

Tik-Tology

Leader Conversation Guide – Tik-Tology: Part V

Main Idea

This week Pastor Curt continued in our series Tik-Tology in which we are revealing culture's attempt to reshape theology. The main thought this week focused how social media and pop culture are influencing parenting. We recognize that all of us are at different places in regards to parenting, but these biblical principles can apply to all areas of life. The reality when it comes to parenting is this. The only experience we have as parents is our own experience. PC shared with us **4 common parenting styles**, and **4 things Godly parents do**.

“Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.”

Proverbs 13:20 MSG

Make it Practical: 4 common parenting styles

- **Helicopter parents.** Parents who hover over their kids at all times. Helicopter parents try to solve every issue and cater to every moment and want in their kids lives. Helicopter children grow up to be entitled. You choose your choices, not your consequences.
- **Lawnmower parents.** A Lawnmower parent doesn't react, they mow down every obstacle that is/could be in front of their kids. Lawnmower children are debilitated. They are weakened in their lives because they have never learned how to deal with conflict. Lead the way, don't plow the way.
- **Etch-A-Sketch parents.** These parents will draw lines, and draw boundaries. And when life shakes things up, they change the rules. Life happens again, and they shake things up over and over. You can't be a military general one day; and a cruise ship director the next. Etch-A Sketch children are confused. We need to be consistent in parenting.
- **Earthly-focused parents.** Earthly-focused children are distracted. Most people say that their family's 4 focuses are God, Family, Education, and Sports/Extracurricular Activities. What does your schedule say is the priority? When you're busy doing so many things, what are your actions communicating is actually important to you?

4 things Godly Parents do:

- **Teach Responsibility.** Read Galatians 6:7, Luke 16:10. In Luke 16, our Father wants to give us responsibility. He wants to give us things to steward well for His glory. We need to teach responsibility, so our children can walk in all that God has for them.
- **Train proactively.** Read Romans 5:3-4, Proverbs 22:6. Allow some pain to come their way. At the right time, in the right place. The beauty is that you are the net beneath your kids to train them. But there will come a time that the net is gone.
- **Discipline consistently.** Colossians 3:20, Proverbs 13:24, Hebrews 12:11. We need to be consistent with our children. Obedience is not up for negotiation when it comes to parenting. Love your children by disciplining them. Discipline is correction driven by love. There is a battle raging for control of your home, and parents must win decisively.
- **Focus on eternity.** Read Psalm 127:1, Deut 6:6-7. At the end of this life, our children are going to meet their Maker face to face. And He is not going to ask how many soccer trophies they won. He will want to know what did they do with Jesus? Revival is coming, and it's up to parents that we train them well. Parent them well, so that His Kingdom can come and His Will be done.

Talk About It

- PC mentioned to common 4 most families focus on. What does your family focus on?
- Now, take an honest look. What does your schedule say your focus is on?
- We live in a busy world filled with work, friends, family, tasks to complete, etc. How can we, as parents/grandparents/adults, intentionally prioritize our lives to make sure we are available for the next generation?

"Train children to live the right way, and when they are old, they will not stray from it."

Proverbs 22:6 NCV

Prayer

Father, thank You for allowing us to be a part of raising the next generation. May we raise them well, and may they be mighty for Your Kingdom, Lord. Help us to see the opportunity we have before us to fight for our children and the next generation. We ask You to bless every child and parent represented in our group with a spirit of unity. We ask for a transcending peace over our children and our relationships with them. Give our children a healthy fear and reverence of You, God. Surround them with Your divine favor. We believe You are doing powerful things in the next generation. Show us how You want us to be a part. It's in Your mighty name we pray, Jesus. Amen!

Leader Tip

If you have Group Members with Adult Children, see **page 3** for **BONUS** content. Pastor Curt's Bonus Tips for doing life with your adult children.

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Stages of Parenting:

- 0-5: Discipline.
- 5-12: Training.
- 12-19: Coaching.
- 19+: Friendship.

**If you're their parent first,
they'll be your friend when you get older.
But if you're their friend first,
they'll grow to despise you when they're older.**

Tips for doing life with your adult children:

- Your role as the parent must change.
- Unsolicited advice is usually taken as criticism.
- You can't ignore your child's culture.
- They will never know how far the town is if you keep carrying them on your back.
- You can't want it more than they want it.
- Financial independence and responsibility is the goal.
- When it comes to the in-laws, stepfamilies, and blended ... wear beige and keep your mouth shut.
- Being a Grandparent may be your greatest legacy.