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**Thrones**  
**Leveraging Authority to Help Others Win**  
**Part 4 – Helping Your Child Win**  
Pastor Ted Cunningham

We welcome all of those at the Chapel and all of those online; we're glad that you're here as we continue in our series *Thrones: Leveraging Your Authority to Help Others Win*. Last week, we looked at *Helping Your Spouse Win*. Today, we are looking at *Helping Your Child Win*. Next week, we are looking at *Helping Your Employees Win*, so that is the perfect Sunday for bring your boss to church day. That's what we're calling it. Bring your boss to church day. If you have a cruel boss or a boss who just needs to learn how to leverage authority better, bring him next Sunday and we hope to encourage him or her along their journey.

How many of you have kids at home still? How many of you are glad your kids are gone? I love this series because we're doing something for the very first time next month. We're going to have an entire Sunday, an entire message geared towards grandparents. It's going to be called *Helping Your Grandchildren Win*. Denise Bevins has a passion for this. She won't be doing the message. She wants to make sure you know that. She wants to find ways to help grandparents win as a church, and ways to help grandparents actually partner with the parents and do that well, so we are going to do a whole Sunday on that.

But, today, we're jumping right in to *Helping Your Child Win*. I know whenever we talk about parenting, we immediately go to our **greatest struggle**, what we struggle with most, what keeps us up at night. Today, we don't want to spend a ton of time talking about the greatest struggle you have as a parent or that I have as a parent; we want to spend more time talking about the **greatest responsibility** we have as a parent.

I want to start with my greatest struggle, what I struggle with, and I know many of you will relate to this. **My greatest struggle as a parent is balance**. It's like I'm one parent in the morning. I start off this way and then by afternoon or evening, I'm way over here. For example, I'm permissive, the rules may be there, but they're not being applied or enforced and there are no consequences. In the morning, we're just kind of letting things go or maybe at night you're tired and you just let it go.

Then I realize this has been going on too long. Now, this is getting bad. And I swing... I don't ever go to the center. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? All the parents are with me. But you move from being permissive to being demanding. It's no wonder our children are confused.

The kids are like, “You were great all morning and now what happened?”

“Well, the rules kicked in around 1:00 because I felt you were taking advantage of my good graces.”

So, I moved from being the BFF – I’m just your companion and we’re just hanging out and having a good time playing and chilling and we’re eating together – and then, “I feel like you’re taking advantage of that. Now I feel like you’re forgetting that I’m also the parent.”

Again, you don’t come to the middle. You swing over and become the dictator. I believe we have more of a parenting issue than we do a child issue, and all God’s people said... Amen. Okay... Let me resubmit that for further consideration. What if we have more of a parenting issue than we do a child issue? And all God’s people said... Amen.

Let’s look at what I think we are all struggling with today in our culture. **We use our children’s attributes and accomplishments to impress other people.** This is a struggle we have today. We’ve created something for this called Facebook. We put our best foot forward as a family and with our children and we want people to think we’ve really got it together. That’s because we’ve fallen for the faulty input/output theory of parenting that says whatever you pour into a child is what you get out of a child. The Hebrew term for that “ha!” That’s just not true. We think successful child equals successful parent, so we use their attributes and accomplishments.

How about this one. I think this one is a big one. **We create environments for our children to succeed rather than preparing them for environments they cannot control.** In other words, they get a bad teacher or a teacher you don’t like and instead of teaching them and preparing them for a teacher they don’t like or can’t control, we just move them out of the classroom and get them another teacher. Again, I’m going to submit to you that most of our parents would never think about doing that. Some of you are thinking, *Well, we only had one teacher per grade, we really didn’t have a choice.*

If I can just say, we’re seeing this like crazy in our country today. “If I don’t like the leader of our nation, I’m going to move...” You hear this. I haven’t seen anybody do it. “We’re going to move to another country.” What? Would it be better to teach your children how to live in a country with a leader they don’t agree with?

I can take everything political in this season and everybody just tenses up and doesn’t want to talk about it. But, I was thinking about it this week. In eight years, I never once call President Obama a name. I never called George W. Bush a name. I never called President Clinton a name. And I don’t plan on calling President Trump any names. Maybe, as a parent, it’s time for all of us grow the heck up! Right? Maybe it’s time for us to teach our kids, “Your mom and dad may not agree with what’s happening in our nation right now, but let me show you how to live in a nation and show respect to a president that we do not agree with.” Remember, we believe here at Woodland Hills that our children watching, listening, remembering everything, and then they repeat.

I love this story. I heard it a couple of weeks ago, from Tim Hawkins, so it’s a very credible source. But I loved it. He said, “My wife and I took our daughter to the mall. We show up at the mall.”

“My daughter is supposed to meet friends and the friends don’t show up. My wife looks in the back seat and goes, ‘That’s the worst.’”

Tim thinks to himself *That’s the worst?* Then he reminded his daughter of those 33 Chilean minors that were stuck in a mine underground for 69 days. He said, “Can you imagine, honey, that guy, the foreman talking to them. They were down there 69 days. The foreman gathers the men on day 60 and he’s like ‘Okay, listen guys, we’re out of food, we’re out of water, we’re soon to be out of air, but I remember a time when I was at the mall and my friends did not show up. Let me remind you, men, that was the worst.’”

All the old guys in the room are like, “That’s what we did with our kids every single day. We reminded them of people who it far worse than they did.”

I think this is our problem as rescue parents, as helicopter parents and bubble wrap and helmeting parents. We’re not going to let our children suffer any hurt or loss or pain and in the process, we are ruining them.

**We accelerate childhood milestone and delay adulthood milestones.** From Zero to ten years old, its go, go, go and run, run, run. We start with My Baby Can Read and then we move them into accelerated reading and start their professional sports career when they are six. We get them going. For the first ten years of their life they are go, go, go. And then at ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen – those tween years – two engines placed in them by Almighty God kick in called individualization and separation. They start pushing away from mom and dad. They start becoming adults, not adolescents, they are becoming adults and that’s when we move from accelerating childhood milestone to delaying adulthood milestones. We go from ten years of condition with go, go, go, to now we are going to spend their young adult years saying whoa, whoa, whoa. “You can’t have a fulltime job; you’re only 27 ½. We need you to bring this pace way down.”

I’ve shared this with you before, but it was the first time we took our daughter horseback riding. We were so excited. We did it at Rocky Mountain National Park. We’ve done it at Dogwood Canyon. We put Corynn, at nine years old, on the most psychotic horse they had in the stable. The guy does his job and gives her instructions. Tapping your legs against the sides means go and pulling back on the reins means whoa. At nine years old, Corynn didn’t understand that you do one or the other. For two hours... It was just a trail ride into the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park and then turn around and come back. But, for two straight hours, Corynn was kicking the horse and pulling on the reins. The guy finally ponied her horse because the horse was wearing out. We brought the horse back to the stable and had to put the horse down. No, we didn’t. That joke works here. When I’m in California, I have to release the horse in a forest reserve down the road. They don’t like jokes about shooting animals out there, but it works here.

I took Corynn down off the horse and I had this moment as a parent. Amy and I discussed it. That’s what’s happening in the home today. The exhaustion that so many homes feel is we’re just telling them to go, go, go while also telling them whoa, whoa, whoa. For some of you, leveraging your authority to

help your child win is you just start telling them to go. Because they are one day going to pull out of your driveway and you want them ready for that moment.

Here's the next mistake we make. We are saying we, so this is all of us. **We treat our children like children right up until the very day we expect them to be adults.** We have to realize that this is a process. We've got to let them go and maybe 10, 11, 12, 13 is the time we start. You might think that is way too early because they're not ready. That's the point. Of course they're not ready.

Here's the next one. **We take too much credit and too much blame for the way our children turn out.** We've fallen for the faulty input/output theory of parenting. Here's a verse that has given parents so much anxiety. It's Proverbs 22: 6. **Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.** Here's what you must understand about the Proverbs. Proverbs teach us how to live a godly lifestyle, how to make godly decisions. Sometimes we read them and we think they are guaranteed outcomes. They are not guaranteed outcomes; they're like do this and the tendency, the direction will be this.

The Proverbs say, **Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise.** Someone who works hard, their hunger drives them on, the Proverbs say. Someone who works hard will see a profit. Does anybody in here have a story from the last ten years of someone you know who worked very hard, but didn't make a profit? We all know people like that. But, generally, that's going to happen. What we're focusing on is this part right here: **Start children off on the way they should go.** There are many parents in here today... We'll have a moment of ministry at the end of the message for that parent in here who feels, to the best of their ability, they did the first half of this verse, but their child has not come through on the second part of this verse. I just want to encourage you that we have to guard our hearts as parents to not take too much credit and too much blame for the way our children turn out, because they become adults and they start making their own decisions.

Today, we want to look at 2 Timothy 3. And all the Beth Moore ladies just cheered because they are in a Bible study right now. My daughter is going through this Bible study, Entrusted by Beth Moore. I've told her, "If Beth Moore said it, Jesus believes it." But, I'm glad she's going through it because is the letter written to you Pastor Timothy. The Apostle Paul has been his mentor in ministry and is encouraging him and challenging him on leadership in the church. You get these little pictures throughout the Books of 1 and 2 Timothy of encouragement and of challenges and you can kind of see what he's dealing with. What I love in these books are the little reminders that he receives from Paul.

This one we are going to look at in 2 Timothy 3. I think every parent in here can relate to the first couple of words of this. **14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of...** Isn't this what we want to say as we send our child out at 18 years old? Isn't this what we want our kids to continue in. "We have poured into you for the last 18 to 20 years. We have taught you the scriptures. We led you to faith in Jesus Christ. You've become convinced of that; you've professed faith in Jesus. Now when you leave here, please don't lose your mind. When you leave here, please do not go off the deep end." Does anybody know what I'm talking about?

One of my favorite things to do... You want to talk about those milestones and remember what you've learned? Adam Donyes, one of our teaching pastors here at the church, let's me speak at the Kanakuk Link Year. Kanakuk Link Year is a gap program between high school and college. I've done it now six years in a row. I get to talk about prolonged adolescence and how to pursue these adulthood milestones and how to do more than one at a time. It got me thinking about a message. I've put it on Facebook. Many of you have been giving me your feedback and I totally appreciate it. We are going to use it for a series we're probably doing after Easter. But, I spend so much time with these young adults, 18 and 19 years old, for three days. I figured out what I'm really trying to do and encourage them in is how to stop obeying their parents in an honoring way.

Some of you freak out when you hear that because you never stop obeying your parents. Oh, yes you do, because you can't cleave to a spouse if you're still tied to home. Parenting is saying, "We have given you what you need, we have taught you, we have shared with you, now we need you to leave this home, sooner rather than later. You're not going to be in our basement with Star Wars bed sheets at age 35; you're out of here. You won't be here playing video games in your 20s. You're going to be out with a job and pursuing a wife." And all God's people said... Amen. Oh, I'll say it again. "You're not going to be here in your 20s playing video games and sipping lattes; you're going to be out there working, getting a job – more than one if you need it – and a wife and a family." And all God's people said... Amen. "Yes, because we have invested, we have spent time, we have pointed you towards the Lord."

Paul is telling Timothy... What a great reminder if you're going through a time where you are discouraged. As a young pastor, Timothy had plenty of times where he was dealing with discouragement. Paul just says, **...continue in what you've learned and have become convinced of** (now watch this) **because you know those from whom you learned it...** A lot of scholars say that's speaking directly to Paul's relationship with Timothy – I've invested in you, I've shared with you, you know what I've taught you. In this text right here, we can't overlook Timothy's mother and grandmother and what they did. This is what we see in the next text and I think this is the primary responsibility of every parent. **15 ...and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures...** His mother and grandmother shared the scriptures with him, speaking here of the Old Testament. They poured this into him and he knows it. Now watch this. **...which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

Deuteronomy 6 says, **4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.** There is a God, there is only one God; he is the Lord, he is our Lord. Love the Lord your God. These truths are to be upon your heart, Mom and Dad, and then you're to take these truths from your heart and you're doing it every day because your kids are watching and they're listening and they're remembering, and they're repeating and then you pour this onto the heart of your children. "Timothy, this happened to you. You have this. The love for the Lord was poured upon your heart. It made you wise enough for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ."

We can talk about your greatest struggle, but we want to spend the time this morning talking about your greatest responsibility, which is, as a parent, to teach your children about the Lord. That's as simple as it gets. Mom and Dad, this is your primary responsibility as the primary author of your child's heart. It's to teach them about the Lord. It's to read the scripture. It's to memorize scripture with them. It's to pray with them. It's spending time around God's word.

When I watch my son pull out of the driveway... as Brad Paisley sings... I can't even think of a song right now, but just the tears. "Carson, I know you were tough when we said goodbye, but I know what's happening in your heart right now as you pull out." When they pull out, I want to know they know the Lord. When they pull out, I want to remind them to continue in what they have learned and what we have taught them.

Do you want to honor your parents? Young adults, if I could speak to you for just a second. If you want to respect your mom and dad, do you know how you do that? You follow through with what they taught you. There is no greater way to honor your parents than to begin making your own decisions. You stop obeying in an honoring way. Here's how you do that. Make your own decisions with what they taught you in mind.

About 25 years ago, R.C. Sproul did a lecture and someone shared it with me last year. It was on four kinds of people when it comes to assurance of salvation. Amy and I read that and adapted it to our children and to our home. I want to share with you these four simple points when it comes to your child's salvation. There are four types of children.

**1. Children who are saved and know it.** This is what I want for Corynn and Carson. I hope this is what you want for your children. Both my children, Corynn and Carson, 11 and 13, have professed faith in Jesus. They are followers of Jesus. They understand it's through the blood of Jesus. They understand the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that raises their lifeless soul. I've taught them from a very young age that they are evil children. According to the scripture, they were conceived in iniquity. When I visit folks in the hospital who just had a baby, I remind them their child is evil. You can probably figure out I don't do a lot hospital visits with small children. But, you need to know that because your child is not innocent. Your child needs redemption. I want a child who can boldly speak.

This is why baptism testimonies are so important. We take those so seriously because when we're going to baptize a ten-year-old little boy or girl, and we want them to write down and tell us about their faith in Jesus. There are many times we read those and go... Again, you don't have to be a great writer. We're not looking at your penmanship or your writing skills, but we want to know you can proclaim, you can articulate faith in Jesus Christ, and that you know the source of your salvation. There are many times we read the testimonies and say, "This child does not yet understand." Stepping into the water and being baptized is not what saves you. That is an outward expression of an inward decision. We want children who are saved and know it. I want them pulling out of my driveway at 18, 19, 20 years old, saying "I have a walk with Jesus and I am secure in it."

**2. Children who are saved and they live with doubt.** Many of you have found your way to Woodland Hills family church because you grew up in a church that led you to faith in Jesus, but then you spent most of your life doubting it.

We had evangelists visit our church when I was growing up. They absolutely wore me out because they planted so much doubt. I can remember being a ten-year-old and they would get up at the invitation and say, "Do you know that you know that you know that you know?"

“Well, I thought I knew! When you put it like that, I don’t know!” I’m just telling you what’s in my ten-year-old brain. “I’m here every Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. I come to all eight revivals we do every year. Listen, I’ve been saved multiple times. I’ve been dunked up there in that thing multiple times. I look around and everybody in here, we’ve all been saved I don’t know how many times. ‘Dad, if I walk the aisle, can we go home? I’ll take one for the team; let’s get this thing going.’”

It wears me out because I remember sitting there thinking, *I sing it ever week*. “I have decided to follow Jesus... I’m singing it right now. I’ve made the decision. The world is behind me and the cross is before me. This is what I believe!” See how I get worked up about it. I don’t need to bring denominations into it, but for my Baptist friends, I want you to understand clearly. You’ve not been saved to live with doubt. You’ve not been saved to be asked “Do you know that you know that you know that you know.”

I don’t want my kids finding faith in Jesus and then spending their days doubting it. I want them saying and proclaiming with boldness, “With the world behind me the cross before me, I am pursuing Jesus. I place faith in Jesus. I’m a follower of Jesus. I’m a Christian.”

**3. Children who are not saved, but think they are.** This one is sad for me. You don’t want your kid pulling out of the driveway... We don’t want this at Woodland Hills. This is why we ask you to write down your faith in Jesus before you are baptized here. We want you to know you know. We want you to know that you live with the assurance of your salvation. We want you to know what you’ve been taught since infancy and you’ve believed in the holy scriptures that have been placed within you and you are now saved according to faith in Jesus Christ and nothing else.

We don’t want you pulling out of the driveway saying, “I grew up in a Christian home.” That does not save you.

We don’t want you pulling out of the driveway saying, “My parents are Christians.” Your parents are Christian and that’s great. Are you? Your parents’ Christianity is not what saves you. Faith in Jesus Christ saves you.

We don’t want you pulling out of the driveway saying, “I was baptized as a child.” Sprinkled as a baby does not save you. Faith in Jesus Christ saves you and redeems your soul.

We don’t want you pulling out of the driveway saying, “I go to church.” Please hear this because so many of you attend here week after week after week and you think because you here, you’re a Christian. Can you profess faith in Jesus Christ? This is an old illustration, but I think it still works. Standing in a garage does not make you a car. Sitting in a church does not make you Christian.

We don’t want you pulling out of the driveway saying, “I’m a good kid.” I’m all for the character development that schools are so passionately pursuing, but my child’s character is secondary for me. My child’s salvation is primary. I don’t want to raise moral kids because your morality does not save you. Your morality is an overflow of your salvation, not the source of it. And we need to stop teaching our kids to be a good kid.

Can I tell you that this last message, "I'm a good kid," is written on so many hearts in here today? There are people who have been attending this church for years and when I meet with them or when they are ill or they think they are the end, I'll hear people say things like, "Ted, I hope I've done well enough that the good Lord will let me in." Wrong. Boy, when I hear that, I fall under deep conviction as pastor. I'm like, "Oh, my goodness! Did you hear that at our church? Did you pick up on that at our church? Because your goodness means nothing for your salvation. It is faith in Jesus Christ. For by grace you are saved through faith; it is not of works so that you cannot boast about it." When I'm at your bedside and you're at the end, we are not going to sit there and talk about your good works and your bad works; we're going to talk about your faith in Jesus Christ, the author, the perfecter, and the finisher of your faith. It's not resting on you. And all God's people said... Amen.

**4. Children who are not saved and don't give it a second thought.** We're glad you're here today and we want to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ over you that you would bow on your knees, that you would confess with your mouth, that you would believe in your heart that Jesus has been raised from the dead and the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that saves you. It's the same power that is available for you.

This comes with a warning as we begin instructing and teaching our kids about the Lord. I have a pastor friend in Minnesota who went downstairs... He's only a few years older than me. He was working out and he started sweating way more than normal.

He's kind of like me. When I do a workout, I don't really want to sweat. I want to kind of hit that line and then stop before sweating takes place. I'm an athlete.

But, he said he just began pouring sweat. He got out of breath and he sat down on a chair in the basement. He said he crawled up the stairs and he realized he was having a heart attack. He's like a lot of us in here. We don't have time to have a heart attack. We have stuff to do. He gets up and then pretty much passes out on the bedroom floor. His wife is in bed and she's like. "What's going on?"

This would be Amy, "You alright?"

"I think I'm having a heart attack."

"Well, let's wait a few minutes just to make sure." Does anybody know what I'm talking about? "You've felt pain there before and Tums always takes care of it. Did you take any Tums?"

"I took Tums, but this time, I can't feel my left side."

The ambulance showed up and they got him on the gurney and sure enough he's having a heart attack. As they are pushing him out of the house, he says, "Stop. Wait. Get the boys." His boys are in their early 20s. His boys come downstairs and he says, "You cannot take me to that ambulance until I tell my boys some things."

All he tells his boys is this: "It's all real. Jesus is real. Jesus is Lord." He just starts proclaiming Jesus over his kids. "The love I have for your mom comes from Jesus." It was just Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. The paramedic guys are wiping their eyes. He proclaims this over his kids and then he says, "I'm good; let's go."

Then he goes to the hospital and he's tweeting his heart attack the whole time. I thought about that. I think that's a dad that has come to grips with his primary responsibility. In my opinion, that's what should keep you up at night, not how much screen time is appropriate for a child. Those are things we need to do as parents. Yes, vitamins, I get that. Get some green on their plates, I get all of that. But you should wake up asking, "Do my children know and walk with Jesus Christ? Because everything in this home is going to be geared to that end. We're going to make sure that is the priority."

I've gathered my kids around me. I'm not having a heart attack, but I want to say some things because I don't think I'm in as good of shape as my friend and I think there is way too much Cracker Barrel going in me. I said, "We need to make sure you know this in case you don't see me again."

This is why there is a warning that comes to you, Dad, in the scripture when it comes to teaching and instructing your kids. We find it in Ephesians 6: 4 - **Fathers, do not exasperate** (or wear out) **your children...** Don't be unnecessarily harsh with them. ... **instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.** That's our primary responsibility and the warning that comes with it.

I like how Eugene Peterson paraphrases this in the message. **Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.**

I have an 11-year-old and 13-year-old. They don't hold my hand as much, but every now and then, Corynn will get next to me and hold my hand and call me Daddy. It just melts my heart and I reach in my back pocket and pull out the credit card for her. But, I remember when they were very small and we were in big cities with lots of people on the corners. Have you ever been to New York or Chicago and there are 60 people waiting for the light to turn or the walk sign to turn? When Carson was very small, he was intimidated by it. He would automatically grab my hand and it was my job at that moment to guide him through that walk, through that life. That's really what every day is to be. Taking my children by the hand and showing them because they are watching, they are listening, they are remembering, and then they are repeating.

Colossians 3 has a similar warning. **21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.** The idea here is they will lose heart. You don't want to raise your children in such a way that they will lose heart.

So, we have the greatest struggle and the greatest responsibility. Which are you going to leave here focused on today? What's going to be the primary? What's going to be the focus?

Here's what I know: Your personalities drive a lot of what your parenting does, along with the messages written on your heart from parents years ago. Here's what I know in a room this size and the room full over there at the chapel. We all have different struggles, but we have the same responsibility.

We believe here that you are the primary author of your child's heart. You should be leveraging your authority in the home not to get your way and not to make the home peaceful and perfect for you, but to be sure that your children know the Lord, that your children walk with the Lord.

Let me put it another way. I'm just trying to say it as many different ways as I possibly can. In the chaos, exhaustion, meltdowns, shouting, noise, mess, talking over each other, questions, dirty diapers, running out of patience, timeouts, college entrance exams, and wedding planning, focus on your greatest responsibility, not your greatest struggle. We're spending too much time with our greatest struggle and I think we are wasting our energy on our greatest struggle when we should be using it toward our greatest responsibility.

**Teach the scriptures to your kids and live with the struggle.** My kids are soon to be 12 and 14 and I don't think the struggle is going away. I may get a little bit better at it, but I've talked to parents of teenagers. It doesn't seem to go away. I've talked to parents of young adults. It seems to stick around a little while. I'm just choosing where to put my focus and my focus is going to be on my primary responsibility.

I've told my daughter since she was five; I've said, "Corynn, one day, I'm going to stand at the back of a church with you, looking down the aisle at some pervert and I'm not walking you down the aisle until I know he love you as much as I do. And I'm not walking you down the aisle until I know he loves the Lord as much you do."

This is it. Your primary responsibility goes everywhere. It follows though. Don't wake up this week fretting over vitamins. Don't wake up this week fretting over whether or not they are going to get into that school. Let the Lord wake you up in the middle of the night to answer the question: "Are my children learning the scriptures in this home?" At Woodland Hills, you're the primary author and this church is a partner to you. Our desire is to help you, partner with you so that you can leverage your authority as the primary author of your child's heart and write messages of God's word over them.

We created a resource years ago, Stephanie Watson and I, and we want every family today to take one of these with you. They're free. Grab one. Grab one and pass it around to all your children. This is a great way to get the scriptures into the heart of your small children. We recommend this for elementary age, but we started this when our kids were five and seven. It's all from scripture from A to Z.

A - ***Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider his ways and be wise.*** And then we talk about hard work as a family.

B – The bee. ***Kind words are like honey, sweet to the soul and healthy to the body.*** Then we talk about esteeming one another as highly valuable.

C – The Camel. ***It's easier for a camel to enter the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven.*** Then we talk about less stuff. Why do we love stuff more than Jesus?

D – The dog. ***As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.*** We ask our kids regularly, "Do we allow mistakes in this home? We do allow mistakes in this home, but what do we try to avoid? We try to avoid making the same mistakes over and over again."

You'll start tonight with A and learn a new card every night, but start with A every night and go up to that new card. In a matter of months, your kids will have 26 passages of scripture memorized. It's just a simple way for us to partner with you for you to begin that.

Does anybody here have three, four, five-year-old? You do? How old? Three, okay. Boy or girl? Girl. So, here's what I want you to do. This is my favorite card of all of them. I want you to tuck her in tonight and I want you to get the V card. The verse is Proverbs 30. Hold the V card up after you tuck her in and you simply read ***The eye that scorns a father, that mocks an aged mother, will be plucked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.*** And then say, "Night, night." That's all you're going to say.

Let's pray. Father, it is in the name of Jesus that we come to you, thanking you for salvation. I pray that parents today leave here with the weight of authority on their shoulders for the salvation of their children, the weight of leadership on their shoulders, that mantle, that they live with that responsibility to model the gospel of Jesus, to teach the gospel of Jesus every day in their home. I pray this is a clear message in the home that is repeated day after day after day that when the children pull out of the driveway, they will remember what they've learned, they'll practice what they've learned, they'll take the words, the teachings, the life of Jesus Christ and make it their lives. I pray this for every parent.

I pray for the parent right now who is under a tremendous load of guilt because they feel like, to the best of their ability, they raised their children to know the holy scriptures and to know that salvation comes by faith in Jesus Christ and yet they have adult children today who are not living for you. I pray that today that is taken from them. I pray that they walk in a new spirit of understanding and prayer for their adult child to return to you.

I pray for the adult child who is in here right now that does not live in accordance with what Mom and Dad taught, they do not live in the teaching and they are disrespectful and dishonoring of their parents. I pray that today the Holy Spirit would call them by name and they would be convicted of their attitude towards their parents and they would repent and seek reconciliation with a mom and dad. Maybe a mom and dad who were harsh and maybe embittered them and provoked them and discouraged them and they lost heart in that home. I pray that today the adult children would step up and stop the whining and the complaining and the resentment and the bitterness and they would repent of that. I pray that they wouldn't love their parents with the love that their parents have shown them, but that they would love their parents with the love that you have poured into them and they would walk in a new spirit towards mom and dad.

We ask that you would just encourage Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa as the primary author of the children's heart. That they would walk the scripture and live the scriptures out every day in their home. I pray that this church would continue its passion to partner with Mom and Dad as the primary author and help them and encourage them and equip them in ways to do that well. We want to leverage our authority as parents to help our children win.

And it is in the name of Jesus that everyone agreed and said... Amen.