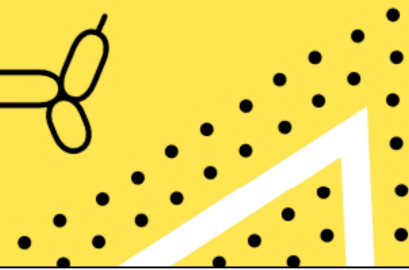
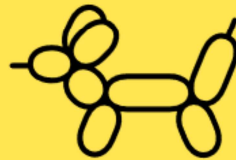




# Parenthood

Pursuing a Godly Relationship – Session Six





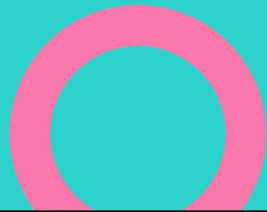
# Session Objectives

1. Understand Biblical view of parenthood
2. Evaluate Your Parent's Parenting Style
3. Willingness to lay down your life to leave a legacy through your children



01.

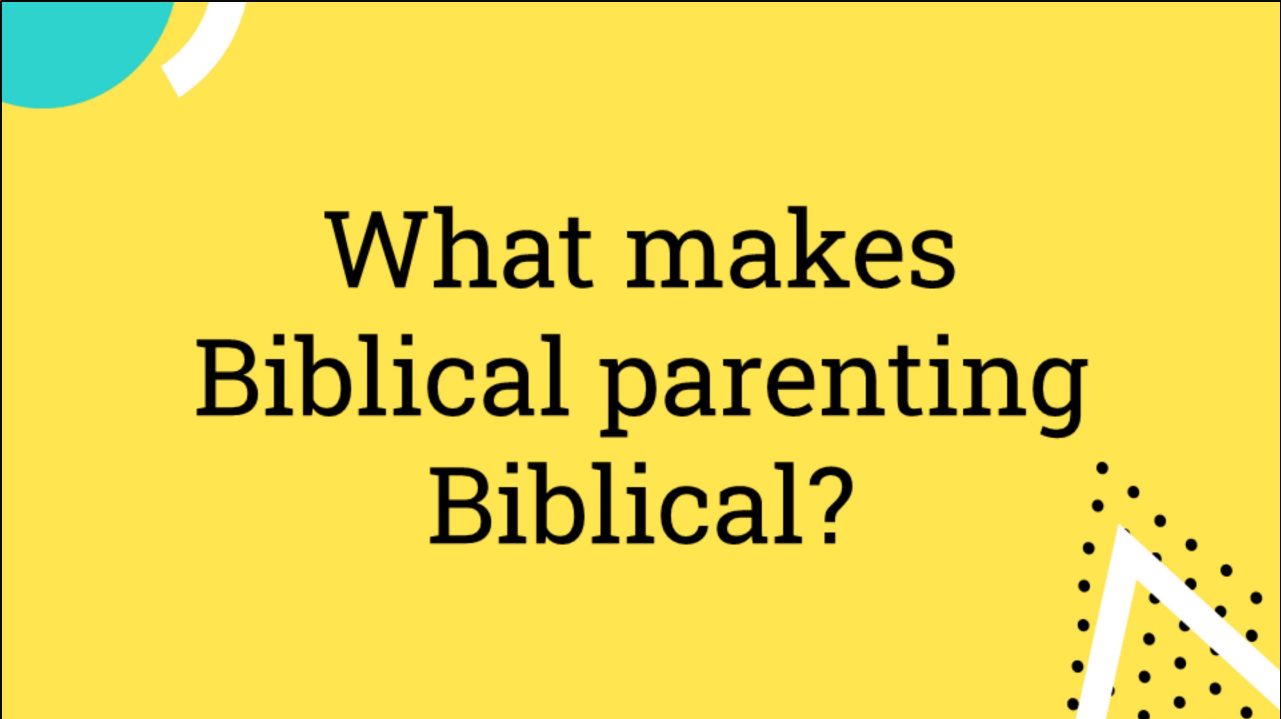
# Biblical Parenthood



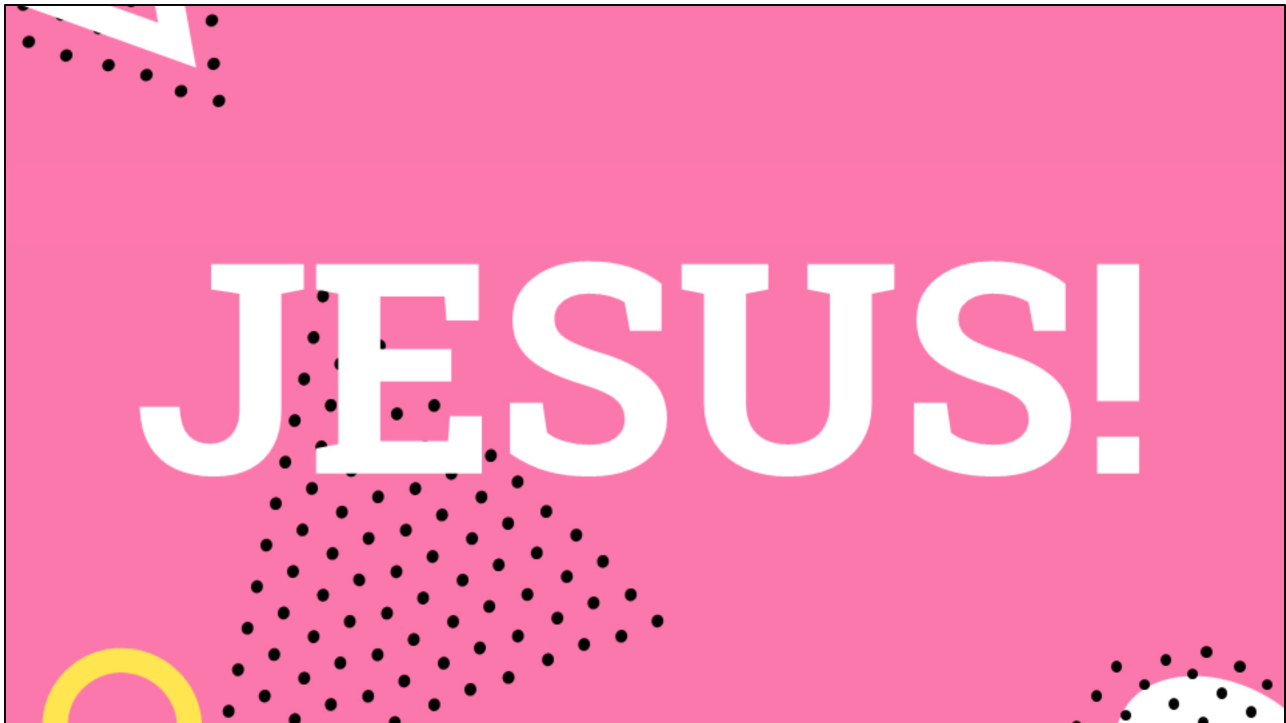
## World view of parenting

- You can do all things and chase your dreams
- Tiger Mom
- Let kids be kids

- World view of parenting
  - It is a waste of time – you can do something more important in your life
  - You can forget about your dreams and all the fun things you use to do
  - If marriage is a ball and chain, then children is a life imprisonment
  - There's also Tiger Mom
  - There's also let kids be kids
- - What makes Biblical parenting Biblical?



# What makes Biblical parenting Biblical?



- What makes the Bible Biblical?
  - o Jesus
    - If this is the case, then all parenting focuses is in this
  - o What makes Jesus special?
    - Cross
      - He died on the cross for our sins
- There is a lot of articles and resources that claims to be Biblical
  - o But they are not
  - o It doesn't mean they are evil or wrong
  - o For example, at a parenting group, I've heard of many who say I should read up on a so and so parenting style
    - Many claims to be Christian
    - When I read it, I realize it is not
    - It has many good things
      - Read to your kids
      - Ask them questions to let them think through the situation
      - Have good manners
    - These are not bad things
    - But Christ is not centered in it
      - AKA you can do all these things without Christ
- I told WJ when it comes to us homeschooling them, I have only one desire:
  - o For them to know Jesus
  - o What I really mean is for them to understand the cross, their sinful nature,

and their salvation only through Christ

- I teach them how to write and how to live life, just like any other parents
- But my focus is not in those things
- Without Christ, life doesn't really matter much

- Even when we talk about the Bible, we often don't talk about the cross to the children

- I understand the problem because the kids maybe too young to know
- My kids right now, toddlers and infants, are not capable to comprehend sins and salvation
- BUT this shouldn't stop us from this goal
- For me, Christ is the only thing for Biblical parenting
  - Without Christ, there is no Biblical parenting
  - This doesn't mean we don't teach the other things but this is so crucial
    - We can talk about the other things and skip the cross

•



# The Love of Our Heavenly Father

*Love is patient, love is kind....(1  
Corinthians 13:4-8)*

- Major themes - The Love of our Heavenly Father
  - 1 Cor 13 – Love is patience, love is kind
  - How do my children understand this love?
    - They understand by feeling
  - A lot of issues with people not knowing God the Father because of their earthly father
    - Is it possible to show Heavenly Father's love to my children through me as a father? Of course







# Fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

- 
- 
- These characteristics we are to develop through the Spirit is the same as Father
  - The more we dwell in God, the more we develop these bc we inherit from our Heavenly Father
  - Same we demonstrate these to our children

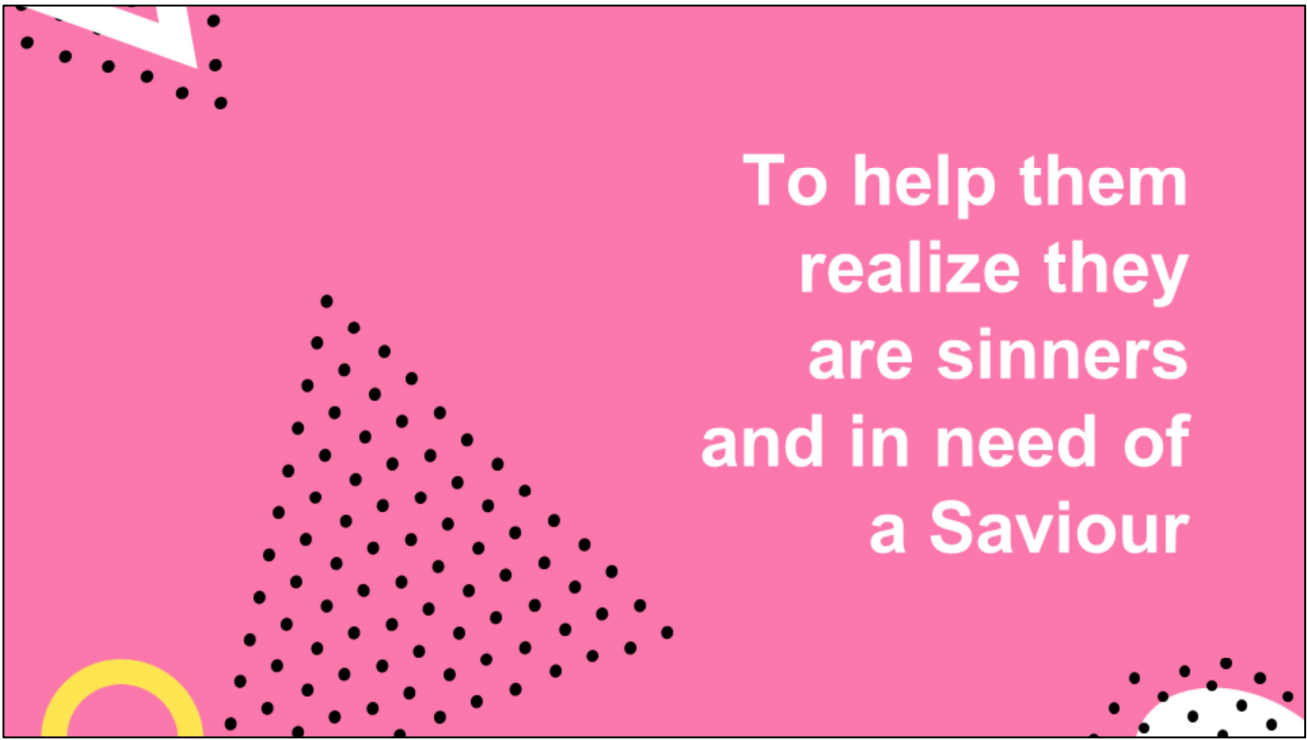


# Jesus and the CROSS

- He saved us from our sins
  - How do you share this to your children?
  - Do they see it in your lives?
  - It is probably easier to show them, do good, follow the rules and you will be blessed
    - But if this is the case, then salvation is find in our own works
  - My children must see that in me at work
    - One of the ways is to ask the kids for forgiveness when I realize I did something wrong
    - My goal is not to show them I am a hero or some super parent
      - I am not
      - I rather show them I am a sinful person saved by grace
      - This requires humility
      - A lot of times we want to show them how great we are to encourage them but maybe the truth is to show that we are sinful people and in need of a sinner
      - Super counter cultural
  - **This is my greatest desire as a parent**
    - **To help them realize they are sinners and in need of a**

### **Saviour**

- Can do all the things, teach them to do good, behave, know the Bible
  - But all will come to naught if it is not for this
- Ironically, Love of Our Heavenly Father is shown through Jesus willing to die on the Cross for us (1 John 4:10)
  - Love costs something and is self-sacrifice
- Joyful for Christ
  - Christmas is coming
  - We told our children that Santa Claus is not real
    - Bc Santa clause is so over emphasize in Christmas
  - John Piper – we have to bend over backwards in creativity to show our kids the joy of Jesus
  - Are you joyful with Jesus
    - If you don't have this, don't expect your children to be on fire for Christ

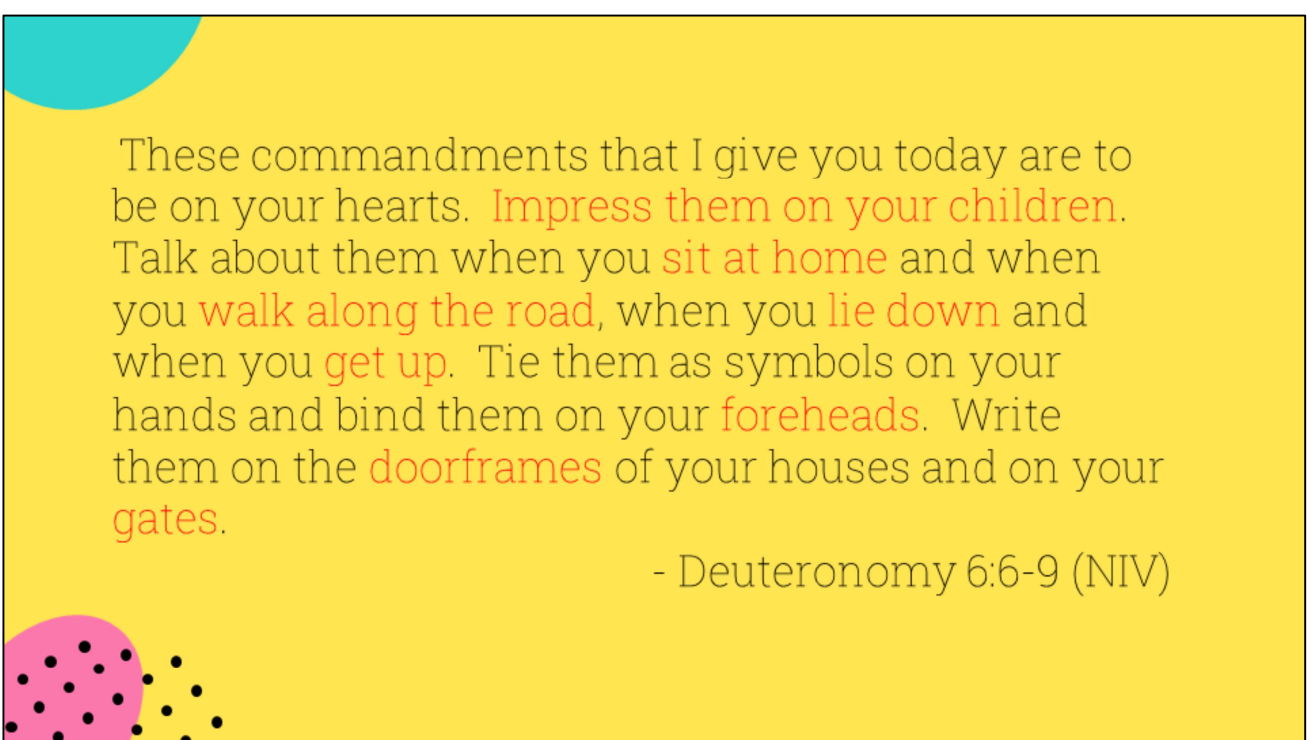


To help them  
realize they  
are sinners  
and in need of  
a Saviour

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# Old School Testament Parenting Style

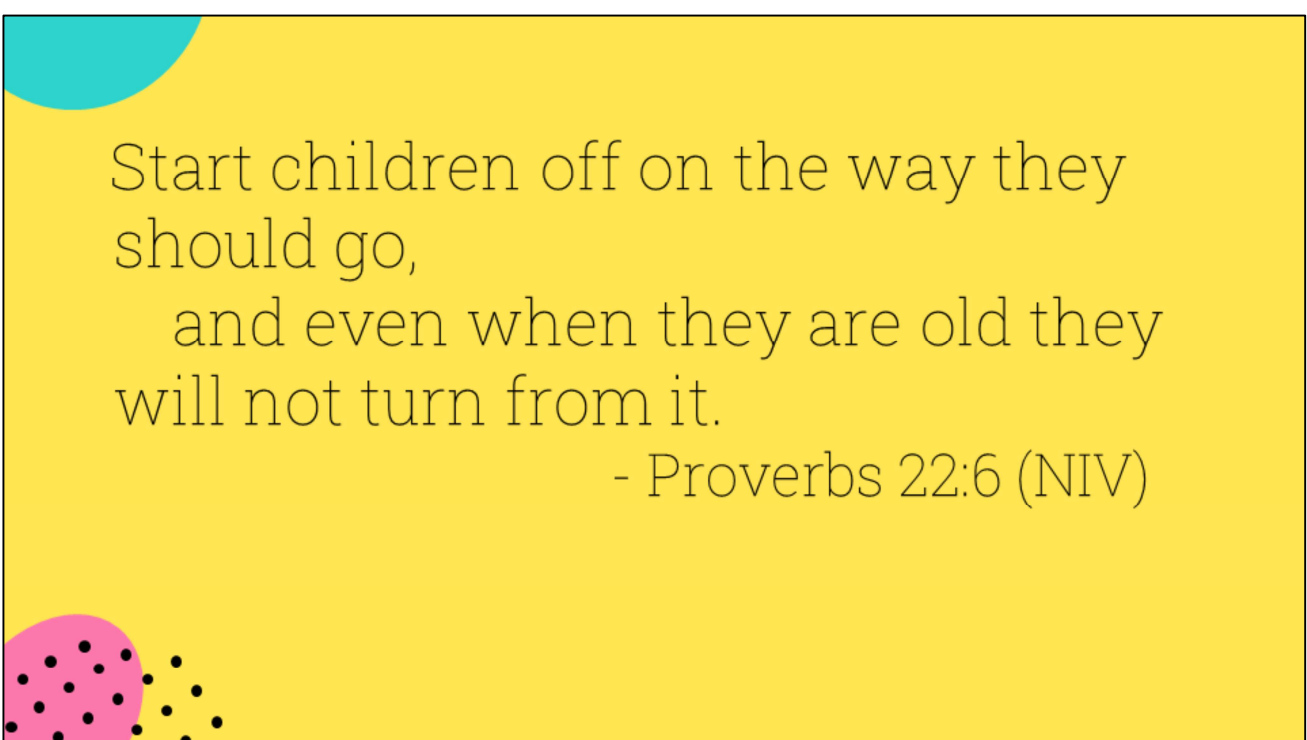


These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. **Impress them on your children.** Talk about them when you **sit at home** and when you **walk along the road**, when you **lie down** and when you **get up**. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your **foreheads**. Write them on the **doorframes** of your houses and on your **gates**.

- Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NIV)

- wrong phrase – not about quantity but quality time
  - who defines that
  - ask a child if they want quantity or quality?
    - The kid will want both
    - It is demanding but it is worth it
- Deut 6:6-9
  - Impress them to your children
    - How?
      - Sit at home
      - Walk along the road
      - Lie down, get up
      - Door frame (so you are reminded when you go in and out everyday)
  - Notice it ain't any special day, it is the ordinary everyday
  - Not at church, not at Sunday school
    - Ok, in their context maybe not in the temple or the altar or the festivals or synagogue (much later)
    - But the point is learning about Christ is at home, not anywhere else
    - This means parents have the greatest opportunity and responsibility to share Christ
  - Yet, we somehow believe if we do a few super events, our kids will be excited about Christ

- Just like eating, you eat everyday, what's more important the every meal you eat or the one special steak you have?
- V20 – your children will ask you
  - Why you follow Jesus
- Why you excited about Him?



Start children off on the way they  
should go,  
and even when they are old they  
will not turn from it.

- Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

What is the way they should go?

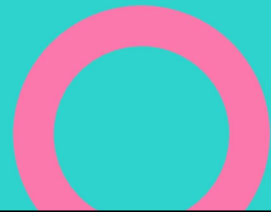
It is in the way of the Lord..how should we parent them Biblically?

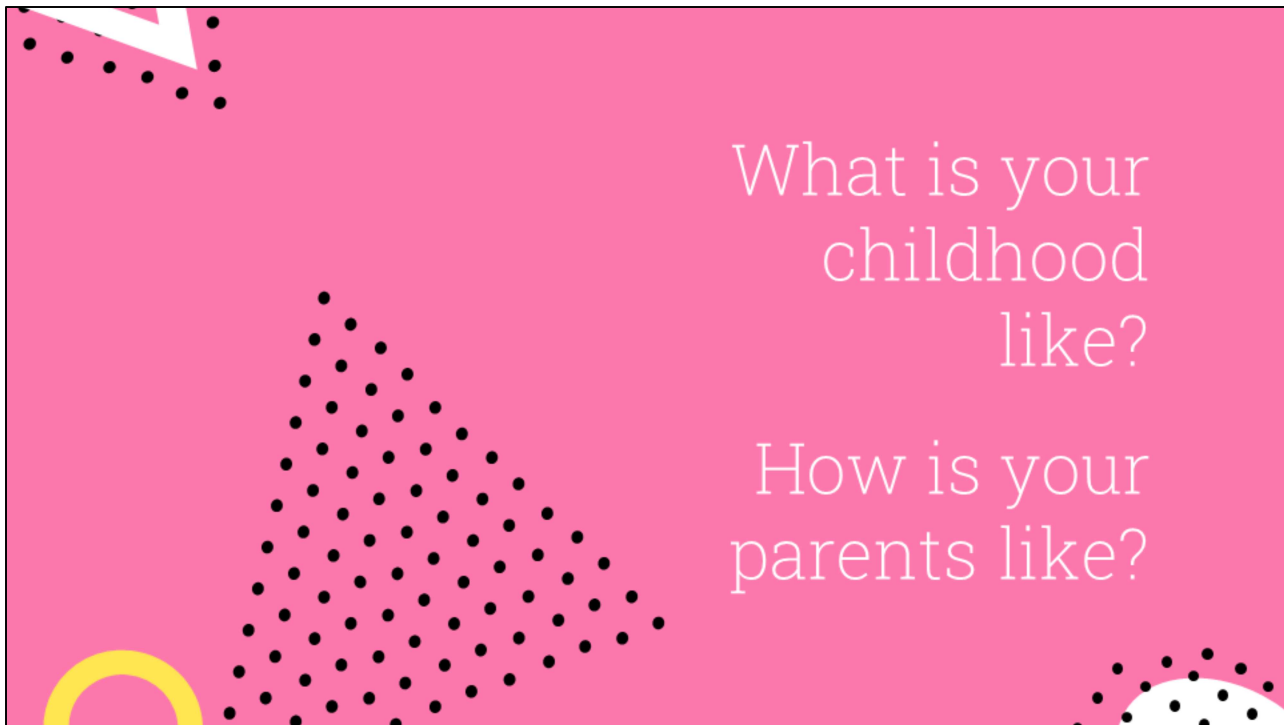




02.

# Biblical Parenting Style





- First, find out how your parents parent you
  - o That's the style you most likely follow
  - o Bc that's the one you learn to live by
  - o For me, my parents let me do whatever I want
    - They don't spend much time with me
    - They don't show much affectionate (hug and kiss and say I love you is very weird)
    - I grow up not talking much to my parents, especially share with them how I feel
      - This is bc when I was younger, i find it hard to share anything close to my parents or I did not get a positive response from them
        - o As such I kept everything in myself
- Growing up in a family that did not know Jesus, clearly there are unbiblical and unhealthy scripts, sinful nature I inherit or grew up as normal
- so how should we navigate now that we are parents
- Leave and Cleave, we are our own family units
  - o So WJ and I as father and mother, have to discuss and figure it out
  - o We prayed a lot
- Along the way, I realize it is not style, per say but really the heart underneath it

# Renew Your Mind (Parenting Style) in Christ Jesus and not conform to the pattern of this world (Romans 12:2)

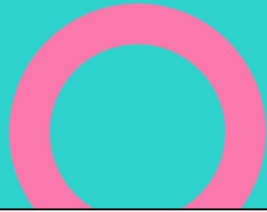


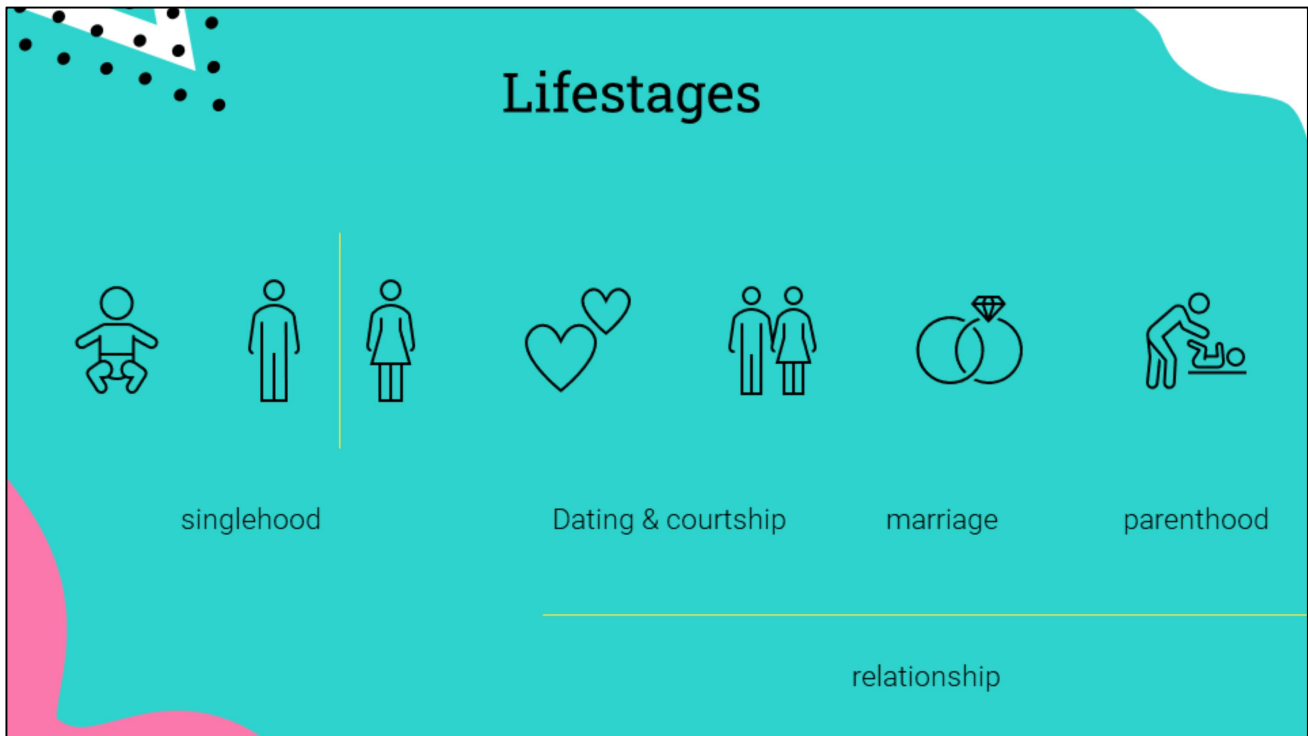
- what is the binding condition?
  - till death us do part
  - love for better or worst
  - in the presence of God I made this vow
    - this is serious thing
  - you are declaring this not just to people but to God
    - God will hold you and us accountable
  
- Covenant is made through love and a relationship
- The condition of this vow/covenant is



03.

Lay down one's life  
to leave a legacy





- Show the lifestage chart
  - o As we move to the right, we start to sacrifice more for others
  - o One stage build upon the next
  - o There is so much joy
    - I enjoy seeing my kids learning something as much as I use to train for triathlon

# How Jesus changed my parenting style...



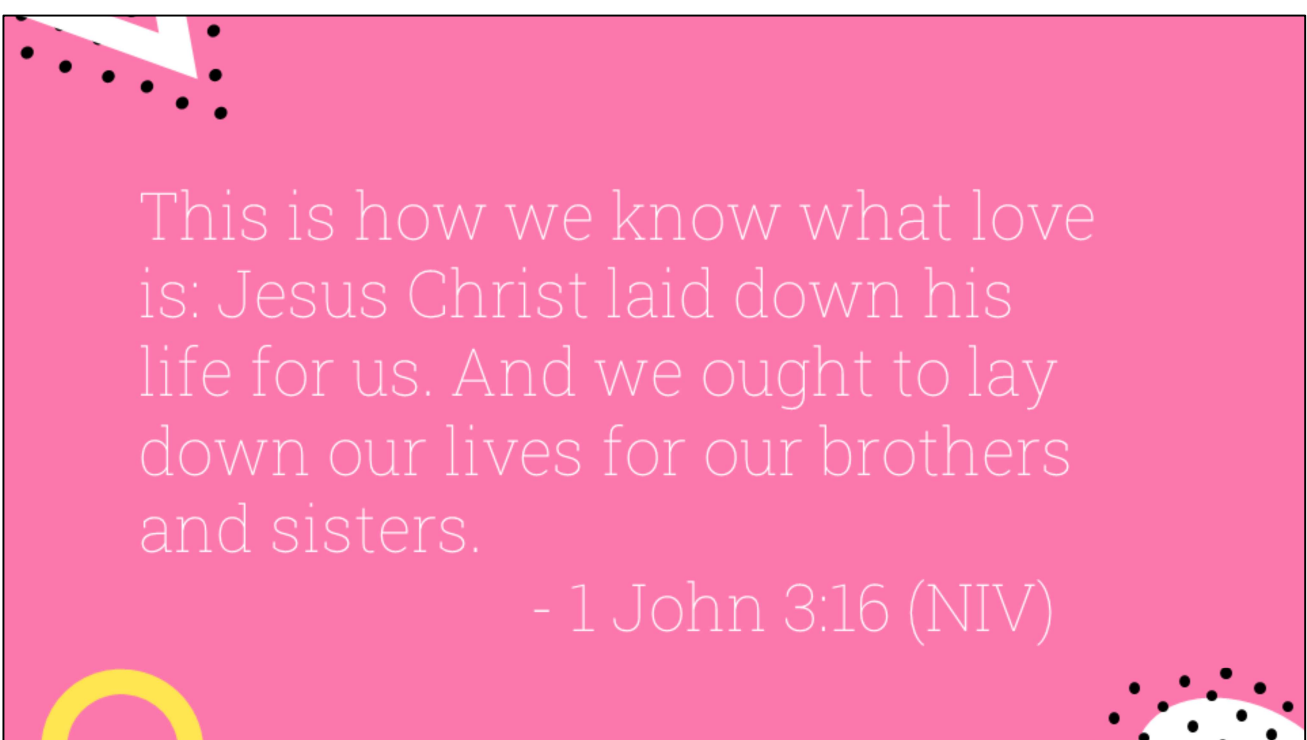
- A lot of hugging and kissing and affectionate
  - I talk to them like adults
  - If we've made a mistake, like being too angry at them, we talk with them
    - SF at 3 yr old knows
    - We debrief what happened, how she felt, we apologize, ask for forgiveness
  - Learning patience
    - Especially at the toddler stage a lot of patience
    - Especially when they made mistake or make a mess
    - WJ always remind me, she is only 3

# Cliff's Priority

God  
Wife  
Children  
Ministry/Work

....

- Intentionally seeking God in what we do
- We don't assume it is a good thing bc it is happening in the Christian community
- We are still learning as we go. We also learn mistakes along the way
  
- Also show life priorities
  - o God, wife, children, ministry/job
  - o I am not sure if others have discuss this or we read it somewhere
  - o But when it is not in the right order, there is going to be trouble
    - I use to put ministry = God
      - But you can do ministry to fulfil your own self-esteem or pride
    - I learn it the hard way
      - Whenever I told WJ, why can't you let me do ministry, when I don't put her above ministry, there's always a problem
    - There is no point in putting ministry/job above children/wife
      - It will always hurt you in the end, you may not see it but it will
    - For every action, there is a reaction
      - For every thing we do, there is a cost to it

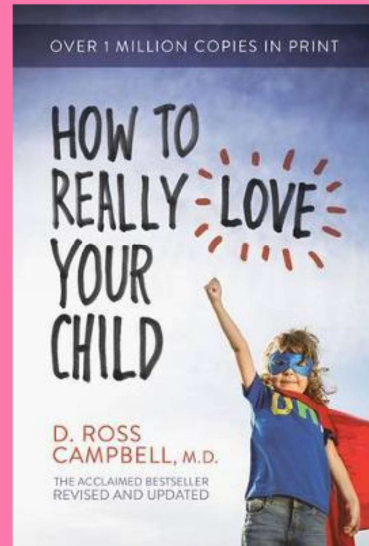
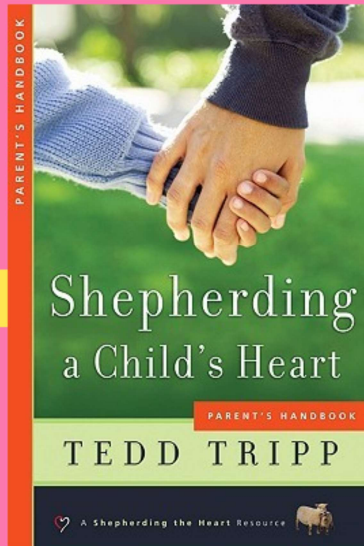
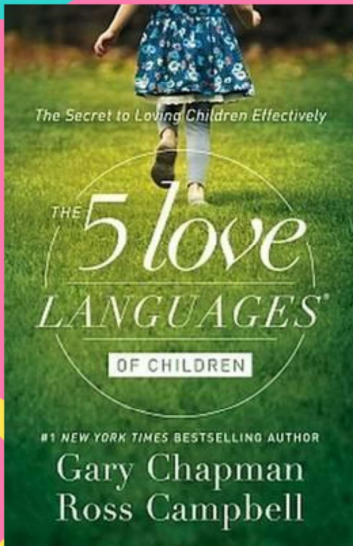


This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

- 1 John 3:16 (NIV)

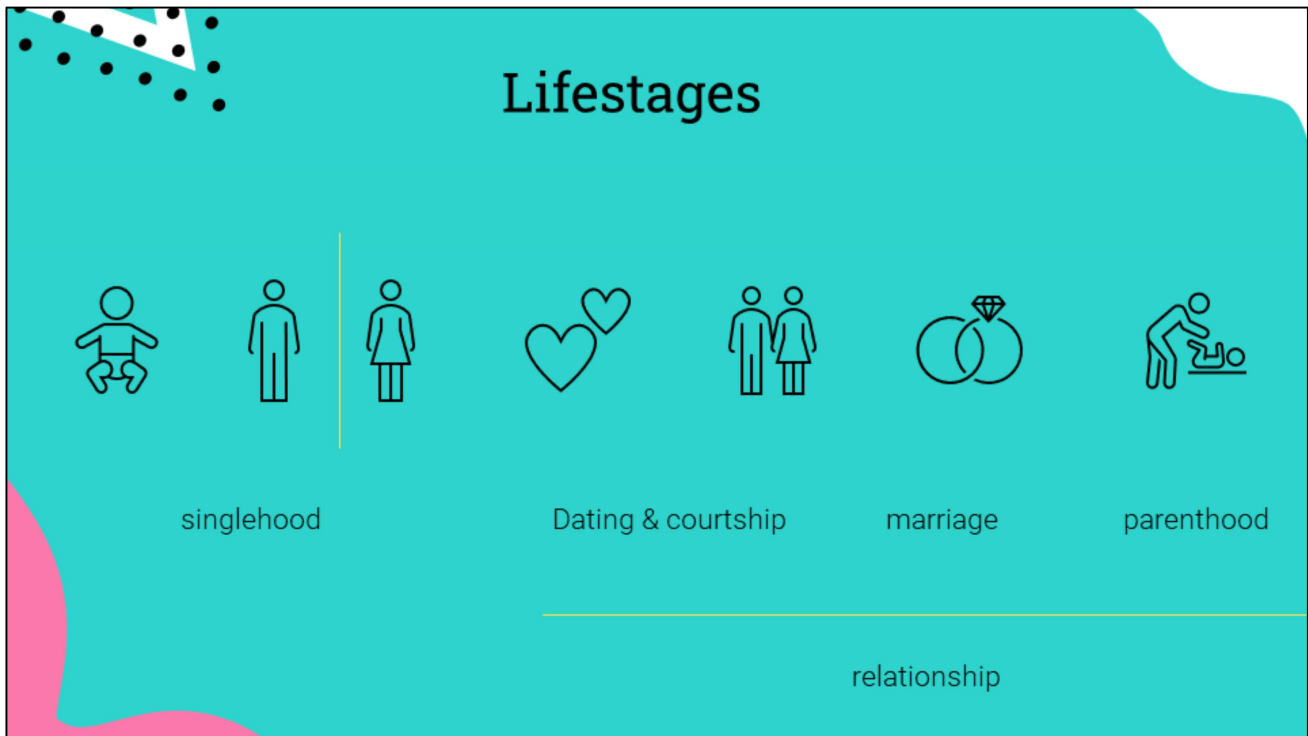
- Context is for the church but also applies to family
  - - WJ and I both surrender our 'career' and 'ministry'
      - This is not the rest of our lives, but it is a season
      - We feel right now it is the best to invest
      - Invest not in the world sees
      - No one is going to applaud you for looking after your kids or changing their diapers or cleaning up the home
    - How much are you willing to pour into your children?
    - It feels like an endless pit bc there are so many needs
    - but know this principal, what you sow, you will reap
      - whatever you sow, you will reap
      - good and bad
    - compare to training for Ironman, it is a joke compare to raising kids
    - but there is much joy, when you see what you are putting in, you are reaping
      - what if you outsource your parenting to others
        - there will be consequence as well – the same principal what you sow what you reap applies










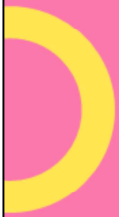
# Conclusion

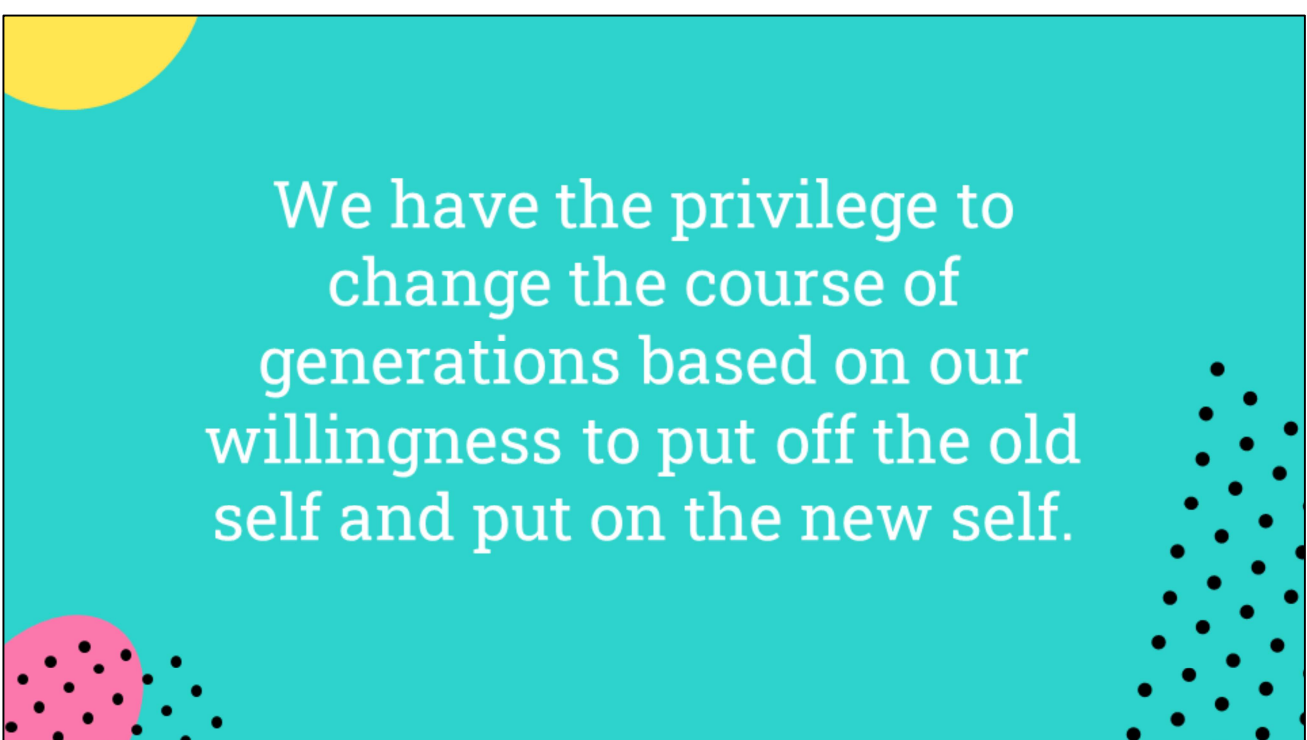


- Show the lifestage chart
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  - o One stage build upon the next
  - o There is so much joy
    - I enjoy seeing my kids learning something as much as I use to train for triathlon

- 
- Is Jesus the center of your life?
  - Is Jesus the center of your dating and courtship?
  - Is Jesus the center of your marriage?
  - Is Jesus the center of your parenting?
- 
- 

# Leaving a legacy?





We have the privilege to  
change the course of  
generations based on our  
willingness to put off the old  
self and put on the new self.



# Thank you! That's a wrap!

Bonus session: 17 Dec at 8:45 pm with Wai  
Jia and Cliff

Feedback -> <http://bit.ly/relationship-feedback>  
Contact Cliff -> [Cliff.tam@gmail.com](mailto:Cliff.tam@gmail.com)

