



Godly Parenting | Session #7

Talking About the Tough Stuff

Prep: Read Chapter 7

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

Break the Ice:

- (If you're comfortable sharing) How old were you when you when first got "the talk"? Or did your parents have it with you at all?
- What is one takeaway that you highlighted or that stood out to you in this chapter?

Set the Stage: (Review from Session #6):

A child's worldview will often be reflected in direct proportion to a parent's efforts at intentional discipleship. The question is not whether or not your children will become disciples. The question is whether or not they will be disciplined by *you*.

Key Verse:

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! -Isaiah 5:20

BIG IDEA:

If we fail to talk to our kids about the tough stuff, someone else certainly will. Children don't have a choice about becoming a disciple. But they do have a choice about *whose* disciple they will become. Because of this, parents should not be ashamed to discuss what God was not ashamed to create.

Identifying your goal:

Is your family sex-positive or sex-negative? Many of us may have grown up in a sex-negative environment where the topic of sex or anything remotely surrounding it was taboo. And when it was mentioned, it always seemed to be in the negative. As Christian parents, we have the opportunity to change that for our kids. Never before has the world around us thrust sexuality and all it's perverted forms in front of our children like it's trying to today. And never before has it been as important for Christian families to have regular and ongoing discussions about God's view of all things sex through a positive, biblical lens. Our children need to be raised in a sex-positive home where sex and our individual sexuality is treated as the good and godly gift that it is—a gift with perfect timing and purpose when used according to God's plan.

Silence Is Not Always Golden

A question that parents must answer is this, should we be silent when our kids want answers?

Most parents don't talk to their children about the hard or uncomfortable things. In fact, even most Christian parents don't. And if they do, it's often a one-and-done conversation, or too-little-too-late.

- Why do you think this is? For what reasons do most parents avoid talking to their kids about the tough stuff?

According to a recent Axis poll, 56% of Christian parents don't talk to their teens because they simply don't know what to say... and so they often say nothing at all. This can be out of fear of rejection because they don't think their teen will be receptive, among other reasons.

- Are there additional tough topics, other than sex, in your family (or in your own home growing up) that seem to be taboo?

Discuss this quote from page 156:

"How difficult do we make it for our children when God has wired them to think about their own sexuality, and we refuse to allow them a safe place to talk about it?"

No parent wants to make it harder for their kids when it comes to understanding their sexuality, yet that's exactly what silence accomplishes. Never before has our competition for our kids' hearts and minds been so boldly vocal, so easily accessible, and so conveniently digital. By forfeiting home court advantage in the early years, many parents not only make their own job harder, but put their children at a disadvantage for years to come. Why? Because they've already heard it, seen it, and oftentimes believed it from another perspective than yours.

Can you share any ways you have successfully navigated the tough topics with your kids?

A Golden Opportunity

Nothing has helped break down barriers and create conversations in our own home more than our **open-door questions policy** (any question, anytime, about anything).

- How could an open-door questions policy in your home create the culture you want surrounding the tough topics?
- If our children aren't asking us the tough questions, where are they likely to find the answers?

Preparing your kids for a lifetime of purity starts with breaking the silence and having that first of many conversations. Is it going to be uncomfortable? Yes. Will there be moments of awkward silence? Probably. Is it going to be worth it? Absolutely.

“Children need to hear about current issues from a grace-filled biblical standpoint, and the best source is not the church or the schools—it’s the parents.”

In addition to the many tough topics listed in the chapter like sexuality, pornography, and gender identity, the culture continues to throw more and more opportunities our way to have conversations about emerging and challenging issues. Don’t worry about not having all the answers. Just be real.

- What are some of the current events or moral issues facing your own town, our nation, or the world right now that could give you some great conversations starters as a family about your beliefs and values?

Sadly, many Christians have at times made enemies out of those with whom they disagree on moral or spiritual issues. They have looked at them through a lens of hate rather than love. And the example set for the next generation has often inadvertently been one of truth *without* grace.

- How can we intentionally help our children love people the way Jesus does (with truth *and* grace) without villainizing those we disagree with?

Which “Helpful How-to Heart Hack” on pages 165-166 is the best practical takeaway for you from this chapter?

As time allows, finish by discussing any of “Heart of the Matter” questions on page 166.

EXTRA NOTES:
