

Swimming Upstream

***Countering the Flow
of Entitlement Culture***

Practical Help in Raising Godly Kids



Table Talk

*Swimming
Upstream*

Share the “Going Against the Flow” activity your family did, and the insight you gained.

- Give everyone who wants to share 1 minute – Time goes fast, so keep an eye on the countdown clock!

Paul's counsel to Timothy – Let no one despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. | Timothy 4:12 –

- **It is our goal as parents/influencers of kids – We set an example for the kids in our home and sphere of influence, they pick up that example as we live it, teach it, reinforce it – and they begin to influence their world.**
- **It's hard to disregard someone for their youth when their character & conduct are impeccable.**

Chapter 3: 7 Ways We Miss The Boat:

- We want our kids to be our friends.
- We are afraid to say no because of the fallout.
- We feel guilty about our circumstances.
- We are busy.
- We don't want them to fail.
- We don't want them to feel left out.
- We don't want them to be unhappy.

Table Talk

What is the “down side” to each of these?

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Chapter 4: Selfie Society

- When we have everything, we are thankful for nothing. When we have nothing, we are thankful for everything.
- If we as parents are always working to keep up, we are teaching our kids to always look for what's next (more) – and it teaches them to be discontent.

Selfie Society has so much influence in creating child centered homes – we have to swim against that culture to build grateful hearts.

- **Perpetuates the idea that you have to happy all the time.**
- **Reinforces selfishness.**
- **Offers a narrow perspective of the world.**
- **Inhibits awareness of others (self-centered).**
- **Instills a lack of self-control/impulse control.**
- **Strains marriages.**

“Our children are not our bosses. We take authority over our home. We do it rightly, righteously and lovingly – but firmly.” – Beth Moore

We have to teach the behavior we want to see & instill:

- **Self-control – control of our emotions, abilities, desires, words, thoughts, actions, responses.**
- **Kindness, empathy, helpfulness, giving, sharing.**
- **Reliance on God and His Word – He is our source for everything.**
- **Understanding of order in the family – God, spouse, kids. (If you are a single parent then God is your spouse so God, God, kids!)**

Chapter 5: Technology

- It's really hard to teach our kids to be different from the world if we look just like it. It's time to take back our living rooms, tune out media, and turn off technology.
- Technology isn't going away and can be good/useful.
- It offers a lot of temptation to all of us if we aren't careful.

- **Technology requires MATURITY and ACTIVE PARENTING – it cannot be a babysitter.**
- **Kids are savvy, curious, and sneaky.**
 - **They are capable of circumventing your ability and authority.**
 - **You have to:**
 - **Educate**
 - **Invest**
 - **Make prayerful decisions**
 - **Have discernment/Wisdom**
 - **Set parameters – for all ages.**

Assignment for next week:

- **Read chapters 6-7 before next week**
- **Pick one activity for you and/or your kids from the “Going Against the Flow” activities at the end of chapters 3-5 based on the age of your kids.**
- **Be prepared to share your experience with table mates next week.**

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