



## Godly Parenting | Session #6

*Worldview—Mental Preparation for Spiritual Warfare*

**Prep: Read Chapter 6**

### **Group Kick-Off** (start with any or all of these)

#### **Break the Ice:**

- Share one of the craziest superstitions or sincere beliefs you've ever heard of someone believing?
- What is one takeaway that you highlighted or that stood out to you in this chapter?

#### **Set the Stage:** (Review from Session #5):

Christlike character is as much *caught* as it is *taught*. While correction can be helpful, it is not the primary tool for developing character in our children. Your child's character is foundational to their worldview.

#### **Key Verses:**

*We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done... That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born, who should arise and declare them to their children. That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments. -Psalm 78:4-7*

#### **BIG IDEA:**

The war for the heart is most often won or lost on the battlefield of the mind. Establishing a biblical worldview in our children is about protecting their heart through shaping their mind.

#### **Identifying your goal:**

Like two sides of the same coin, character and worldview go hand in hand in many ways. They are both happening primarily in the middle two seasons of your parenting. Yet worldview is usually following character's lead like a younger sibling trailing closely behind in his older brother's shadow. Developing godly character at a young age helps prepare the soil of the heart in order for a biblical worldview to take deep root. Yet how often do we see young people with good hearts succumbing to the world's arguments and questions against God and his word? Sadly, far more often than we'd like to admit. In a variety of ways, our enemy most often engages war against the hearts of our children through the battlefield of their minds. *We must intentionally get there first.* As parents, we must capitalize on the home-court advantage we've been given.

## Spiritual Warfare and Our Children

According to research done by George Barna, before age 13, kids are *defining* what they believe. After age 13, they start *defending* those beliefs.

- How should this truth affect our parenting?

“There is a war on children, and we are all, in one way or another, playing some role in it... we are wrestling demons—because there is little the demons hate more than little children.” -Johnathan Parnell

- What are some ways you see this war taking place in our culture and society for our kids' impressionable minds?
- What are some ways that your family has found successful to combat against these influences?

## Culture and the Family

Culture is the environment we live in and think is normal, whatever that may be. This is why our family culture (whatever's normal) through our day to day lives has so much more impact than our words.

**“Your children will always learn more from what you model than from what you mandate.”**

Discuss the four primary levels of culture (mentioned on pages 125-130) that impact a child's worldview.

- The culture of their family (influences within the home)
  - The culture of their circle (influences within their circle of friends, sport's teams/coaches, church small groups/leaders, etc.)
  - The culture of their society (influences outside of their home and circle—media, music, politics, etc.)
  - The culture of their “fourth world” (their private digital life)
- Which of these four do you see having the most pull on your child's thinking and worldview?

## Discipleship In the Home

Read these verses: Proverbs 13:20, I Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 27:17, Hebrews 10:24

Someone is going to disciple your child. The question is whether or not it will be you. Your child's worldview will be shaped by something or someone. You can choose to shape it yourself, or you can choose to leave it to chance.

The chapter lists three important parts of a family's life that are already creating disciples of our children:

- Their schedule
- Their schooling
- Their sports

- Why do you think that these three areas specifically matter so much?
- Do you find that any of these three things are helping or hurting your discipleship efforts?

Conversations are the vehicles of disciple making. Questions are the necessary fuel that drives them.

- How well are you doing at using questions and conversations to make disciples?
- Do you allow your children space to question you and your family’s values and beliefs?
- Do your children feel comfortable or hesitant to talk to you about anything going on in their hearts and lives?
- Do you have an open-door questions policy (any question, anytime, about anything) in your home? If not, would you consider establishing one?

**“If your kids don’t ever have any questions about their faith, it’s quite possible they won’t have any depth about it either. A faith that can’t be tested can’t be trusted.”**

I recently heard someone share this challenging thought, “Doubts and questions don’t mean the end of faith, but often a gateway to greater faith.” Would you agree, disagree?

As the clash of spiritual kingdoms intensifies (page 142), how could you better prepare your children as soldiers to face the ever-increasing battles in our culture over truth? And how can we help them do it with grace while keeping the Gospel in it’s proper place at the center?

Which “Helpful How-to Heart Hack” on pages 148-149 is the best practical takeaway for you from this chapter?

As time allows, finish by discussing any “Heart of the Matter” questions on page 149-150.

**EXTRA NOTES:**

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