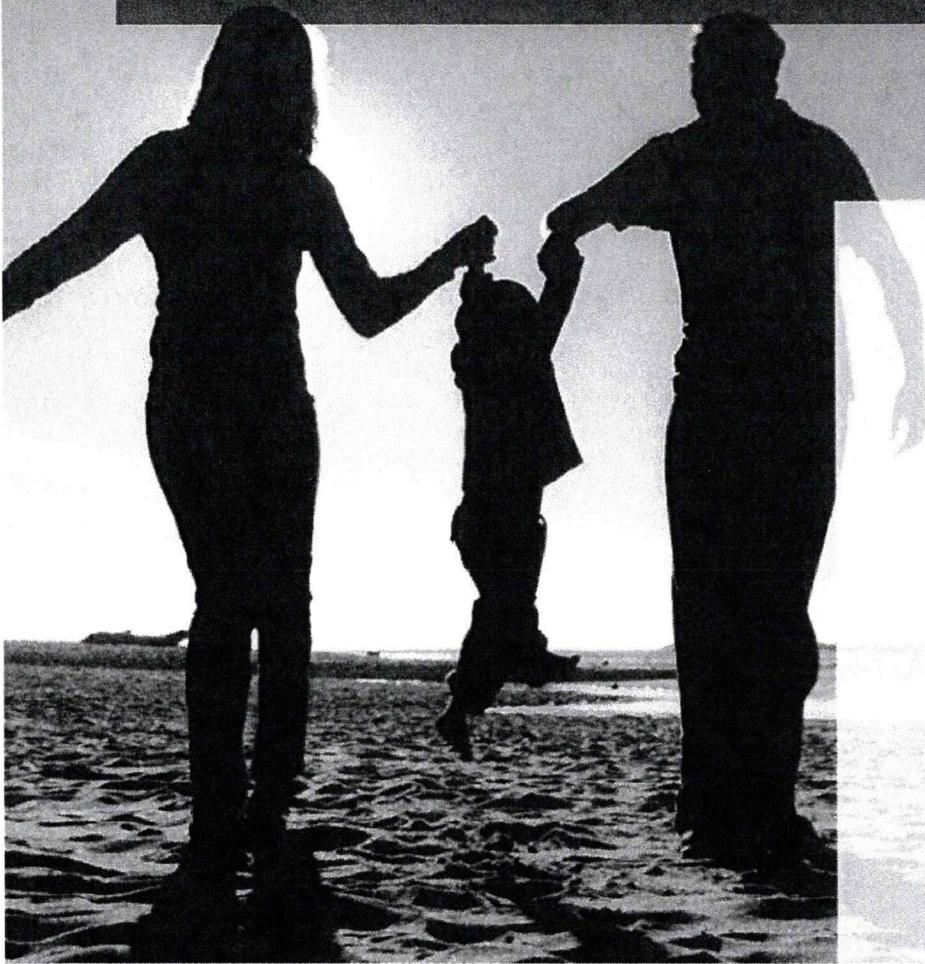


Session 6

A Strong Hope



Session 6: A Strong Hope (19 minutes)

Welcome everyone back. In this session, Tim will impress upon us the importance of transferring a strong hope to the heart of our children. God has provided many ripe opportunities in our children's daily lives to build this strong hope. As we strive to meet this true need in our children, we will learn that both protection and preparation play a big part.

Do we want to have the entire study here, with the answers filled in? (Without the space between questions for answers?)

Introduction

All children need to know they have a strong hope for the future.

- A. Parents who are deliberate about meeting their children's inner need for strength make it easier for their kids to:
- Grow up to be visionaries.
 - Trust in a better future.
 - Long for a greater good.
 - Ultimately put their hope in God.
- B. Parents who model a strong trust in God _____ a confident hope into the deepest recesses of a child's heart.

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I. God provides unique dynamics of youth that lend themselves to transferring a strong hope into a child.

A. Our children's sense of hope is strengthened when we enthusiastically and sacrificially care for them during those years in their lives when they are primarily helpless.

- Children develop a strong hope when they can rely on their parents to lovingly and reliably meet their physical and emotional needs.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:25,33

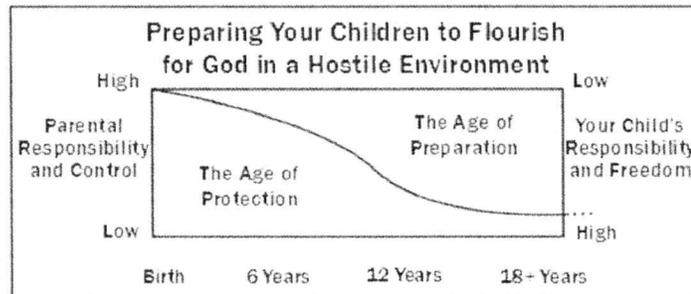
B. Our children's sense of hope is strengthened when we willingly start to hand over responsibility for their lives.

1. There are two extreme views of helping children that undermine their ability to develop a strong hope:

- a) Hardly helping them at all.
- b) Continuing to help them when they are really ready (and would prefer) to stand on their own two feet.

Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.
Ephesians 4:13-15

- Grace-based parents know the balance between **protecting** their children in their helplessness and **preparing** their children for independence.



from *Why Christian Kids Rebel*, page 195.

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II. There are three powerful ways to build a strong hope into a child's heart.

- A. Children develop a strong hope when they know their parents recognize their God-given _____ and turn them into assets for the future.

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

- B. Children develop a strong hope when their parents lead them and encourage them to live a great spiritual _____.

1. Many parents preoccupy themselves with raising _____ children.
2. Kids raised in "safe" Christian environments can become:
 - Spiritually lazy.
 - Overly critical of people caught in the traps of the world system.
 - Naïve about the world system to the point that they can be easily programmed by it once they are out on their own.
 - Indifferent.

3. Grace-based parents don't make it their aim to raise safe kids. Instead, they want to raise _____ kids.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

- C. Children develop a strong hope when their parents help them turn their childhood into a series of positive _____.

1. Grace-based parents show their children how to:

- Work hard.
- Get along with difficult people.
- Solve confusing problems.
- Handle money.
- Repent.
- Forgive.
- Fear God a lot.
- Fear their fellow man very little.
- Laugh and cry at the right time.
- Bring the best out of the people closest to them.

2. Childhood provides ample time to give children outlets to turn these ingredients from "nice tries" to proven accomplishments that strengthen their sense of hope for the future.

A Strong Hope

Conclusion

A strong hope prepares our children for a future of true greatness.

- A. Grace-based parents transfer a strong hope to their children by:
- Turning their unique, God-given abilities into assets.
 - Leading the way in living a great spiritual adventure.
 - Working to turn both their victories and defeats into a series of positive accomplishments.