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Becoming an Expert on Your Family: Chapter Three & Four  
*Child Proof: Parenting by Faith not Formula* by Julie Lowe

**Mothers as Students of God's Word so that we can Parent According to the Needs of Your Family**

*Parenting according to the needs of your family is only possible as we become students of Scripture. Make it your aim to know what the Scripture says about anger, forgiveness, communication, desires, and conflict. This will guide the choices you make in parenting. (p.69)*

*For example, many parents struggle to know how to handle conflict in the home. Consider these biblical principles:*

- *As parents, don't provoke your children to anger or discouragement (Colossians 3:21)*
- *Look at yourself first and teach your kids to be willing to look at their actions before pointing out another's sin (Matthew 7:5)*
- *Be quick to listen and slow to speak (James 1:19)*
- *Demonstrate humility and patience (Ephesians 4:2)*
- *Be willing to be tender toward them and forgive (Ephesians 4:32)*
- *Show understanding toward your children and draw them out (Proverbs 20:4)*
- *When possible, model the ability to overlook an offense (Proverbs 19:11)*
- *Do not return evil for evil (1 Peter 3:9-11)*
- *Help them to see their hearts and desires in conflict (James 4:1)*
- *Consider the needs of others above your own (Philippians 2:3)*
- *Do what you can to live at peace with each other (Romans 12:18)*
- *Foster a willingness to confess sin and pray for one another (James 5:16) (p.69-70)*

**Decision Making**

*Parenting with a focus on the uniqueness of my family means that my choices about things like discipline and schooling will be based not on my ideals, but on what is loving and helpful to the people God has placed in my home. (p.62)*

**You are your Child's Wise Counselor**

*"God has established you as your child's counselor, educator, discipler, and mentor. As a parent, you are perfectly positioned for this task." (p. 46)*

**The Role of the Spirit of God**

*"Parenting must be done in dependence on the Spirit of God. The Spirit equips us for all that God calls us to do." (p.47)*

*Ephesians 1:13 "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation."*

*"You can look at all your internal and external challenges from the perspective of your track record and present catalog of abilities, or you can look at them from the vantage point of the sufficiency of the work of Jesus on your behalf. The Bible was given not only to radically alter your identity and potential, but to radically alter the way you think about and interpret life. You are not left to your own resources.*

Because you are “in Christ,” your potential is greater than the sum of your parts. You are never in any situation or location all by yourself. There is one who fights against sin for you even when you don’t have the sense enough to fight for yourself.” (Paul Trip, New Morning Mercies, October 28)

### **We are personally Known**

“Just as we are known intimately by God and guided by him, so we are to know and guide our children.” (p. 49)

Psalm 139: 1-5 *“Oh Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand on me.”*

Psalm 139: 13-18 *“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I could count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.”*

### **Becoming an Expert on Your Children**

“Becoming an expert on my family means that I need to study them.” (p. 49)

Ephesians 1:17-18 *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious, may give you the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation, so that you may know him better.”*

### **Application Questions:**

1. What are some ways you parent out of your own disposition and natural preferences? In what ways is that good and helpful? In what ways is it not? (p.64)
2. Are there things that you are beginning to notice and struggle to know how to address? What are they? (p.64)
3. Brainstorm some practical ways to get to know each child better. How would these approaches shape your interactions with them? As you learn more about them, how will that affect the kind of mentoring, discipline, rules, or freedoms that you give them? (p.64)
4. Once you feel that you know the needs of your family members, how do you begin shaping family life? What might it look like in your home? (p.78)
5. Where do you feel stretched beyond your abilities with your children? How do you tend to respond? (p.78)
6. How would it change our parenting if we were confident in God’s ability to work within us and give us the resources we need to love, discipline, and parent well? (p.75)