Raising a Christ-Centered Child in a Me-Centered World

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The very first thing God instituted, even before the church…

What did peer pressure look like when you were a kid?

What does it look like for your children today?

What does it look like now for us as adults?

Is Peer Pressure Always Negative?

It’s not going away, so we need to teach children how to handle it? We also need to model this for them.

Is technology the problem?

Focus on the greatest “software” ever…the heart and mind.
The best way to program the heart and mind…God’s Word.

"Take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ."

- 2 Cor. 10:5

**“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true,
whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable —
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy —
think about such things and the God of peace
will be with you” -Phil 4:8**

“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” - Jesus

Neuroplasticity

Neuropathways and Neurochemistry

Thought Model

Thoughts → Feelings → Actions

There are Three kinds of Business:

1. God’s business
2. Someone else’s business
3. My business

What is something that is causing you stress right now?

Replace the lies of Satan with truth

- Psalm 23: “The Lord is my shepherd… I will fear no evil.”
- 1 Peter 5:7: “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”
- Philippians 4:6-7: “Do not be anxious about anything…”
- Matthew 6:34: “Do not worry about tomorrow…”
- John 14:27 – “Peace I leave with you… Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

I am Jesus Little Lamb… ever glad at heart I am

The LORD is MY shepherd…

The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.
Yea though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are
with me, your rod and staff they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil.
My cup overflows!
Surely goodness and mercy will follow
me all the days of my life and I will dwell in
the house of the Lord forever.

The LORD is MY shepherd…

I shall not want.

“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”

Isaiah 26:3

If you choose to send your child to a counselor, please be certain that counselors values align with yours. Who is programming their “software”? Who is telling the stories?

Shalom

The ancient Hebrew concept of peace, rooted in the word “shalom,” meant wholeness, completeness, soundness, health, safety and prosperity, carrying with it the implication of permanence.

Thriving

– A sense of wellness regardless of circumstances

- ✓Gratitude
- ✓Contentment
- ✓Purpose
- ✓Relationships
- ✓Health
- ✓Learning
- ✓Resilience

We need to model it for our children and teach them the skills.

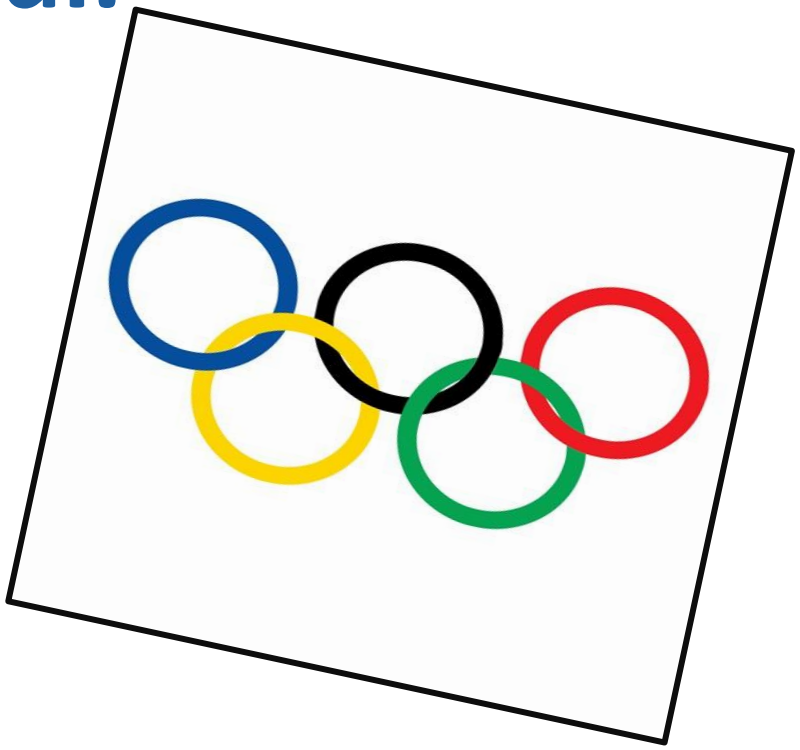
- Thrive Time

Unhappy
Happy
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
Happiness rating

The number one attribute of those who are flourishing or thriving…

Gratitude

It’s not joy that makes us grateful,
it’s gratitude that makes us joyful.



#1 Gratitude

Frequency, not intensity of moments.

"I am too blessed to stress!"

Grateful for big and little

- Living in a constant state of GRACE!
- A heart that beats every minute of every day.
- Flying in a plane!

(Kenya)

If I had more money…

Consider lottery winners
(Their happiness increases for about 2 months.)

How can I become more grateful?

We find what we look for!

Gratitude Journal

Gratitude Prayers

The amount of good things in your life depends only on your ability to notice them.

Right now, someone is praying for something I take for granted.

The Purpose

Each person is uniquely designed, one-of-a-kind, for God’s purpose.

Psalm 139:13-14

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

“Poiema”

“For we are God’s handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus
to do good works
which God prepared
in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:10

YOU are God’s Poetry!

The people around you are
God’s Poetry!

Resilience

God designed us to be able to do hard things…

But not alone.

The “gift” of boundaries

Time in the Word – together.

Create space for questions, doubts, honest conversations with fear.

Make it relevant to their life and what they are going through.

Model an authentic, joyful life. You can’t give what you don’t have. Work on our own “software”. Admit struggles and show how you turn to God’s Word. Demonstrate repentance, grace, and resilience in Christ.

Give them ownership and voice.

Let them pick the Bible reading or lead devotion or prayer.

What does it look like to:

1. Love God
2. Love others
3. Not be ashamed of the Gospel

In the world…

In the Word.

Daily Prayer

Daily Confession and Absolution

Fruit of the Spirit:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

Which way is your compass pointing?

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory…”

Ephesians 3:20

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Thrive Time Curriculum