

GRACE BASED parenting

VIDEO SERIES

Aiming Your Child at True Greatness

Session 6

Living Large By Thinking Big



Introduction

- Raising kids for True Greatness is a lot easier if we approach our day-to-day life with the right presuppositions.
- The way we think and the conclusions we come to have the power to imprint themselves on the malleable value system of our children.
- Children have a better chance of becoming truly great when they are raised by parents who are abundant thinkers rather than scarcity thinkers.

I. Jesus calls us to live extraordinary lives by gaining all of our power from Him.

- A. Faith and confidence in Jesus' power are _____ for raising truly great kids.
- B. Jesus asks us to trust Him.

II. God's presence and power are clearly evident when you compare scarcity thinking with abundant thinking.

- A. How they view _____.

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Scarcity Thinkers:

- Start with the presupposition that life is a finite pie and assume (for the most part) that everything in life is limited.
- Are led by their fears.
- Overcompensate by filling the voids in their lives with material things, money, applause, recognition, abuse, power, and high control.

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32

Abundant Thinkers:

- Start with the presupposition that all good things in life have no boundaries and assume that most everything in life is unlimited.
- Automatically focus outward.
- View life as one grand opportunity to make a positive difference.
- Look at people as friends or future friends.
- Make it easier for their kids to relax and enjoy their childhood.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (abundantly). John 10:10 (parenthesis added).

B. How they view what they _____

Scarcity Thinkers:

- Have a hard time sharing.
- Hoard recognition, ideas, opportunities, power, time, profit, resources, and love.
- Force others to earn their love and recognition.

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Abundant Thinkers:

- Hold all that they have in open hands.
- Share recognition, ideas, opportunities, power, time, profit, resources, and love.
- Don't want their children getting ahead at the expense of someone who is more deserving.
- Are more interested in their children's character than accomplishments.

C. How they view _____

Scarcity Thinkers:

- Have a difficult time being genuinely happy for the successes of other people—especially members of their own families, close friends, and associates.
- Treat other people's successes as though something has been taken from them.
- Take regular doses of the cultural poison pill known as comparison.

Abundant Thinkers:

- Love it when good things happen to other people, especially members of their own families, close friends, and associates.
- Get to partake in the other people's joy and blessings along with them.
- See the intrinsic value of everyone and desire the best for them.

D. How they view _____

Scarcity Thinkers:

- Take it personally and want to punish the people close to them when they have to go through it.

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- Whine, complain, and nag.
- Don't dream and don't give the people up close to them permission to dream.

Abundant Thinkers:

- Feel the pain and frustration of adversity, but they don't use it as an excuse for inactivity.
- Trust God to move beyond the adversity.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

- Don't resent the hurts that come their way.

Conclusion

- Abundant thinking homes naturally foster a spirit of contentment, generosity, humility and gratefulness.
- Children that grow up in abundant thinking homes have a head start when it comes to growing into adults who live a life of True Greatness.

Making This Yours

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

Getting It Started

1. Did scarcity thinking play any role in your family of origin? How did it affect your view of yourself, your siblings, your future and God?
2. Do you think you are naturally more of an abundant thinker or a scarcity thinker? Why? Is this more of a personality bent or has it been cultivated by the circumstances of your life?
3. How much do you think fear plays into the mindset behind scarcity thinking? What are the fears that block you from being the kind of abundant thinker you'd like to be for your children?

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4. What are some of the things you need to believe in order to consistently act like the abundant thinker in the Hummer story? How do you think this would affect the way you are viewed by your neighbors, your spouse, your children and your employer?

Taking It Deeper

1. Take a look at the familiar story of Jesus feeding the five thousand (*see John 6 to the right*). List out Philip's scarcity thinking and contrast it with the abundant thinking of Jesus. If scarcity thinking had ruled the day, what would have happened and what would not have happened in the lives of the crowd? Tell about a time when scarcity thinking ruled your day and about the missed opportunities you had to model abundant thinking.

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.
John 6:5-13