

# TRANSFORMING YOUR FAMILY

*HOW TO RAISE  
AMAZING KIDS*  
BILL HASLIM  
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## Opening Remarks

When you first become a parent you enter with excitement, optimism, and overwhelming care into the world of responsibility for another life. And from day one, new parents are inundated by countless sources of advice and guidance on how best to raise their kids. And then as your kid grows and enters the school system and the world of sports and other extracurricular activities, there are suddenly more measures of your kid's performance than you would ever want. Surrounded by so many opinions of how you should be raising your child and so many measures of success for your child to hit or miss, it's easy to lose focus on the simple truth that God too cares deeply about how we raise our kids. And God's vision for what matters most in how we raise our kids might look quite different than the vision of the culture around us. God is calling us together –not just as parents but as His church family- to raise amazing godly kids according to the principals and priorities shown to us in the gospel of Jesus Christ. In our role as parents and in our role as a church we want to raise amazing kids –godly kids- but it's one of the most difficult and overwhelming tasks we've been given.

## Warm it up

- 1.] What are some of the unrealistic or unnecessary pressure our kids face today?
- 2.] How would you say raising kids has become more difficult for parents over the past few decades?

## Talk it over

- 3.] Look over each of the following passages in search of clues that answer this one question:  
What matters most to God for our kids?
  - Proverbs 22:6
  - 1 Samuel 16:7
  - Deuteronomy 6:4-9
  - Mark 8:36
  - Matthew 6:33
  - Luke 10:38-42

## Work it out

- 4.] How does God want to refocus our vision for how we are raising our kids?
  - 5.] What would Jesus say needs to become a greater priority for your kid or for kids in our community?
  - 6.] How do we as adults or parents help kids embrace biblical priorities when some of those priorities are so contrary to the priorities of most of their peers?
  - 7.] In our kids' worlds, where do you see the URGENT overshadowing the ETERNAL?
  - 8.] How much margin do you have to be relationally available for kids?
  - 9.] What is one change that could help to slow down your kid or kids you know?
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## Wrap it up

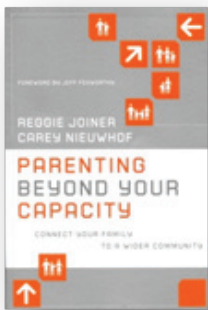
10.] As you reflect on this entire topic, what gives you hope and what provokes fear and concern? Remember that none of us gets to be a perfect parent. Remember also that no matter what we get right in our parenting or shepherding of kids, they will still make their own mistakes beyond our control. The good news for us is that God is their greater parent and He loves them more perfectly and powerfully than we ever could.

## Pray it through

Read Philippians 4:6-7 and respond in prayer: Pray not only for the needs of our kids and families, but also for the gift of Christ's peace for every parent.

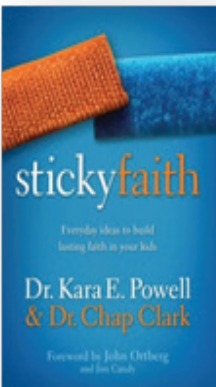
## PARENTING RESOURCES

Bill's top picks for your parenting library



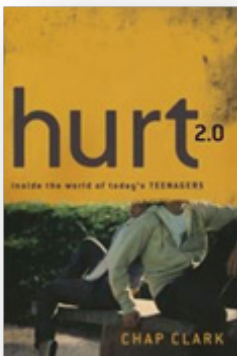
Parenting Beyond Your Capacity  
Connect Your Family to a Wider Community  
By Reggie Joiner and Carey Nieuwhof

A very valuable book and a quick read. This book will give you practical ways to live out Godly priorities in your family.



Sticky Faith  
Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids  
By Kara E. Powell and Dr. Chap Clark, Fuller Seminary

Upwards of half of our committed Christian kids in high school will leave behind their faith when they graduate. This book is your best bet for helping your child not to be one of them.



Hurt 2.0  
Inside the World of Today's Teenagers  
By Dr. Chap Clark, Fuller Seminary

Very few adults actually know what it's like to be a teenager today. If you want a glimpse below the surface of teen culture, this book is a must. Please read this before your child becomes a teenager!



Spiritual Parenting  
An Awakening for Today's Families  
By Michelle Anthony

Solid biblical wisdom for shepherding the hearts of your kids to connect with Christ in the midst of a world that erodes our faith.

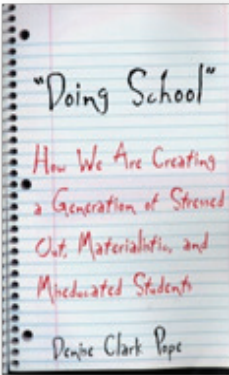
## EXCELLENT SECULAR INSIGHTS



[www.ChallengeSuccess.org](http://www.ChallengeSuccess.org)

Created by the Stanford Graduate School of Education  
(Great website with research driven perspectives on the effects of current school pressures on students!)

*"Our current hyper-focus on grades, individual achievement and rote answers gets in the way of healthy emotional development and a real love of learning, and it prevents students from acquiring the exact skills that the new global economy demands. In times of uncertainty, kids need to be resilient, but we've knocked the resilience out of far too many kids with excessive demands and preoccupations with trivial concerns."*

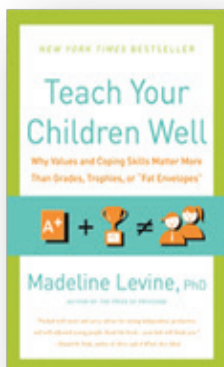


Doing School  
How We Are Creating a Generation of Stressed Out Materialistic and Miseducated Students  
by Denise Clark Pope

Valuable perspective on what is wrong with our how most students and families approach school. This is not a Christian book, but it offers important insights from real-life students.

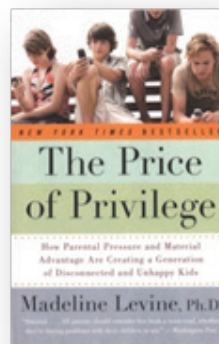
Two Books by Madeline Levine, Ph.D.

Levine is not a Christian author (and I don't agree with her views on how best to guide teens in issues of sexuality). However, she truly is writing about our kids in this community and the influences of our culture, and her insights are extremely valuable! I believe her secular counseling experience actually underscores the significance of a biblical perspective to counter a shallow pursuit of materialism and performance-oriented success!



Teach Your Children Well  
Why Values and Coping Skills Matter More Than Grades, Trophies, or "Fat Envelopes"  
By Madeline Levine

This is a helpful resource for parents seeking to help their kids pursue something more meaningful than mere academic achievement.



The Price of Privilege  
How Parental Pressure and Material Advantage Are Creating a Generation of Discontented and Unhappy Kids  
By Madeline Levine

A thoughtful look at why kids like ours with so many resources and advantages are struggling in the core of their being.