



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

Proverbs 3:5-8, 13 ESV

- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
- ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
- ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
- ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.

Blessed Is the One Who Finds Wisdom

- ¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,

Proverbs 22:6 ESV

- ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 20:7 ESV

- ⁷ The righteous who walks in his integrity—
blessed are his children after him!

Proverbs 23:24-25 ESV

- ²⁴ The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice;
he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.
- ²⁵ Let your father and mother be glad;
let her who bore you rejoice.

[INTRO]

Some of you know that I am a very involved parent. I was at every one of Baylee’s Chorus/Volleyball/Special Recognition events growing up, and anything else she would let me come to. With Avery I coached a couple of years of middle school football, and I am currently a board member of his high school wrestling team. This year my youngest started cheer and we are heading into the realm of trying out different sporting activities that she wants to do. All these things are a part of growing up, a part of learning how to discipline oneself, a part of figuring out one’s identity in Christ. What you



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

may not know is that I have been a stickler on not letting extracurricular activities run my home. For me it was a personal choice not to let my kids get too involved too quick in things outside my home.

Here’s what I discovered over my many years, teaching, coaching and counseling with youth over a decade, that many times it seemed the more that a child was busy with extracurricular activities the more there was a chance for some type of dysfunction in the home. Dysfunction doesn’t always come in the guise of some wild child sneaking out at night and going to parties.

- Dysfunction shows up in the form of **lack of communication** between parents and differing views of child rearing; means you were never on the same page in the first place, what were the reasons for having children.
- Dysfunction occurs when there is a **lack of house rules and procedures** in the home allowing the child too much freedom; usually means there is a lack of understanding on why have rules; which is to help conform our children into Jesus’ image.
- Dysfunction shows up when there is **NOT a lot of parent and child interaction** because all of life IS about the gospel; discipleship happens every minute of the day.
- Dysfunction comes in the **ignorance of dangerous behaviors** like minute rule infractions, overeating, going past curfews, being ok with average work in school and at home, too much teasing and bating of siblings.

I was a dysfunctional teenager, but on the outside, I was well groomed, polite, and likeable by all those that knew me. What I learned in childhood is that I must be an ‘ok’ church going kid IF I wasn’t too noticeable and if I kept quiet. My definition of personal righteousness was built on not making waves. This led to multiple moral failures in my life and left me doubting my Salvation through my twenties.

[CHALLENGE]

Needless to say, when I started to parent, I was slow to get my kids involved in extracurricular activities and I was intentional about protecting time with the family. Even then, just because our kids are stuck at home, doesn’t mean



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

they’re going to end up good that they won’t suffer from a dysfunctional childhood. **The reality we need to confront together this morning, kids need to be exposed to the world in safe and chaperoned amounts so that they learn how to operate away from direct oversight.** SO, whether a child is never at home or whether a child is home all the time a **good person that does not make.**

Today though if we heed the Wisdom in Proverbs and all of scripture if we start with TRUST God’s Designs for life were going to find out how we help the younger generation develop into a “good” person. **[WHERE TO START]**

1. God’s Design for the famly starts with a plan.

What increases the rate of a child’s success growing into responsible adulthood, to be an image bearer of God, to find joy in living for their creator, to bring the salt and light of the Gospel to the Lost World, is when **we** adults, realize the **primary function of a family and the goal parenting IS designed by God.** Let me ask us all a question this morning, **do WE understand that God has a plan for child rearing, how our families should look, or are we just winging it?** The results of our parenting should lead to a Christ honoring individual and not someone spoiled thinking that the world revolved around themselves. That is a heavy calling but let me tell you what the Gospel IS in child rearing: that **God’s expectation** is not that you make your child like Christ that is **His job**, but **His expectation** of His people is **not** to get in the way and **make that harder** for your kid.

And right up front let me just state, that it doesn’t matter how old or young, whether you have had your children, or you will never have them, the church needs to be informed on the importance of God’s design for child rearing. The church is called together so that we all understand this Biblical Truth so that we can pass it on. As a matter of fact we have hung our hat on that for our Vision as a church is to **“Cultivate Kingdom Minded Families”**.

So whatever phase you are in this morning, a parent, a grandparent, a future parent, the Bible is very clearly lays out God’s design for parenting, it just doesn’t come with a label, “Read this if you are a parent.” Now then, let’s go



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

back to our Wisdom for Life, and let’s start with a very popular proverb and watch as this begins to lay out the plan for our families, for our parenting:

Proverbs 22:6 ESV

⁶Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Train – Dedicated (devote). **Way** – Journey (manner). When we dedicate our children, to the manner in which they should live, the promise of the Bible is: not that they will never disappointment you or themselves, it is not that they won’t ever stumble or do something awful, it is not that they won’t suffer or endure hardships, **BUT** in the end they will not surrender what they have been taught.

- Samson, a womanizer and pleasure seeker, was dedicated as a Nazarine, and returned and glorified God in his death.
- David was and adulterer and a murderer, turned repented and installed his Son Solomon preserving the Kingdom.
- Peter denied Christ, repented, launched the church, and died a martyr and was glorified in death.
- All examples of the older brother that new better and then left their father anyway. It is the example of my life while in my 20s I could never fully embrace the world remembering my upbringing, my baptism, my call, and I returned home to our father.

This ancient Proverbs comes from two places. 1st it was learned wisdom from a tragedy that had happened in Jewish History and 2nd it is restating an ancient command/statue/law that Solomon would have been really familiar with especially since he had so many sons of which one would be the heir.

2. The dangers of neglecting God’s plans.

First the ancient command that all Jews were to adhere to:

Joshua 24:14-15 ESV

Choose Whom You Will Serve

¹⁴“Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

serve the LORD. ¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

The consequences of not adhering to the statue:

Judges 2:6-14 ESV
The Death of Joshua

⁶ When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land. ⁷ And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, ... ⁸ And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110 years...¹⁰ And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.

Israel’s Unfaithfulness

¹¹ And the people of Israel did **what was evil in the sight of the LORD** and served the Baals. ¹² **And they abandoned the LORD**, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. **They went after other gods**, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and **bowed down to them**. And they **provoked the LORD to anger**. ¹³ They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. ¹⁴ So the **anger of the LORD was kindled** against Israel, and **he gave them over to plunderers**, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies.

3 Things I want us to take away from these accounts:

1st - People rely on hereditary religion instead of embracing the command to follow and serve God themselves.

- We saw in the text Israel won a war / America has won several wars.
- God worship is left in the history books but is no longer practiced.

One of the familiar stories that I hear over and over again in the south from the mouth of people that do not follow God is “I remember when my _____



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

used to take me to church.” Taking someone to church hoping religion rubs off on them has never been the best strategy for “Devoting to a way of life” We must model it ourselves. We have a whole culture that thought, “don’t do as I do but do what the preacher tells you to do.” That’s good philosophy!?

2nd – Failing to lead your family right now, has huge implications for the future.

When the parents are not diligent in passing along God Worship not only was it the downfall of a people, but it led to destruction.

- There were civil rifts among the tribes & no one could work together.
- Leaders (judges) could not keep a country together for long.
- Ignorance was not the last stop, destruction was...

Sin left unchecked does not make our children happy it is a destructive force bent on driving people to hell. God in Israel’s story and in today’s world does not have to add 1% of effort to the effects of sin to let it destroy our lives (Rom 1). Our choices to abandon God bring about their own consequences, He just turns us over to them (Judges 2:14). That’s why WHEN He saves us it’s called Grace.

3rd – Not only is it the duty of the parents to teach the kids but God had devised this way so that **all future generations** would have a chance. The effects of a parent’s behavior, goes beyond the immediate next generation of children, whether for the bad or for the good. **The plan was that God Worship / Christianity is a family practiced Faith. We are all in this together!**

Now that perhaps we see a little better the danger of neglecting the plan there is a tremendous hope in this next part.

3. You are not the secret to the success of God’s plan, God is!

So again what’s the plan?

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 ESV

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Warning about the forsaking of the plan...

Deuteronomy 4:9 ESV

“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children.

Let’s all start here today, **what if you have messed this up? What if this has been messed up for you?** Is there hope? Of course, the beauty of the Christian faith is God uses failures just stick to the plan...

Oh, what a better day we have than the Israelites! **Salvation is not left up to us, it’s left up to Him! It’s not left up to law following is left up to His promise keeping!** We were promised in our new covenant now that He would actually change our hearts and cause us to love Him.

Jeremiah 31:33 ESV

³³For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 36:26 ESV

²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Everyday, we Christians are proof of that, we have ability given by Him, to actually repent and turn back to Him! Everyday, we model this Grace for our children, what a great lesson that is! *I am sorry about yesterday but today is new and all is forgiven let’s pursue Jesus together!* We don’t have to face destruction Jesus faced it for us!



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

Teach your children that even when you parent badly you won’t quit being their parent, because you don’t think your failures justify you. That was given by Jesus’ success to you and you shouldn’t have to feel bad for using it, celebrate that.

Teach your children that even when they are disobedient that they don’t quit because they are not saved by their works, but they are saved by God’s Grace for sinners, give them multiple chances to do better.

Teach each other that love never quits even when harsh words are exchanged. Pray as a family and confess sin, praise your Savior for His work, ask for forgiveness, ask for correction, show dependency on Him.

We are to be teaching our children about the New Covenant of Grace, so that means a whole lot of practice of it going both ways.

Gospel living, starting over everyday, being diligent not to forsake the plan, automatically produces families that love to worship Jesus because they are living out of His Grace everyday.

(Story of shoes...)

4. How Jesus wants to be the center of God’s plan.

Matthew 19:14 ESV

but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

Jesus wants our kids! He wants to be all up in their business. He knows that faith in Him grows all the more when it is unhindered by grown-up stereotyping. He wants to pray for them, He’s for their good! But the only way, and I mean the only way He can get to them is through His Word! The beauty of His plan is that He provided a way to help them (Jews did not have this). His plan was that through scripture the Holy Spirit speaks to our kids causing them to have Faith (New Covenant)! **We don’t have to create Faith**



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

He does! That has been His plan for all the generations since we finalized the canon of scripture was to get Him to the kids through the Bible.

Through Scripture alone comes the saving revelation that He loves them and has paid the price for their disobedience. **Parents, are they growing up in a family that cherishes, protects, reads, and obeys the Bible?** You have got to model this! And if you haven’t, I charge you do not get hung up on this, but start today!

Proverbs 20:7 ESV

⁷The righteous who walks in his integrity—
blessed are his children after him!

God will bless your endeavors, if you are going to call yourself a follower then live like you desire Him more than anything, be a person of INTEGRITY and your children will be blessed because of it!

5. Objections to God’s Plans and how HCC will adhere to God’s Designs.

Common but Unbiblical Objections

**1. Shouldn’t their Faith be their own?
(Don’t want to make them prejudice)**

- Goes against what we just read.
- By not teaching them about God you are actually teaching them about the world. You cannot serve two masters. Who would you like to lead your children to Jesus or the Devil?
- Teaching a child about your faith shows them the reality of God. If you have no faith, then you won’t want to say anything will you?
- It is the ultimate child abuse not to help your child develop a relationship with Jesus. Bring them to God’s glory in Jesus!

**2. What about strong willed children?
(For those kids that can’t sit still long enough to learn)**



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

- The Bible is a book of order and it demands discipline. Discipline is something you must develop in yourself and you are required to help your children do the same. There is no giving up!
- [Proverbs 13:24](#): "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him." [Proverbs 19:18a](#): "Discipline your son while there is hope; do not set your heart on his destruction." [Proverbs 22:15](#), "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it from him." [Proverbs 23:13, 14](#): "Do not withhold discipline from your child; if you strike him with the rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol." [Proverbs 29:15, 17](#), "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother . . . Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart."

As soon as a child is old enough to understand a “yes” and a “no” and has the physical ability to comply, BOTH punishment and reward needs to begin.

I find that parents of my generation and down while not trusting how they were raised are not prone to be advocates of Discipline with children. Listen I am letting you know as a child behavior modification specialist in the school systems, a parent of three kids, but most of all a pastor - **be strict and harder up front and as they mature and grow older AND they will discipline themselves.** That is training in a “way”.

3. I lack the Biblical Knowledge to do it.
(Fear over misleading or not knowing the answers)

- It is never too late to learn! All I’m asking is just stay a day ahead!
- We want to help you and that is why we have started back up Foundations today, and we have something for you to take home today to try!
- We want you to take the information in your bulletin and here’s what we want to see:



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 7 God’s Design for Family/Parenting
By Pastor Jody May 03/27/2022

- 1st adjust your schedule at least three times a week sit down together.
- 2nd get your RPS in: Reading, Praying, Singing.
- 3rd You need to memorize Catechism as well, even if you don’t have kids!
- Model it in your CGs, model it when church friends come over, model it in our student meetings, and let’s all work at training each other in the way to go so we will not depart from it.

By doing so may we all experience what God promises:

Proverbs 23:24-25 ESV

- ²⁴ The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice;
he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.
- ²⁵ Let your father and mother be glad;
let her who bore you rejoice.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has a great plan for parenting and family life, so that our children’s children may be a part of God’s family as well.

Go in the name of the Son, that wants to be brought into our family life not just on Sundays, but every day of the week.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that has equipped you for this good work, go and make disciples every one of you.