



"Staying in Love with Our Kids"
February 9-10, 2019
Pastor Bill Haslim

INTRODUCTION

We assume, rather idealistically, that our love for our kids is steadfast and unshakable. We trust that on some foundational level it truly is. However, we don't always feel that love. Relationships between parents and kids get strained by countless pressures, struggles, misunderstandings and arguments. With or without kids of our own, we understand the weighty responsibility of raising kids. While the bible doesn't give any quick fixes or simple solutions for facing the challenges of raising kids today, we know that our ultimate guide for loving our kids well is the love our Father in heaven has shown each of us. Our calling to exemplify that love for our kids is not just a calling for parents, but a calling for the whole church family to embrace. As a church, one of the most significant ways we can be "FOR the Valley" is to be FOR our kids in this valley.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For Parents Raising Kids Right Now:

1. What part of the parenting struggle makes it taxing your love for your kid the most?
2. Read **John 13:34**. How should this verse challenge the popular view of love as a feeling? How do you think this verse challenges the ways we love our kids?
3. Read **1 Samuel 16:7**. What does the world see when it looks at your kid? How do you think God sees your kid differently than that?
4. What are some things that you need to look past in your kid in order to really see them?
5. What is something in your kid that you wish you could see more clearly?
6. Read **Isaiah 29:13** and then **Matthew 22:36-40**. Both of these passages make clear what God wants most from us. How do you think we sometimes miss that with our kids? If you asked your kid, "What do you think I think is most important?" how might they respond?
7. Discipline is important, but discipleship goes deeper. We know that God wants not just our outward compliance, but our inward transformation. What are some ways as parents we can address not just our kids' behaviors but their

hearts as well? How can we turn discipline moments into discipleship opportunities?

8. As parents, we've already made lots of sacrifices for our kids. But to strengthen our relationship with them, what is one way you want sacrifice a bit more of your schedule, or your focus, or your agenda?

For the Church Family Loving All Our Kids:

9. What are some of the common perceptions in our culture of kids growing up today? How might those perceptions mask who they really are and what they are really experiencing?
10. Read **Matthew 9:35-38**. How is Jesus description of the crowds as "harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd" a fitting description for our kids today?
11. Many studies are revealing that levels of loneliness, stress, anxiety, depression, and substance abuse among kids are rising at alarming rates –even in affluent communities like ours. How do you think God wants a church like CPC to respond?
12. How might you have the opportunity to be a loving presence in the life of a kid near you? As one way to love our kids, who are some kids that you can start praying for?

PRAY FOR OUR KIDS

Are there some specific concerns you have for your kids or the kids of our valley? Take some time to pray as a group for kids and for those who are loving them.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Community Presbyterian Counseling Center

Christian counselors offering specialized support to bring healing and help to any family
cpccounseling.com | (925) 820-1467 | 3180 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 140 in San Ramon

teenesteem.org

One of our local ministry partners, Teen Esteem, offers a wealth of valuable online resources

Books:

It's Just a Phase So Don't Miss It: Why Every Life Stage of a Kid Matters

By Reggie Joiner & Kristen Ivy

Parenting Beyond Your Capacity: Connect Your Family to a Wider Community

By Reggie Joiner & Carey Nieuwhof

Hurt 2.0: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers

By Chap Clark