

# It's Time To Rethink Parenting

In four sessions, Paul Tripp will open up the Bible and help you discover a new and better way to raise children.

## 1. Give Up Control

The goal of parenting is not to control your child's life; they will quickly outgrow your authority and be independent individuals. Don't miss the big picture of what God has called you to do.

## 2. Shape Their Character

Your children will reveal their lack of character over and over again. Learn how to lovingly expose the sin in their hearts and point them to the forgiveness of Jesus.

## 3. Thrive In The Teen Years

Culture portrays this period of life as a chaotic season to be survived, but the Bible is very optimistic about what can be accomplished. Learn how to make the most of the teen years and help them successfully transition from childhood to adulthood.

## 4. Rest In God

Parents who rest in God will experience abounding joy as a mother or father. This hope-infused conclusion will remind you that God never calls you to raise your kids without first providing you everything you need.





# Discussion Questions

1. Before this session, how would you have defined the job description of a Christian parent? Be honest and share the first thing that comes to your mind; there is no wrong answer.
2. Where did your definition come from? Was it shaped by the values of the surrounding culture, your response to how you were parented, watching other Christian parents raise their children, your dreams for what you want your kids to become, etc.?
3. What rules, consequences, or boundaries have you set up in your home for the safety of your kids and the wellbeing of your family? How can this parental control be good and God-honoring? Are there other areas where you need to establish control?
4. Why do rules, consequences, and boundaries fall short of God's ultimate goal for each of your children? How has your control, despite being good and God-honoring, failed to create lasting heart change?
5. Read through Psalm 51, first for yourself, and then again as a parent. What does this Psalm reveal about your most profound need? How does this confession of David define your children's ultimate problem?



# Discussion Questions

1. When was the last time your child revealed their lack of God-honoring character, even if they did not directly rebel against your authority?

*Example: You did not ask your child for help, and therefore when did not offer to help, they were not directly rebelling against authority. However, they are old enough to see a need but intentionally chose not to assist for the good of someone else, revealing their lack of character.*

2. When was the last time you displayed a similar lack of character as your child? What did you choose to do that and self-centered instead of God-honoring and sacrificial?
3. Why should your own lack of character prevent you from becoming self-righteous and condemning as a parent? When revealing your child's lack of character, how can you reference your weakness with humility and confession?
4. What tends to rule the heart of each of your children? Where can you see them developing patterns of idolatry? How can you explain to them the danger of such idolatry and misplaced worship?
5. Consider the list of character flaws listed in Romans 1:28-32, after the diagnosis of misplaced worship (coveting, deceit, gossip, boastful, heartless, etc.). Which applies to your different children? How can you address these character flaws with patience and mercy?







SESSION FOUR

# Rest In God

**Respect:** Do you believe that you are entitled to receive respect from your child? Why is this posture potentially unhealthy, both in your relationship with God and your relationship with your teen?

**Appreciation:** Is much of your anger and discouragement as a parent the result of you not feeling appreciated? Do you parent with a silent “I serve, you appreciate” contract between you and your child?

**Success:** Are you viewing your child as a trophy rather than God’s creation? Do you secretly want to display your son or daughter on your mantle as a testimony to a parenting job well done?

**Control:** Are you struggling with the reality that the goal of parenting is to work yourself out of a job? So, How are you coping with a God-ordained loss of control?

**The most important thing you do for your children is to remember the One who sent you, and in remembering the One who sent you, teach your heart to rest.**

**KEY VERSE**

**MATTHEW 28:18, 20**

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me [...] And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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# Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do you feel overburdened, overwhelmed, exhausted, or discouraged as a parent right now? Be honest about your weaknesses and limits.
2. What could be more significant than this calling: to be an instrument in the hands of the Redeemer to woo, encourage, call, and train your children by live willingly and joyfully as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ? What other priorities have you allowed to rise above this calling in your parenting?
3. In what ways have you loaded the burden of your children's welfare on to your shoulders every morning? Are you trying to do what only God can do? Think practically of what that might look like in your parenting.
4. Are you attempting to hide your weakness from yourself, from other parents, or from your children? Why is weakness a blessing and not a curse in God's eyes? How can you apply these Scripture verses to your parenting right here, right now:
  - 2 Corinthians 12:9
  - Psalm 34:17-18
  - 1 Peter 5:7
  - Matthew 11:28-30
5. Do you fear that God will punish you for your failures as a parent? Remember, the One who sent you is not only your sender; he is your Savior, and his cross means you do not have to hide in shame hide in shame or be paralyzed by guilt, because Jesus paid the penalty for every moment when you fail as a parent. How should this provide you with comfort today? Be specific.

