

PARENTING AGES 0-5 class #2

Your Marriage - Ecc 4: 9-12, Eph 5: 22-26

- 1) Dad's sometimes avoid chaos of kids/home life, and start to hide. Maybe afraid that you don't know how to be a father?? Shows up as more devotion to work, TV, gaming, anything to escape reality! BE AN ENGAGED DISCIPLE(walk w God), DAD(consider God's engagement in you), and HUSBAND(...as Christ loves the church!)
 - a) How many Dad's have been in a parenting situation where you have no idea what to do?? Sometimes our wives know what to do, but sometimes not...Lead the way in getting advice, don't make your wife feel it is all on her.
 - b) What is your wife's love language?? Just like you, her character (patience, unconditional love, etc.) is being tested in ways that it never has before...she needs you!
 - c) For so many, marriage means the end of regular dating. Date times have been one of the keys for Beth and I to stay sane (and on the same parenting page) in the sometimes insane world of preschool parenting. Treat your wife as if she is a queen!
 - d) In service of dating, we used Baby sitting co-op's to help facilitate our dates (McCreary, Troung, Bruns). Out of four Saturdays, one Saturday to watch all kids, one was on your own (no co-op) and two were definite date nights while others watched the kids.
 - e) Partner w your spouse (Love wife as Christ loves church), sleeping, chores, sickness, discipline
- 2) Mom's can prioritize child(ren) over the husband. It is key the husband feels respected, important, a priority, and that you love them.
 - a. Our kids took security in the fact they knew we went out every Saturday night because we talked to them about how important our marriage was.
 - b. Finding peers to get advice from. I picked out mom's that I admired for different things and I talked to them about parenting.
 - c. I was and am the primary organizer of the house and we would sit down together on a regular basis to divide up the chores to cover all the bases-cooking, cleaning, laundry, etc. This helped the house feel like a home.
 - d. I was the primary one organizing food and meal times for that special time of day.

Tips on making the kingdom great / fun Php 4: 4-7

- 1) Parental demeanor/attitude has a large influence... If you are not enjoying your Christianity, your kids will not enjoy it for you! or instead of you!
- 2) Serve in children's ministry, and make it a blast, eager to serve...no complaining in children's ministry!
- 3) Let them see your example of giving at worship service, (greet/encourage a bro/sis)
- 4) Family devo's – play acting with toy people are an excellent way to teach how God wants us to act