

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, or an insight you gained from your reading.

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

Ephesians 6:1-4 BSB - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (which is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on the earth.”

Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath; instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Chapter 6 – Cultivating Obedience

- Obedience is a developed skill for all of us – we are all born with a sin nature. If we don't have authority over our kids, who does?
- Sometimes it's easier to ignore disobedience.
WHY?
- We discipline because we love.
- Be an encourager not a discourager.
- We are training our kids for adulthood – we have to operate with a healthy balance between expectations/discipline and compassion/grace.

Chapter 6 – Cultivating Obedience

- Some things demand immediate obedience, others require teaching/training/understanding.
- Kids should not always be the center of attention, teach them to celebrate others.
- Praise Vs. Encouragement.
- There shouldn't be a reward for everything your child does "right"/according to the rules – that is the expectation.

Table Talk

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What in your family demands immediate obedience? What area are you working on cultivating obedience?

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

Chapter 7 – Living out God’s Love

Focus on the Family: A Christ-centered home is not a home governed by dead, restrictive “religious” rules. Instead, it’s a place where family members live their lives under the “bright shadow” of the presence of the Son of God – where people speak and act and relate to one another in the awareness that Jesus Himself is an intimately concerned participant in everything they do. It’s a household of which it can truly be said, “Christ is the Head of this house, the Unseen Guest at every meal, the Silent Listener to every conversation.”

Chapter 7 – Living out God’s Love

- A Christ-centered home starts with the parents.
- A deep, abiding relationship with Jesus is the only road to true contentment.
- We say more to our kids by the way we live, than by what we say.

Chapter 7 – Instruction to Parents

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 HCSB – These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Chapter 7 – Instructions to Parents

- These words are to be in your heart
 - What's truly in our heart is what comes out in our home. We can fake it for awhile when we are out and about...
- Repeat them to your children
 - If we aren't guiding our kids through God's lens, always pointing them back to Jesus, discipline, obedience – the world will successfully draw them in.

Chapter 7 – Instructions to Parents

- **Talk about them-**
 - **When you sit in your home – What are the conversations? Are we even having conversation, or are we disconnected?**
 - **When you walk along the road – Bringing your family to church is just STEP 1 – You have to carry Jesus everywhere you go.**
 - **When you lie down and get up – Morning and bedtime routines need to make time to include Jesus.**

Chapter 7 – Instructions to Parents

- **Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. – Is Jesus the very essence of your family? Do we just fit Him into our lives when we have time, or do we work everything in our lives around Him?**

Signs we are shifting from a self-centered to
a Christ-centered home:

- Joy
- Orderly home
- Marked by grace
- A place of service
- Spiritual disciplines are practiced
- Based on God's purposes for EVERY member

Assignment for next week:

- Read chapters 8-10 before next week.
- Pick one activity for you and/or your kids from the “Going Against the Flow” activities at the end of chapters 6-7 based on the age of your kids.
- Be prepared to share your experience with table mates next week.

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