

"TUNING IN THE RIGHT FRIENDS"

Parental Guidance Required, Part 4

October 11th, 2009

As parents, we have the opportunity daily to turn certain relational dials in our children's lives so they grow up relationally rich

Three Key Questions We Must Constantly Ask Regarding Our Children

1. What am I doing to enhance my child's relationship with me?
2. What am I doing to advance my child's relationship with God?
3. What am I doing to influence my child's relationship with people outside the home?

There will come a time when you are standing on the outside of your child's life looking in, and someone on the inside is influencing your child

You want these people strategically placed in your child's life so they are saying what you would say

We know that your friends will determine the direction & quality of your life

How A Person Grows Spiritually

- A life-changing truth that helps us understand who God is or how to live
- A spiritual discipline we develop that puts us in tune with God's Spirit or voice
- A personal ministry that stretches us to tap into God's power and purpose
- A significant relationship that God uses to prompt or encourage us
- A pivotal circumstance that causes us to depend on God in a new way

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV) "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm."

Dialing Key People Out and In

Ask, "Is there someone I need to dial out of my child's relationships?"

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NAS) "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals.'"

While your children are young, and you have control of the situation, be intentional about dialing out influences in your child's life that could take them in the wrong direction

Sometimes you have to make it hard for your child to go certain places and be friends with certain people

There are times you may need to help your child back out of unhealthy relationships

Ask, "Are there certain relationships I need to be intentional about dialing in for my kids?"

Seek to develop godly friendships with other families in the church

Are you making it easy for your kids to have the right kinds of relationships?

Principle: Be sure you are involved in influencing the people who influence your kids

Key question: "If you can't talk to me, is there someone you can talk to that we could agree on?"

You want to have developed these relationships so these people say the same thing you would

While the most significant relationships in a child's life are the relationships at home, children have a better chance of understanding and interpreting life-changing truth when multiple influences in their lives are all saying the same thing

Must get past personal issues, i.e.:

"Why can't you talk to me?"

"That's what I've said for 15 years, why haven't you listened to me?"

"I don't want my child telling others about me."

Objectivity is huge in these situations. This works because the other person isn't their parent and isn't the one who sets the rules

Drive the relational stake deep into the life of your child so when they drift and need an anchor to hold onto, he/she can look back and know there is a God, know as their parent you will reach out and help, and there is a network of friends he/she can depend upon

Luke 15:17 (NIV) "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father...'"

When your child "comes to his senses," you want him/her to think of and come home

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will begin to intentionally dial certain people out of my child's life and others I'll dial in
- I will put the card in a place where I can continually be reminded to think about the 3 questions
- I will memorize Proverbs 13:20
- I will attend the Marriage Seminar on Communication – Sun, Oct 18th – 12 noon to 2:30 pm