

Swimming Upstream
Countering the Flow of Entitlement Culture
Practical Help in Raising Godly Kids



Swimming Upstream

This class IS:

- Interactive – group participation/table talk
- A safe space to share - we all have something to offer / a question to ask – and anything shared here, stays here.

This class ISN'T:

- All inclusive – We won't cover every situation & we don't have ALL the answers
- Exclusive – it can be beneficial to ANYONE who has relationships with/influence over kids

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The "Why" behind this 5 week class:

- We all want the best for our kids
- Culture is obsessed with making kids happy all the time
- Most of us want "better" for our kids than maybe we had/experienced – maybe we didn't have a good model for parenting

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The "Why" behind this 5 week class:

- We enjoy seeing our kids happy/giving them good things.
- We don't know where to draw the line between providing good things and going too far – causing them to become self-centered/demanding.
- We want to better see where we're headed now, see God's plan, and make adjustments where needed.

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Table Talk –

- What brought you to this class?
- What are your expectations?
- What are your struggles?

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Don't become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead fix your attention on God – Romans 12:2 MSG

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In nearly every situation we encounter (work, school, marketplace, home, even church) we can hear – ME, ME, ME; MORE, MORE, MORE

- Relationships w kids are friendship based vs. parent/authority based
- Too indulgent, expect too little
- Hard work is no longer required
- Spend a lot of time making things “even” or “fair”

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Table Talk -

- How do you define “Entitlement”?
- Can you identify any area in your life that you think you be entitled?
- What about your kids?

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ENTITLEMENT DEFINED:

The belief that one is inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment

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WHAT ENTITLEMENT SOUNDS LIKE:
 I don't want to wait!
 I work hard, I deserve it
 No personal responsibility
 More, more, more....Is that all/What else?
 They have it, I want it, I deserve it
 Expectations / You owe me
 Everyone has/gets/does-desire to fit in
 Little/no effort – same reward
 Do what I want – Rule the home
 Poor behavior to get my way

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Table Talk –

- How do you define “Grateful”?
- How do YOU demonstrate gratefulness?
- How do your kids demonstrate gratefulness?

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GRATEFUL DEFINED:

Feeling or showing an appreciation of kindness;
 thankful

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WHAT GRATEFUL LOOKS LIKE:

Beyond polite (Please/thanks) –
 expressing “why”
 Loose grip on stuff & “rights”
 Take some of what I have and share
 Willing to give away/help/participate
 See a need/fill it
 Peace overflow
 Love others over self

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SWIMMING UPSTREAM

- To opt for a difficult course of action when a simpler or what APPEARS to be EASIER (no arguing/crying/tantrum) alternative is available; to make an unwise decision (go with our feelings) against sound advice (the Word of God)

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SWIMMING UPSTREAM

- To go against or disagree with a prevailing or popularly held opinion or perspective; to act or behave contrary to the majority of others.

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SWIMMING UPSTREAM

- Something that is moving upstream is moving towards the source of a river, away from a point further down the river.

Swimming Upstream

Consider the salmon...

The main reason salmon *swim upstream* is to ensure the survival of their offspring. If we are people who have any influence over kids of any age (parents, grandparents, extended family, teachers, caregivers, etc.) we have a responsibility unto the Lord to teach them to love God and love OTHERS.

Swimming Upstream

- **OUR SCRIPT SAYS:** I deserve to have things given to me and I should have special privileges.
- **OUR MISSION IS:** Love God, love others.
- **When we swim upstream we “FLIP THE SCRIPT.”**
- The world will take notice, our kids will take notice – and we will be given opportunity to share God’s love, modeling for our kids, and our kids modeling for their generation.

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Beloved, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from the desires of the flesh, which war against your soul. Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles, that, though they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us. -1Peter 2:11,12 BSB

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Assignment for next week:

- Pick up a copy of "Raising Grateful Kids in an Entitled World" (1 per family) before you leave. If you prefer digital books, it is available on Kindle, Audible & FREE audio or eBook on Hoopla (details on your note page!)
- Read Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2
- Write down at least 10 ways you've identified entitlement in you or your kids. What are ways to address it? Were you able to address it with the Bible?

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