

Family Huddle Playbook

Fall 2020

Family Huddle Schedule Fall 2020

A Study of Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family by Paul David Tripp

Week 1: Sunday, September 13 – Chapter 1, Calling

Week 2: Sunday, September 20 – Chapter 2, Grace

Week 3: Sunday, September 27, Chapter 3, Law

Week 4: Sunday, October 4, Chapter 4, Inability

Week 5: Sunday, October 11, Chapter 6, Process

Week 6: Sunday October 18, Chapter 7, Lost

Week 7: Sunday, October 25, Chapter 8, Authority

Week 8: Sunday, November 8, Chapter 10, Character

Week 9: Sunday, November 15, Chapter 11, False Gods

Week 10: Sunday, November 22, Chapter 12, Control

Chapter 1: Calling

Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God's tools to form a human soul.

- Read: Matthew 6:19-34
 - On page 25 we are presented with the idea that we will be in pursuit of the things we've deemed as important or "treasure." It's key to keep in mind that parenting will either be something we treasure or not.

Do physical things get in the way of, or create needless tensions in, your parenting?

How has the value of career success impacted your commitment to the work that God has called you to as a parent?

Do ministry decisions and commitments make it hard for you to faithfully do your work as a parent?

- Read: Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20-23

How do these passages speak to God's value of *you*, as a parent?

- Here's a quote from page 30 "Your work as a parent is a thing of extreme value because God has designed that you would be a principle, consistent, and faithful tool in his hands for the purpose of creating *God-consciousness* and *God-submission* in your children."

Is this how you see your role and purpose as a parent?

Does your relationship with Jesus, your spouse, and your children reflect this attitude?

What needs to be moved, removed, or re-oriented in your life to align with your calling as a parent?

Chapter 2: Grace

*God never calls you to a task without giving you what you need to do it.
He never sends you without going with you.*

In your own words, explain past, present, and future grace.

Why is a clear understanding of this integral to parenting?

How does knowing your own need for God's grace shift your attitude and response as your children need grace and parental care?

- Read: Ephesians 3:20-21 and 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

We opened this chapter with the phrase “God never calls us to a task without giving us what we need to do it...” This keeps God at the center and as the hero. God doesn't call people to be parents because they are able. We are all unable – but he gives us the gift of himself in the midst of our role. Do you parent out of your need for God's grace or do you find yourself trying to be enough on your own?

Does your inability and need for God leave you frustrated or infused with hope?

Here's a list of what God's grace does for us as Christian parents. As you read through this list mark what is convicting, encouraging, and praise-worthy.

- Works to open your eyes to see yourself as a parent accurately

- Frees you from having to deny your weaknesses

- Rescues you from you

- Grows and changes you as a parent

- Works to make your heart tender

- Liberates you from the prison of regret

Chapter 3: Law

Your children need God's law, but you cannot ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish.

Have you ever had a tool sitting around your home you use regularly – only to be taught what it's actual use was? You weren't using the tool as it was intended and it potentially got the job done – but maybe not as efficiently as you would have liked, and definitely not as effectively as what it was created for! List your examples.

The principle presented in this chapter is getting a clear picture of the law – its strengths and purpose, and its weaknesses.

- Read: Romans 7:7
 - What does this verse reveal about the purpose of the law?

- Read: Romans 8: 1-4, Galatians 3:24-25
 - What do these verses reveal about the laws shortcomings?

On page 49 we see the quote “If rules and regulations had the power to change the heart and life of your child, rescuing your child from himself and giving him a heart of submission and faith, Jesus would have never needed to come!”

Have you spent time analyzing your parenting in light of the truths presented in the quote and the scripture we read above?

How does this impact your responses, discipline, and the discipling of your children?

Does a broad understanding of the law and grace allow us as parents to give a clearer picture of the gospel? If so, how?

Chapter 4: Inability

Recognizing what you are unable to do is essential in good parenting.

- Read: Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 2:8, and John 6:44

All of these verses help to paint a picture of how we fit into God's plan. They give us a glimpse of our abilities and roles, and where our inability starts. What are some of the key things you can pull out of these verses?

Based on your above answer – what do you see as your job or role as a parent?

On page 61 we are presented with the idea of *power* versus *authority*. Have you ever made this distinction before? How would you explain it to someone who isn't reading this book with you?

Why does this distinction matter in your role as a parent?

If the ultimate goal is to bring about heart change and an understanding in your children that they are sinners who need saving – how much power do you have to accomplish this goal?

On the top of page 63 we are encouraged to not take a passive approach to parenting – to not simply give up or give in – but to temper our decisions and efforts with an understanding of what we’re actually able to do. If we cannot effectively bring about heart change in our children, what *can* we do?

Paul David Tripp lays out three “power tools” often used by parents. Take some time below to think through and pray through what’s the tool you grab for most often? How might you reorient your responses as a parent – keeping God’s grace at the forefront?

- Fear

- Rewards

- Guilt/Shame

This quote from page 69 “In Jesus he (God) made a way for us to see our sin, to confess it, to be granted complete forgiveness, and to be blessed with both the desire and the power to change. He is the Redeemer, and so he is unwilling to settle for anything less than radical personal heart and life change.” lays great groundwork for us as we think about how we parent. God has every right to power and control – and yet, he isn’t content with controlling us. It was his grace that created the plan of salvation and redemption. How does this knowledge impact your view of God and view of yourself as a parent?

Do you parent with a powerful, loving Redeemer in view?

Chapter 6: Process

You must be committed as a parent to long-view parenting because change is a process not an event.

In your own life, have you ever faced something that took longer than you thought it would (or would prefer)? You start a new exercise program and are disheartened that after a week nothing looks or feels all that different? In parenting it can be much the same. The hopes, dreams, goals, and desires we have for our children can feel impossible – or our efforts stifled by the *daily-ness* of life. Take a few minutes to think through how you operate as a parent. Do you take the long view? Or are you quickly disheartened when the change you wish to see simply isn't happening?

Here's a quote from page 87: "Let me say it this way: the power of sin has been broken, but the presence of sin still remains and will be progressively eradicated... the Father's work of justification is an event, but his work of transformation is literally a life-long process." Have you ever considered this in regards to your parenting? How might this touch down in your home on a weekly (or even daily) basis?

- Read 1 Timothy 1:16

In this verse Paul is writing to Timothy – but could you put this verse into your own words? Writing as a parent to your children?

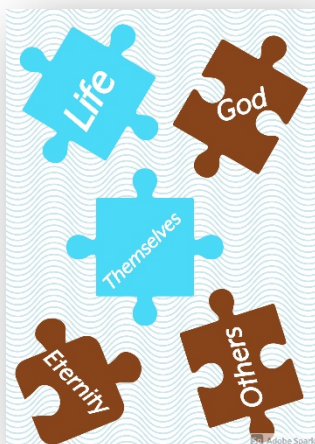
How have you seen the blinding effects of sin touch down in your own life?

Has the concept of spiritual blindness laid out in this chapter come as a surprise to you as it relates to you and your children? Or do you feel you operate as someone who knows they're blind? How might this knowledge affect the way you discipline your children, what you expect from them, or how you approach a consistent problem area/behavior?

As this chapter wraps up Paul David Tripp lays out some concepts for how we ought to approach our parenting – think marathon, not sprint. Jot down what is encouraging, challenging, or raises questions for each point.

- You Need to Parent with a Process Mentality

Our wise Father has designed parenting to be a bit-by-bit, piece-by-piece process.



- You Need to See Parenting as One Unending Conversation

Each moment is another opportunity to invest in your child and continue the process, it's not an interruption.

- You Need to Parent with a Project Mentality

Instead of being reactive as a parent, live with your children with a sense of project.

What do you see as the greatest challenge to your parenting?

Have you ever considered that it's not the sin of your children, or the fallen world you're living in, or the external pressures, but that it's you?

Our greatest need in our parenting is our greatest need in any and all other areas of our lives – it's our need for a Savior. We need a relationship with Jesus that is growing and thriving in order to parent the way we're called to (and the way we want to!) – and this knowledge allows us to admit our failures, our need, and to walk through the process with our children. We don't need to give up the authority that has been placed on us to lead and teach and disciple, but we also don't need to pretend as though we have it all together. How has parenting created opportunities to allow the Spirit to operate in and through you? (*Think Galatians 5:22-23*)

Chapter 7: Lost

As a parent you're not dealing just with bad behavior, but a condition that causes bad behavior.

What words would you use to describe or define being lost?

This chapter develops the idea that there's a lot more going on under the surface than we often see. What can look like rebellion or disobedience to us looks very different to a child. Not only that, our children are pre-disposed to resist our insights into their lives and choices. It can feel personal. It can be exhausting. It can lead to frustration and tension. How might a deeper understanding of lost-ness impact the way we parent our children?

Keeping in mind that our children are lost (and have no idea that they are) – how might this look in your home? How might repeated squabbles, corrections, interruptions, and rebellion (or the lack of these things) be viewed? How will you as a parent seek to dig deeper than behavior modification and compliance?

Looking over the parables laid out in Luke 15 – what sticks out to you from the Bible passages or that portion of the book?

- The Lost Sheep

- The Lost Coin

- The Lost (Prodigal) Son

The idea that we, and our children, are lost and in need of rescue, puts us on the same playing field. As a parent who has a broad perspective, it should infuse us with compassion and grace as we look past the immediate difficulties and see the soul that is in need of a Savior. It makes it all a little less personal. Our children aren't seeking to be at war with us – they just have a skewed perspective on life and themselves. Think of a time you've taken your child's disobedience as a personal attack – what perspective do you have now? How might things look different moving forward?

There are 2 lies presented that all lost children believe. Take time to write out what was challenging or eye-opening about each – and how they may play out in your home.

- The Lie of Autonomy

We all resist being ruled

- The Lie of Self-Sufficiency

We all want to believe everything we need is within us

Here's a quote from page 109 "Well, as Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost, he calls us to love and to rescue our lost children." With this in mind, how can you proactively give each child what they need?

- Insight

- Compassion

- Hope

- Rescue

- Wisdom

Chapter 8: Authority

One of the foundational heart issues in the life of every child is authority. Teaching and modeling the protective beauty of authority is one of the foundations of good parenting.

A central theme of this book is our children's greatest need – their need for a Savior. Knowing this will infuse all that we do with greater purpose, intentionality, and compassion. Our children are sinful. Our children are lost. Our children have needs they are unaware of – and it was God's best choice for them to be put in our homes to teach, train, discipline, and disciple them. God has given parents authority in the lives of their children. That authority helps us to reprove them and allows us to speak gospel truth into the hearts and minds of our children as opportunities arise.

How has your child's inborn resistance to authority shown up this week?

Our children come into the world as self-appointed self-sovereigns. Can you share an example of when an issue arose that wasn't about the issue? (Fighting bedtime, rules about social media, etc...) – what were you able to see going on in your child?

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:15

What does this tell us about our children and ourselves? What does this tell us about Jesus?

Learning to exercise your God-given authority in the lives of your children is weighty and valuable work. It's gospel work. All the facets of working through your child's resistance to authority creates opportunities to share the gospel and watch the Spirit work in their hearts. We'll lay out the various points from this chapter – and the questions that follow. Fill in where you were encouraged, challenged, convicted, and joyful. Be sure to take some time to answer the questions as well.

- Exercising ambassadorial authority is doing gospel work

- What kind of picture are your children getting of God's authority by the way you exercise yours?

- Helping your children to understand why they do what they do is doing gospel work.

- How often do you combine moments of discipline with patient, insight-giving instruction?

- Establishing authority early in little things is doing gospel work.

- Did you fight or are you fighting your authority battles early? If not, what changes in the way you look at little moments of discipline need to take place in you and the way you respond to your children?

- Exercising consistent authority is doing gospel work.

- Is your exercise of parental authority consistent because it's driven by God's call or is it inconsistent because it's shaped by the emotion of the moment?

- Confessing that when it comes to authority you're more like your children than unlike them is doing gospel work.

- Do you humbly own the rebellion in your own heart as you deal with the rebellion of your children in a way that causes you to exercise authority with patience and grace?

- In a discussion of authority, talking about the cross of Jesus Christ is doing gospel work.

- In moments of discipline, do you often point your children to the hope and help that is to be found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

Chapter 10: Character

*Not all of what your children do is a direct rebellion to authority;
much of the wrong is a result of a lack of character.*

Can you think of an example from your own home where your children's lack of character has played out? Think of the opening example in the chapter - there was no direct disobedience, just a general lack of courtesy and awareness. How do you respond to moments like these? Has it ever occurred to you to lovingly address the character issues within your children?

It is often easy to see the sin and shortcomings in the lives of others (especially those we live with) - but do you begin moments of discipline by taking a moment yourself? Do you confess your own sin and need of a Savior before jumping into addressing things with your children?

Has it ever occurred to you that God reveals to you what is happening in the hearts of your children as an opportunity?

- Read Romans 1:25, 28-32

What does this reveal about ourselves and our children?

What sort of “good things” are getting in the way of and enslaving the hearts of your children? What are the things in your own life that get in the way of your relationship with your creator?

Look at this quote from page 143: “Misplaced worship always leads to character deficiency.” Would you agree with this statement? Why or why not? If yes, how have you seen this play out in your own life and in the lives of your family?

The list that is laid out in Romans 1:28-32 of the poor character qualities shows us what follows a heart and life that “did not see fit to acknowledge God.” When we stop to look through this it’s amazing how much of this we deal with every day! Make a note of the items that are prevalent in your home - and take time to work through the concept of *worship realignment* as opposed to *character improvement*.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| • Envy | • Haughty |
| • Strife | • Boastful |
| • Deceit | • Foolish |
| • Gossip | • Heartless |
| • Insolent | |

Chapter 11: False Gods

You are parenting a worshiper, so it's important to remember that what rules your child's heart will control his behavior.

Jumping right into the content of this chapter - we start off with 3 key questions that are vital for all parents to ask (and then work to answer).

- Why do my children do the things they do?

Have you ever been shocked, disappointed, confused, etc by your children's choices?

- How does change take place in children's hearts and lives?

The key to answering this question is answering the first question - otherwise your answer may land in the area of controlling behavior.

- How can I be a tool of change in the hearts and lives of my children?

How is this different than being a manager, guide, or simply controlling what your children do?

Define the word **worship** (go ahead and look it up in a dictionary or thesaurus, think beyond an experience on a Sunday morning.)

- Read: James 1:14-15, 4:1-3

What do we learn from these verses as it pertains to heart-alignment, worship, and how things play out?

Our children do what they do because of what they worship. Our children want what they want when they want it. Misaligned worship is where the brokenness exists. Simply setting up more guidelines and boundaries won't ever address what's going on underneath. Symptoms may be cured for a bit - but they'll just pop up somewhere else. Our children were created to be worshipers. God designed them that way - so there's a perfect reason for it and plan for how it should work itself out in the heart and life of every human. As we walk through the implications of what this means, jot down notes, thoughts, challenges, convictions, etc.

- The capacity of the heart of our children to worship is meant to drive them to God.

- The capacity of your children to worship is the most important biblical insight for parents.

- Since your children are worshipers, you must be committed to being an instrument of seeing.

- Since your children are worshipers, a vital skill for you is to learn how to lead them to confession.

- To say your children are worshipers means you have no power to free them from their biggest problem.

- Because your children are worshipers, your only hope for them is the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- We are more like our children than unlike them

Remember - no one gives grace better and more willingly than a person who has admitted that he desperately needs it himself. We are waging a daily battle of worship in our own lives, but are also a tool in this battle in the lives of our children. What will this look like for you this coming week?

Chapter 12: Control

The goal of parenting is not to control behavior, but rather heart and life change.

In your own words, lay out the differences between control and structure:

What do you see as your child's deepest needs - or what *did* you see them as prior to reading this chapter?

Look at the list below. What needs are easy for you to meet? What are more challenging? What is missing?

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| • Guidance | • Understanding |
| • Protection | • Confrontation |
| • Instruction | • Discipline |
| • Wisdom | • Warning |
| • Authority | • Love |
| • Rules | • Forgiveness |
| • Structure | • Security |
| • Preparation | |

Here's a quote from page 170 "He (God) has called you to the job of jobs, and he will be with you and provide for you every single thing you need. He called you to exercise faithful control, but never to be satisfied with the fact you have. Your dear children desperately need your parental control, but they will be be all God has designed them to be if that's all that you give them." What more are we called to as parents? What would be missing?

- Read Psalm 51

What strikes you from this Psalm? What challenged you in your own walk with God? What stuck out as something(s) to be sure and teach your children?

As we've already discussed, sin is blinding and makes promises it can't keep. It sells us something it can't deliver. Our children struggle with their own sinful desires, as well as the outcomes they're promised by their sin. We need to help them see what is clear to us and cloudy to them. We need to graciously offer wisdom, correction, and hope. We need to battle for hearts and continuously point them to the Savior who provides redemption for them.

As we wind down this chapter and this study, let's look over aspects of sin and how we as parents are given opportunities to provide hope and gospel truth. As you work through each one write down examples from your won life or the lives of those in your home. Ask God for wisdom and discernment to know how these things can practically show up in your everyday moments.

- Your children need to see their sin, so they'll cry out for God's mercy

- Your children need to understand the nature of sin, so they don't minimize its danger

- Your children need to understand that their problem is not with their parents, but with God

- Your children need to understand that sin is a nature problem that produces behavior problems

- Your children need to understand that since sin is a heart problem, the only solution is a new heart

- Your children need to be taught to run to the only place of hope: the forgiving grace of God

Be sure to take time to pray that God will continue to provide opportunities for you to teach, guide, and parent your children in the way they should go - and that you'll take advantage of every opportunity to point them to Jesus and partner with God and his work in their lives.

