

Teaching Schedule: Parenting in Grace
2017-2018

Date	Title	Teacher
9/14/17	Parenting as Christ's Ambassadors	Valerie Johnson
9/21/17	I believe, help my unbelief	Kristin Wong
9/28/17	SG brunch	
10/5/17	Never Alone: The relational reality of our adoption	Valerie Johnson
10/12/17	Our calling as moms: The One Thing	Kristin Wong
10/19/17	Grace to Parent	Barb Paternoster
10/26/17	Grace for our children: An invitation to admit need	Barb Paternoster
11/2/17	Personal Retreat Day: Spending time with your Father	Barb Paternoster
11/9/17	Grace Parenting: The use of the Law	Heidi Lemmerhirt
11/16/17	Grace Parenting: Living together under the Law	Heidi Lemmerhirt
11/30/17	Sorrow, Silence, Singing: Zechariah & Elizabeth's journey	Kristin Wong
1/11/18	Accepting our inability to change hearts	Valerie Johnson
1/18/18	Parenting a child with sp. needs: Sorrowful yet always rejoicing	Tracy Jewell
1/25/18	Lost Fools: The condition of the heart	Barb Paternoster
2/1/18	Under God's Good Authority	Barb Paternoster
2/8/18	Parenting with Ambassadorial Authority	Tracy Jewell
2/15/18	Valentine's brunch: Love notes from God	Valerie Johnson
2/22/18	Formula-Free Parenting: Greater freedom to be formed by Christ	Heidi Lemmerhirt
3/1/18	Discipline: Engaging the heart	Barb Paternoster
3/8/18	Discipline: Engaging the heart continued (parenting panel)	Barb Paternoster
3/22/18	The ways we move: Movement toward, away and against	Kristin Wong
3/29/18	Spring Break	
4/5/18	Learning, accepting, and honoring our children's temperaments	Valerie Johnson
4/12/18	What we love most: Temperament and misplaced worship	Valerie Johnson
4/19/18	Cultivating Character	Kristin Wong
4/26/18	Personal and Small Group Retreat	Barb Paternoster
5/3/18	Parenting is a Process	Diane Telian
5/10/18	A Parent at REST	Barb Paternoster
5/17/18	Wrap up: Mercy	Valerie Johnson

9/14/17 Seeking the Way of Grace, Parenting as Christ's Ambassadors

When it comes to parenting, we often seek "street-level directions" (formulaic solutions) rather than orienting ourselves by God's grander vision and purposes. We tend to operate as if we own our children, acting as if they belong to us and trying to get them to serve our goals. Tripp urges us to see that God calls us instead to be His ambassadors in the lives of our children. "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."-- II Corinthians 5:14-21

9/21/17 "I believe; help my unbelief"

In the midst of a high-stress, near-death situation, Jesus chooses to press the pause button and engage in a conversation that probes and draws out the faith of the parent – before he intervenes to save the son. Jesus lovingly invites us into relationship with him in the strain and vulnerability of parenting. He loves us in the faltering faith that surfaces as we parent. (Mark 9:14-29)

10/5/17 Never Alone: The Relational Reality of Our Adoption

We often feel alone in our parenting, living out of an orphan mindset that causes us to believe that we are abandoned by or alienated from God. We easily forget about the Father's great love for us in adopting us as His children and making us co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:15-17). As God confers the legal status of adoption upon us, He also calls us into the relational reality of being His daughters.

10/12/17 Our Calling as Moms.

As we live around the confusing, ever-changing cultural expectations put on moms, what does God expect of us? He has saved us, adopted us, and given us his enduring promises; when we remember this, we will more naturally teach our children the ways of God, as it overflows from us to them in the dailiness of life. Our children will be blessed as we increasingly learn to abide in the covenant love of God (Deuteronomy 6).

10/19/17 Grace to Parent: Living in the Gospels ourselves

We don't have the ability to deal with sin and change our hearts on our own - only God can do this. But the resources of God are endless and abundant, and available to us, through Jesus!

10/26/17 Grace for our Children: An invitation to admit need

Goal of parenting: to help children recognize their need for the rescuing work of Jesus and turn to him for the transforming work needed in their heart.

11/9/18 Grace Parenting: The use of the Law

God's word, and his law in particular, can serve as a mirror for us to see our faults and be driven to Him as our only savior. We demonstrated this by smeared makeup being revealed by a mirror, and cleansed with a makeup wipe (Jesus' blood). Because of Christ, we can stand (alone and with our children) before the mirror of his word to see both how we have been wonderfully made and how deeply we need him to address our sin. We must remember here that it is through the grace of God we experience conviction, and it is by the grace of God that we move toward repentance and reconciliation. The use of the law as a hammer rather than a mirror does not help to communicate the good news of the gospel or draw the recipient to Christ. "Your children need God's law, but you cannot ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish." ~ Paul Tripp (Parenting, pp.45)

11/16/18 Grace Parenting: Living together under the Law

What are your household rules? Household rules, rightly established, can reflect and point toward the law of God. (Guidelines from the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20, and New Testament passages on loving God and neighbor in Luke 10:25-28 and rules for holy living from Colossians 3:12-17.)

11/20/17 Sorrow, Silence, Singing.

Zechariah and Elizabeth lived through the pain and shame of childlessness for decades, without becoming bitter or withdrawing from the faith community. In the end, God's delivery of John brought joy to them and their whole people beyond what they could have imagined. We learn to wait in faith for our griefs to be healed and our longings to be fulfilled. "God regularly works through ordinary people, doing what they normally do, who with a mixture of half-faith and devotion are holding themselves ready for whatever God has in mind." (N.T. Wright) (Luke 1:1-25).

1/18/18 Accepting Our Inability to Change Hearts

There is freedom and hope in recognizing that, while God calls us to *participate in* His transformation of our children's hearts, He is the only One who has the power and responsibility for accomplishing that change. We are His instruments—in a sense, the "pre-op" nurses who assist with His surgery in the hearts of our kids. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." --Ezekiel 36:26

1/18/18 Parenting a Child with Special Needs

The Christian life is lived in the "in-between time", in-between the fall and Christ's return, where we experience sorrow, pain and tribulation and yet have an incredible and imperishable hope. We experience life as "sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" (2 Cor 6:10) and are to pursue joy in suffering. "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Cor. 4:17-18).

1/25/18 Lost Fools: the condition of the heart

The mystery of the way God works is that he sends fools to rescue fools and because he does, it takes grace to be a tool of God's agenda of rescuing grace. Parents, the more you are ready and willing to confess the foolishness that causes you to need God's grace, the more you will be willing and ready to extend that grace to the foolish hearts of the children he has entrusted to your care. But remember: because of what Jesus has done for us, that grace is ready for the taking right here, right now. – P Tripp, Parenting (p. 136)

2/1/18 Under God's Good Authority

Godly Authority rightly balances grace, justice, righteousness and mercy. We are to mirror God's good authority to our children as we call them to live under our authority, representative of His authority, and living under God's authority ourselves.

2/8/18 Parenting with Ambassadorial Authority

God has given parents ambassadorial authority over their children. Parents are representatives of God's authority and reflect his authority to our children. Tripp says, "You want to be used of God to help your children to begin to believe that submission to authority is where life and freedom are found. When this happens, children begin to admit their need, confess their wrongs, and reach out for the help of the Savior." (p.117)

2/15/18 Valentine's Brunch: Love Notes from God

God knows that we need help experiencing His love. He instructs us to pray for one another to “grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (Ephesians 3:17b-19), and He graciously supplies us with vivid pictures of the rescuing, everlasting love that He lavishes on us. At the brunch, we creatively expressed these truths through drawings, music, and movement.

2/22/18 Formula-free parenting: Greater freedom to be formed by Christ.

In parenting, it is often tempting to determine a “formula” that works for discipline and interaction with our child. What we fail to see with this approach is that our children are dynamic and complex. Because they are not static, and because situations change, we need to be sensitive to their needs and the leading of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the moment. We illustrated this by using a floral scarf to represent our children and to see the wide variation it had and how our eyes were drawn to different things on different color backgrounds. We went to scripture to see how (among other things) Jesus himself responded to the same disciple (Peter) with very different approaches (depending on the situation at hand). Whether strong rebuke, gentle admonishment, or careful explanations, Jesus was sinless and creative in his response to his children. He can strengthen us to move toward this as well.

3/1/18 Discipline: Engaging the Heart

The outward behavior of our child can expose the deeper issues going on in the heart, revealing their need for Jesus. We want to be attentive to these needs at the heart level and not stop at just addressing the outward behavior. The Lord is creative in engaging hard hearts, and so we, too want to be creative and versatile in how we seek to engage each child in each situation.

3/8/18 Discipline: Engaging the heart (The Rod)

The rod is a parent, in faith toward God and faithfulness toward his/her children, undertaking the responsibility of careful, timely, measured and controlled use of physical punishment to underscore the importance of obeying God, thus rescuing the child from continuing in his foolishness until death. ~ T Tripp, p. 108

Corrective Discipline is a parent on a “rescue mission” to restore a child back to the “circle of blessing” (a willingness to obey and honor parent).

3/22/18 The Ways We Move.

It's part of our God-imaged humanity to be in relationship with each other. But the fall affects our relationships as we try to extract identity, acceptance, purpose, control, and success from the people in our lives—including our children. Our children are also affected by our fears of failure, humiliation, rejection, loneliness, and loss of control and comfort. Recognizing how we're prone to appease, avoid, and attack in our parenting helps us look to the Lord and grow in loving with the forbearance, prudence and bold love that comes from him. (Hebrews 12)

4/5/18 Learning, Accepting, and Honoring Our Children's Temperaments

God creates humans with a variety of temperaments that reflect His glory and serve His purposes, even as we have particular vulnerabilities to sin. We can see two general dispositional types—compliant and strong-willed—playing out in our children's lives, as well as the lives of people in the Bible. We need to learn, accept, and honor our children's temperaments as being intentionally created by their Maker, rather than quarreling with Him about the works of His hands (Isaiah 45:9-12).

4/12/18 What We Love Most: Temperament and Misplaced Authority

Our children's temperaments can cause them to be vulnerable to worshipping particular idols that corrupt character and result in sinful behavior. The same is true for us as parents. Looking across both general dispositional types (compliant and strong-willed), we noted people's similar tendency to say, "I know what it is best for me." Rather than seeking value, significance, and security in ourselves, essentially digging our own cisterns (Jeremiah 2:11b-13), God calls us to bow before His glory and drink from His living water.

4/19/18 Cultivating Character.

What about the times when our children aren't outright disobeying, but are revealing less than noble character? What to do about bickering, complaining, laziness, envy, boasting, etc.? Galatians 5:19-23 lists of the "works of the flesh" and the "fruit of the Spirit" show us what we're hoping for. Luke 6:39-49 shows us that good fruit comes from good roots. What do I need to believe and do to cultivate the kind of soil in my life and the lives of my children that will nourish the fruit of the Spirit over time?

5/3/18 Parenting is a process.

The project of redemption is an unending conversation with continual opportunities to bring the light of the gospel into our children's lives. How do we parent in the with the long-view in mind? What promises do we have (and what aren't we promised) as we parent? Recognize that there are trials that will come, but be reminded of the words of Octavius Winslow: "Erase sanctified trial from the catalogue of the Lord's dealings with you, & you would cancel one of the strongest evidences of your adoption." We also examined Psalm 145 and thought of how we could "bubble forth the memory of Your great goodness."

5/10/18 A Parent at Rest

Vertical (God) remembrance and rest is the soil in which the wholesome, good, and change-producing parenting grows. Yes, as a parent, he has called me to do things that are way beyond my natural abilities, character, wisdom, strength, and gifts but he has not sent me out to do them alone. So I can (and must!) rest in him, as I parent.

5/17/18 Mercy

Understanding our own ongoing need for God's lovingkindness enables us to extend mercy and compassion to our children.