

Transforming An Entire Generation

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-4 Andrew P - Church Employment. Cars #3. Cheer Coach.
- B. Slide5 Love & Respect Marriage Get Away. Sept.22-24 LaQuinta Resort. Emerson & Sara Eggrich. Multiple churches sponsoring this event. *Note:* Aug.1st discount.
- C. *Note:* No Children @ Risk this month. Welcome M&L back from China.

II. Slide6 **Intro:**

- A. We welcome the High Schoolers in with us...and we welcome the recent graduates to the scary *adult church* :)
- B. We welcome our Fathers - Happy Fathers Day. I pray what you hear this morning is not just a **list** on what to *improve* but *encouragement* to what you're doing right.
 1. We know statistically how important it is to have a father in your life.
 2. I pray that you will hear not what you *aren't*, but remind you who you *are*.
 3. Dads I pray that you would be *affirmed*, because I know we do better when we're affirmed. *We like rising to challenges.*
- C. Slide7 But let's 1st start with this 2min video (Cheerios made it) *How To Dad!*
[no to peanut butter on my cheerios & I look up to my son *not vice-versa*]

III. Slide8 **TRANSFORMING AN ENTIRE GENERATION**

- A. Slide9 Psalm 112 - is an *alphabetic acrostic poem*. After the intro note of praise, *each line* begins with a letter from the Hebrew alphabet.
 1. The Psalms, are broken up into different types of Psalms. This is a *Wisdom Psalm*, meant to pass along *wise sayings*.
- B. Slide10 PSALM 112 *NLT*
- C. 1 Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands. 2 Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. 3 They themselves will be wealthy, and their good deeds will last forever. 4 Light shines in the darkness for the godly. They are generous, compassionate, and righteous. 5 Good comes to those who lend money generously and conduct their

business fairly. 6 Such people will not be overcome by evil. Those who are righteous will be long remembered. 7 They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. 8 They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. 9 They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor. 10 The wicked will see this and be infuriated. They will grind their teeth in anger; they will slink away, their hopes thwarted.

D. Slide11 (1) Praise the Lord - Start - Praise God/Yahweh.

E. How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands.

(nkjv *Blessed is the man...* it begins w/a *beatitude*, a **blessing** that is also usually a **promise**)

1. The *fear of the Lord* is not being afraid of him, rather it is an understanding of the awesome power and strength and giving more weight to God than to the influence of the world around him.

2. If we *fear the Lord* than we won't fear anything else...

a) Slide12 You won't have fear about your family (2). Or about finances (3). Or about the dark things in life (4). Or about your business decisions (5). Or about any bad news (7). You won't have to fear being generous in your giving (9). You won't even have to fear your enemies (10).

F. Slide13 (4) They are generous, compassionate, and righteous.

1. Wow, those are 3 great qualities we want our children to have right?

G. Slide14 But I also see words like *darkness, not be overcome by evil, bad news, foes, the wicked*...as a reality of life for even the best of believers...life can be pretty harsh.

May I encourage you to allow your children/grandchildren to fail.

1. Slide15a This is *counter-culture* for sure, in allowing your children to fail.

2. Our culture has thought it best to over protect our children from failure (in sports & in life).

a) There must be some balance between us in our generation, sitting on the back of an open tailgate, going down the road, and some children today wearing elbow & knee pads to go get the mail.

- b) **Some** young adults don't care to **drive** when they **can** get their license, it's safer if mom or dad drives. **Others** don't want to fill out a **job app** for risk of being turned down or not called.
 - c) Conan O'brien said, *I just taught my kids about taxes by eating 38% of their ice cream.*
3. **Slide15b** Please give them **the gift of failure** to help propel them forward.
 4. If we don't let them fail, they won't succeed at **what matters most.**
- H. **Slide16 (2)** Their children will be **successful everywhere**; an entire generation of **godly** people will be blessed.
1. **An entire generation of godly people will be blessed** - by fulfilling our calling of **bringing heaven to earth**...is this not our #1 duty?
 2. **Successful everywhere** - what we need to pass on to the next-generation are those things necessary to be **successful everywhere.**
 3. **Slide17 Define Success** - the definition we get from **society and culture** is... **make sure that you have well-rounded, well-educated, happy kids.**
 - a) That sounds good, **but is it right or best or most important... or biblical?**
 4. **Well-rounded?** what about excelling in the **1or2 things** God has gifted them in?
 5. **Well-educated?** education is important/great, **but** no matter how degree'd your children are, if they don't **follow & cherish Jesus**, **what's the point?**
 - a) Mt.16:26 *And what do you benefit if you **gain** the whole world **but lose** your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?*
 6. **Happy-Kids?** Culture has been alluring parents to **bow down and worship at the altar of happy children.**
 - a) Remember the Scripture that says, **be happy for I am happy?** Oh no it's, **be holy for I am holy.**
 - b) **Slide18** "Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes **true happiness**. It is not attained through self-gratification **but** through fidelity to a **worthy purpose.**" – *Helen Keller*
 - (1) Life is more than **a balance sheet** between **positive & negative feelings.**
 - (2) **A happy life without meaning will not last.**

- c) Distinguish between lives *high on happiness* and *lives full of meaning*.
- d) A wedding can *bring you happiness* or it can bring more *meaning to your life*.
- (1) Slide19 Think of Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela or Ghandi as *prisoners*, probably at best extremely *uncomfortable* and at worse in *profound physical and psychological pain*. **Researchers would certainly not find their lives happy**: Their balance of positive to negative emotions would probably weigh heavily to the **negative**. **Their satisfaction with life?** Probably nil.
- (2) **But** great people make it clear that *however unpleasant their lives might be in a given moment*, their **beliefs** about their respective situations inspire their lives with **profound meaning**.
- e) Slide20 Don't get me wrong, God is into *happiness*. He started this whole Psalm with it w/*aleph* אֲשֶׁר־י [eh·sher - *highly favored or fortunate; as by divine grace*]
- f) **And yes**, our Constitution calls out *Life, Liberty, & the pursuit of Happiness* as our inalienable right. It is a **right**...**but** *should Happiness be our goal in life?*
I think *pursuing Jesus* should be our **goal**, then as a bi-product of pursuing Jesus is a life full of Slide21 (highlight on screen) *Joy, delight, success,...*
7. Slide22 I like how **Craig Groeschel** pastor Life Church expounded vs.2 (re-read it). **We are called to unleash - Christ centered, biblically anchored, world changers**.
- a) *We are called to unleash* (not coddle, not hyper protect) - *Christ centered* (Christ 1st above all else), *biblically anchored* (not swayed by anything), *world changers* (not just consumers **but** producers, motivators, transformers).
- b) **See**, God as equipped **His** children with *supernatural gifts*, which are **specifically chosen** for this moment in history, **and** that will **best glorify Him**.
8. This might all sound too difficult. **Or, this is great for you preacher man...I'm just trying to get by in life**. [I can appreciate your difficulties you're dealing with]
- a) **Story**: I remember years ago a child was left at church on a Wed night. The child wouldn't or couldn't talk. Trying to figure out what to do. *A parent forget their child? How can that happen? Did they just drop them off for church & go out to dinner? I guess we call the police?* Then a large van rolled up. Door rolled open. Inside a frazzled family of about 8. Parents very apologetic explained, he usually

crawls to the back & sleeps on or even under one of the seats. We got almost all the way home when we found 1 missing. [life is difficult]

9. Slide23a But this might be easier than you think. What you expose your children to helps determine what they will become.

- a) They will be **exposed** to wrong influences naturally. Peer pressure, an over-sexualized world. So, we need to **expose** them to the right influences.
- b) Slide23b Prov.13:20 *Walk w/the wise & become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.*

I. Parents you know you can't **force** your children to love God (they'll only become rebellious teens). But you can **expose them** to **people and things** that would increase the likelihood of their *falling in love with Jesus*. [Expose them to 3 things:]

1. Slide24a Expose them to the **joy** of knowing God personally.

- a) Children today are *not rejecting Christ*, they are rejecting *dead-empty religion*.
- b) We want to expose them to *a living relationship, with the living God, who is love*.
- c) We want to expose them not to just rules, but to a relationship.
- d) So how do we do that? - it's easy, *just point every blessing in life back to God (not in a weird way, doesn't have to be syrupy)*. "Look at this house. This food. We get to go on vacation this year. God is good." Connect the good things in life to the Giver of life. *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights*. James 1:17
- e) It's not *telling/making* our children read their bibles, it's *modeling* it so they want to
 - (1) This generation, *if you don't have it, they're not going to want it*.
 - (2) If it's not important to **you**, it's not going to be important to **them**.
 - (3) This next generation is better than us in this category. *They can smell a fake. They're fake-detectors*.
- f) So, #1 Expose them to the joy of knowing God personally.

2. Slide24b Expose them to the presence & power of God in His church.

- a) Again, this is easy. **We are the church** that exists for the world. And we value participation in local church. *Not, I'm looking for a church to meet my needs* (selfish).
- b) Church life can be your kids *identity, community, extended family, friendships*.

c) **Church life** also teaches our children **how to deal with real life problems.**

(1) Our kids grew up their whole lives here, church & school. We had to work through *with them* the realities of *friends that had moral failures.*

Broken relationships...some that hurt us, some that we hurt.

Dear friends we'd get close to & then never see again.

Friends/enemies. **Victories/failures.** Sin/repentance/forgiveness.

d) **Church life** is so important...be **on time.** Come for **all** of worship. **Talk about what you learned as a family** (HS & middle school teach same through Eph).

(1) **Do you over-rule church for other things...but never over-rule other things for church?...be careful,** you are sending a message to your children.

e) **In Church life we can serve one another.** Help raise one another's children. We can together...touch our community & impact our world.

3. **Slide24c Expose them to the thrill of being used by God.**

a) High schooler's...it's not that God wants to use you **in the future,** you are called by God to be used **right now.**

b) You are not the church of **tomorrow, but of today.** *And your generation already desires to make a difference in your world.*

c) Dads, moms, don't **make** your children serve...**simply expose them to how awesome serving is.**

J. **Dad's just expose them to...**the joy of knowing God personally. **To the power and presence of God in His church.** And of to the thrill of being used by God.

K. **Dads don't listen to** *"you can't, won't, and never will be."* God cares about you **and** the generations to come.

L. **Dads** it simple, *you want them to see a **Father in God, let them see God in their father.***

1. All our **actions speak louder than words** **but** some things **echo** into the next generation.

2. **And** maybe, your greatest contribution to this world is **not who you are but who you raise.**

IV. **Slide25 End:** Fathers we have a little gift for you...**a Fathers Day Coffee Mug.** *Warrior.*

A. Judges 6:11-18

- B. (12) **Mighty man of valor** (aka *Mighty Warrior*, where we got our HS name from *Warriors*)
1. I bet he turned around at this point to see who He was talking about.
 2. The Lord saw what Gideon would **become**, **not** as he **was**. (he made it in the *hall of faith* Heb.11:32)
 3. **So**, Gideon doesn't come on stage as a **hero warrior**.
- C. (14) **Might of yours** - **or**, *go with the strength you have*. (both NIV & NLT)
1. **How can we do that?** because, **He is sending you**.
- D. (14b) **Have I not sent you?** - **The Christian father's confidence** should rest in **God's presence & power**, **not in** his personal abilities or resources. *Dr. David Jeremiah Study Bible notes*
- E. (18) **He wants to worship Him** - before representing Him in the **public square**, Gideon needed to know him in a **personal way**.
1. Too many try to skip this step (**straight to leadership** position, **w/o** their **proving**)
 2. **God's warriors** must be w/Him in **worship before** they can be w/Him in **warfare**.