



Frisco First

JACOB: THE STRUGGLE FOR IDENTITY, ACCEPTANCE, AND BELONGING. •
BELIEVING IS SEEING • PSALM 22:30-31; 37:18-19; 78:5-6; 102:18-22; 127:1-2; 128:1-4 •
2/20/2022

MAIN POINT

GUEST SPEAKER RICHARD ROSS

You can parent, or influence, others with confidence.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Name TV parents and describe the parenting styles they portray.

If parenting was meant to inform us about God, what would we think about Him, based on those TV parents?

What would you hope your own parenting (or influence on others) would teach someone else about God?

WATCH THE SESSION ONE VIDEO FEATURING DR. CRAWFORD LORITTS.
<https://fellowshipproswell.org/sermon/believing-is-seeing/>

Dr. Loritts pointed out in today's message that we were all created to influence someone. Still, you cannot guarantee how your children (or people you influence) will apply that influence. He explained, "We have to keep in mind that we are not raising machines and programming computers. We're raising people that have sin natures and stuff in their lives. We tend to beat ourselves up when our children don't make the right choices. We have to give all of this over to the Lord and concentrate on being what God wants us to be and trust that He's going to step into this." As we do, there are some pillars of confident parenting and influence we can put into practice.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A FEW VOLUNTEERS READ PSALM 127:1-2, 128:1-4, AND 22:30-31.

From these three passages, what principles for parenting can you find?

What kind of “house” is built in vain (127:1-2)? Give some examples of what it looks like in culture today to try to parent without depending on the Lord.

What is the promise for those who walk in the ways of the Lord (128:1-4)? What does this say to you in regard to parenting and influence?

Why is it important to talk naturally and often about what the Lord has done with our children (22:30-31)?

The psalmists in these passages recognize the importance of depending on the Lord, of modeling godliness, and of reminding others about the Lord’s goodness. Dr. Crawford noted the paradox of our utter inadequacy and God’s complete sufficiency. We must recognize that He, not we, can grow hearts for the Lord in our children. Still, he explained, “Don’t ever reduce your vision for parenting to what you can handle.” Depend on the Lord, and as you do, model godliness and remind your children often about Him.

Respond to this statement by Pastor Crawford: “If you want your children to be godly, you’ve gotta be godly.” What does this tell you about your role in comparison to the role of the church?

Would you say it’s easy or difficult for you to enter into faith discussions with your children (or with other people in general)? Why? If it’s been hard for you in the past, what are some practical steps you can take to help you begin now?

| HAVE TWO VOLUNTEERS READ PSALM 22:30A AND 37:18-19.

Dr. Loritts pointed out that posterity here refers to the descendants of a person. Do you have the expectation that your descendants will serve the Lord? Why or why not?

How do you express that expectation, or is it simply something you quietly hope for?

In Psalm 37:18-19, what kind of person or behavior do you think is referred to? What does it mean to be blameless before the Lord? What does prayer have to do with heritage, confidence amidst evil, and abundance in times of famine?

Like Dr. Loritts noted, this is the “vision of an outcome that you get by trusting God and praying and seeking His face. We ought to be praying for bold, faith-filled character for our children. It is more important that they be godly than that they be successful in the world.” And not only pray it, but expect it. We should expect and pray that future generations are going to serve God and let them know there is no other way to live.

| HAVE TWO VOLUNTEERS READ PSALM 78:5-6 AND 102:18-22.

What did God command the fathers of Israel to do? Why?

What heritage of faith do you have? What is your part in ensuring a heritage of faith comes behind you?

Pastor Crawford called this, “Depositing. We give our children God’s Word not just with our mouths, but we integrate them into every aspect of their lives.” One way we do this is by cherishing the Lord. In our praise, we rehearse and cherish God’s work in and among us. Pastor Crawford explained, “The goal is cultivating hearts that celebrate the greatness of God.”

How have you experienced the acts of praise and teaching resulting in confidence in parenting?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Of these 7 suggestions for confident parenting, which do you need to work on the most: pay attention to the rhythm and pace of your family; tell them your heart and vision for their walk with the Lord; have them write down their goals for their lives; expose them to grace-filled godly examples and models; relate to them from a positive, faith-filled perspective; challenge them; and stay out of God’s way?

Which has benefited you in parenting recently? How so?

Dr. Loritts said, “Don’t be afraid.” Do you have any fears about parenting right now? How can this group help you in that?

PRAYER

Thank God for the privilege of parenting and influencing others. Invite Him to show you how you can do those things more confidently because of Him. Pray specifically for those who are struggling to parent their children confidently right now.

COMMENTARY

| PSALM 22:30-31

The psalm ends by broadening to the most universal purpose of God's kingdom over the earth. Israel's purpose was to be a testimony to other nations so they would bow down before Yahweh and serve Him (67:2; 72:11,17; 86:9). The growth of the kingdom throughout time is demonstrated in the phrase a people yet to be born (future generations). The inclusion of those who go down to the dust who would pay homage to Yahweh (v. 29) is unusual, since in other psalms it is clear that the dead cannot praise Him (6:5; 88:10-12). This is more likely a reference to the final stage of God's kingdom where even the dead are brought back to life to recognize Yahweh's authority over all things (Dan 12:2).

| PSALM 37:18-19

The promise of the inheritance of the land was forever, in the sense that it would go to their descendants (Jos 14:9; Ezr 9:12).

| PSALM 78:5-6

A testimony or decree relates what is required of the Lord's people. Reciting Israel's early history to future generations assures the perpetuation of the account. This would connect generations far removed from the original event to the promises and instructions governing Israel's relationship to God.

| PSALM 102:18-22

102:18 The later generation consists of a newly created people not yet in existence. The psalmist anticipated the Lord's immediate future response.

102:19 When the Lord looked down and gazed at the earth below, He heard the cries of the exiles, acknowledged the plight of His people, and brought deliverance (Dt 26:15; Isa 63:15). Hundreds of years earlier, God had also heard the Israelites in Egypt and looked upon them with great concern (Ex 2:24).

102:20 The prisoner's groaning may also be rendered "groans" (79:11; Mal 2:13). Those condemned to die (lit "sons of death") describes the hopelessness of the captives (Ps 79:11;

146:7; Isa 49:9).

102:21 God's faithful deliverance of His remnant from Babylon testifies to His holy name. In the ancient Near East, a person's name reflected his nature and character. The emphasis on Zion and Jerusalem reinforces the association of the divine name with the capital city.

102:22 The assembly of nations for universal worship occurs at the Lord's return to Zion (Isa 2:1-5; 66:23-24; Zech 14:16-21).

| PSALM 127:1-2

127:1 No task succeeds apart from God's will. While building a dwelling is the literal meaning here, a house could also refer to a household or family, connecting this verse to verses 3-5.

127:2 Humanity struggles to provide for its needs, working hard to have enough food (lit "eating the bread of toil"; 80:5; 102:9; Gen 3:17; Isa 30:20). The Lord provides rest by blessing the work of the godly.

| PSALM 128:1-4

This is a companion psalm to Psalm 127. The psalmist affirmed the significance of descendants, revisiting the original promise God made to Abraham in Gen 12:1-3. Just as Joseph was described as a fruitful vine (Gen 49:22), so a wife who is blessed with children expands the family. Olive trees were known for vitality, strength, productivity, and longevity.