



COLLEGE GOLF FELLOWSHIP

**PARENTING
BY PAUL DAVID TRIPP**

CGF Workbook

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INTRODUCTION

→ ***Ambassadors***

1. What perspective do we need in parenting? pp. 11-13
 2. What is the main problem for us in parenting? How is that different from being an “ambassadorial” parent? pp. 13-16
 3. What are the 4 means through which we parent? Which one do you most lean toward ownership in? Which one do you see your spouse leaning toward? pp. 17-20
 4. What is your hope in going through this book?
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NOTES

 ***Take Away:***

We miss the mark in parenting when we don't ground our parenting in the Gospel and understand that our children are first and foremost God's children.

CHAPTER 01

→ **Calling**

1. What are your first thoughts when reading through the parenting scenarios? pp. 21-24

2. Do possessions, success, ministry, or anything else compete for the time, energy, and attention that God has intended for you to give to parenting? How are you convicted by this? Do you need to have a conversation with your spouse and community about honoring God's call for you in parenting? pp. 24-28

3. Why is parenting a "holy" calling? pp. 29-31

4. What are the most practical ways for us to point our children to God and His Gospel? pp. 31-32

5. Why is it so important for us to understand our need for grace before parenting? p. 32

NOTES

 **Principle:**

“Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God’s tools to form a human soul.”

CHAPTER 02

→ **Grace**

1. What kind of God's grace do we tend to overlook? pp. 33-35

2. Why is understanding/admitting our inability to parent the best place for us to be? How can thinking we are "able" be dangerous? pp. 35-37

3. Do you ever think about the fact that God lives inside you? How does the reality of this help us in parenting? How can you remember this daily? pp. 37-38

4. Why do we need to admit we have weaknesses and are way more like our children than we think? pp. 38-40

5. Why would it be helpful for us to admit that we need to be "parented" in our parenting? pp. 40-42

6. "Has parenting pushed you toward patient gentleness or impatient harshness?" How have you dealt with times when you have "failed" as a parent? pp. 42-44

NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“God never calls you to a task without giving you what you need to do it. He never sends you without going with you.”

CHAPTER 03

→ **Law**

1. What do you want for your children? Do you think it was any different from the parents in these examples? pp. 45-49
 2. In what ways do our children need the law? pp. 49-50
 3. What is the law's weakness? How do we tend to distort God's law in parenting? pp. 50-52
 4. How can the allegiance to "our law" make us break God's law? pp. 52-54
 5. Why do I need to preach and model the Gospel of grace to my children?
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NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“Your children need God’s law, but you cannot ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish.”

CHAPTER 04

→ *Inability*

1. When was the last time you did the same thing, or something similar, as the lady in the story? pp. 59-60

2. Why is it that “God has given [us] authority for the work of change, but has not given [us] the power to make that happen?” pp. 61-63

3. What are the “power tools” that we use as parents? Which one do you lean toward? Why do none of these create lasting change? pp. 63-68

4. What and whom must we realize in order for us to “not worry our way through our parenting years”? pp. 69-70

NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“Recognizing what you are unable to do is essential to good parenting.”

CHAPTER 05

→ *Identity*

1. Why is it important for us to “examine the system of belief that shapes [our] moment-by-moment interactions with [our] children.”? pp. 74-75

2. How does our parenting look different if our identity is rooted in our kids compared to being rooted in Christ? pp. 75-79

3. “How do you know if you’re putting your identity on the shoulders of your children?” What area is a struggle, or one that you see will be a potential struggle for you in the future? pp. 79-83

4. Do you think you are currently experiencing the freedom in Christ as a parent more often than not? p. 83

NOTES

 **Principle:**

“If you are not resting as a parent in your identity in Christ, you will look for identity in your children.”

CHAPTER 06

Process

1. How are parenting and the process of sanctification similar? pp. 85-88
 2. Why is “spiritual blindness” a huge factor in parenting for our kids and us? pp. 88-90
 3. What are the 3 mentalities that need to shape our parenting? How are you convicted and encouraged by these? pp. 91-94
 4. How have you seen God recently produce the “fruit of the Spirit” in your spouse? Ask your spouse specifically to pray for God to remind you constantly of the grace and forgiveness that He has given you and to produce more fruit in you. pp. 94-96
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NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“You must be committed as a parent to long-view parenting because change is a process and not an event.”

CHAPTER 07

Lost

1. What condition do our kids have? pp. 97-99

2. What points from these 3 parables that the author brings to light about our children and us hit home for you? pp. 100-106

3. What are the 2 lies that all children believe? How have you seen these to be true this week? pp. 106-108

4. What are the 5 things that our children need? Pray right now, and throughout the week, for God to give you and your spouse the ability to impart these things to your children. pp. 108-109

NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“As a parent you’re not dealing just with bad behavior, but a condition that causes bad behavior.”

CHAPTER 08

→ **Authority**

1. Do you feel the same way as this mother at times? pp. 111-112

2. Why is “Authority... The Central Issue”? Do you have problem with authority in your own life at times? pp. 112-115

3. Through 2 Corinthians 5:15, the author communicates that “Authority work is grace work” and “gospel work.” Do you agree with the 6 points that he lays out throughout the rest of the chapter? Do you think we can practically (through God’s help, of course) implement these? pp. 115-122

4. Pray this week with your spouse and ask the Lord to help you both “Exercise authority with humility and grace, giving [your] children a little picture of how gloriously beautiful and good God’s authority actually is.”

NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“One of the foundational heart issues in the life of every child is authority. Teaching and modeling the protective beauty of authority is one of the foundations of good parenting.”

CHAPTER 09

→ ***Foolishness***

1. Why is it important for us, as loving parents, to communicate to our kids about the content and character of their hearts? pp. 124-126

2. Has this definition of a “heart of stone” and a “heart of flesh” changed your view of heart change in your children? pp. 127-128

3. Why is “monastic parenting” inadequate? pp. 128-129

4. As you read through the things that a fool does, what is your immediate thought? Do you see this in your life at times? pp. 129-132

5. “So how do you parent a fool?” pp. 132-135

6. How can we be fools as parents? What must we remember in those difficult moments in parenting? pp. 135-136

NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“The foolishness inside your children is more dangerous to them than the temptation outside of them. Only God’s grace has the power to rescue fools.”

CHAPTER 10

Character

1. What does this example reveal about the importance of character in our children, and our own lives? Are you convicted by this when looking at your own character? pp. 137-140

2. How is “worship” connected to character? pp. 140-145

3. What idols do you have currently in your life? Which of these in the “descriptive list” do you see as a result? Ask The Lord and the Small Group to help you realign your worship (make this one of your prayer requests this week). pp. 145-148

NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“Not all of the wrong your children do is a direct rebellion to authority; much of the wrong is the result of a lack of character.”

CHAPTER 11

False Gods

1. What is the answer to the 3 questions that all parents need to ask? pp. 149-154

2. What is a definition of worship? Why is worship not limited to a Church service?pp. 154-157

3. Through pages 157-162, the author lists 7 “truths” that we need to know as parents to help our kids fight the battle of worship. Which of these stand out to you?

4. Building on the last chapter, what specific “created” things do you tend to worship? Ask the group to pray for you to consciously battle and redirect your worship to God with the help of the Holy Spirit.

NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“You are parenting a worshiper, so it’s important to remember that what rules your child’s heart will control his behavior.”

CHAPTER 12

→ **Control**

1. Is it ok for me to read these examples and “needs,” and see them as “good”? What is the warning that the author gives us? pp. 163-170

2. In looking at Psalm 51 and the 6 observations that the author makes, what then is our children’s “Deeper Need”? pp. 170-177

3. I want to instill these things in my children, but am I practicing them in my own life? Pray on your own and with the group for the Lord to break your heart over your sin (like David), but to also help you run into the arms of His Forgiving Grace. pp. 170-177

NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“The goal of parenting is not control of behavior, but rather heart and life change.”

CHAPTER 13

Rest

1. What's the best thing you can do for you children? pp. 179-182

2. What are we called to create, as parents, according to Matthew 28:18-20? pp. 182-184

3. How can we "rest," in parenting, the midst of such an important and heavy task? Of the 8 truths that the author lays out in the rest of the chapter, which on of these do you need to be reminded of most? Ask the group to pray for you to be reminded of this truth throughout this week.

NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“It is only rest in God’s presence and grace that will make you a joyful and patient parent.”

CHAPTER 14

Mercy

1. Why does sympathy need to be in our hearts toward our children in order to show them mercy? pp. 195-198

2. How does God use the needs of our children to shape us? pp. 198-200

3. From pages 201-208, the author lists 12 responses to mercy. Which of those stood out to you the most? Why? pp. 201-208

4. What has the Lord done in your heart while going through this book together?

NOTES

 ***Principle:***

“No parent gives mercy better than one who is convinced that he desperately needs it himself.”

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