

Defining Moments
Rocking Babies Moments
May 2 , 2021

Question: If you are a parent what were some of the emotions you felt the first time you held your baby?

Question: If you are not a parent what are some of the emotions you felt when you held a baby for the first time?

Pastor John quoted a statistic saying the average cost of raising a child from birth through 18 years old was \$233,610.

Question: How much money does that represent in your family?

Question: What are some of the sacrifices it takes to be a parent?

Phil 4:6-7

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7 *"Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you."*

Question: What are some of your fears as a parent and how should we handle those fears?

Question: What are some of the dreams you have for your children or for children you know and care for?

Discuss this statement by Pastor John: "Friends, let me just say this: ***when your kids are small and when your kids are big, let them be them.*** I mean, dream dreams with them and for them, but your kids have got their own unique personality, their own unique gifts. *They* are not *you*—and thank God they're not! Let them be them. Dream about what God wants *them* to be."

Discuss this statement. **Success in life is not so much wrapped up in what they do, but in who they become.**

Question: Who do you want your children to become?

Discuss this statement, " Stuff doesn't make you happy. Other people can't make you happy. The right job or fitting in the right size jeans or the right whatever, won't make you happy. If you need what's next to make you happy—no matter what *next* is—then you're never going to be happy."

Only you can make the choice to be happy in life and it doesn't have anything to do with external factors. It has everything to do with your internal belief system and your attitude. Who you become is more important than what you have or what you do.

3 John 1:4 (KJV) *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

Proverbs 3:1-6 (NLT) *“My child, never forget the things I’ve taught you. Store my commands in your heart, for they will give you a long and satisfying life. “Never let loyalty and kindness get away from you. You wear them like a necklace. Write them deep within your heart, then you’ll have favor with both God and people and you’ll get a good reputation. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Don’t depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do and He will direct your path.”*

Discuss this statement: For nurturing to take place you’ve got to be in this chair. You’ve got to be here. You got to show up. You got to report for duty every day. Mark Batterson says it like this: I want to be famous in my home, but it’s tough to be famous in your home if you’re never home.

Question: How important is godly discipline in the life of a child and a family?

Proverbs 19:18 *“Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don’t, you’re helping them destroy themselves.”*

Proverbs 10:17. It says, *“People who accept correction are on the pathway to life.”*

Discuss the following statement: With consistent discipline and limits for your kids, what happens is **good discipline changes the performance without damaging the person.** John Wooden was the legendary basketball coach for UCLA for many years, and people would ask him how he did such a great job with his players. He would simply say, “I just try to catch them doing something right. I want to catch them doing something right, instead of always picking them apart.”

Coach Wooden taught his players that whenever they made a basket to always point to the person who passed them the ball and acknowledge them. One of his players asked him one time, “But Coach, what if they aren’t looking?” Wooden said, “Oh, they’ll always be looking.” All people—big people and especially little people, are always looking for some positive affirmation.

Question: Do you try hard to find the positive things in your children or do you lean more toward the negative side of parenting