

Saturday, October 21, 2023

Conversations that Count

Parenting Seminar Schedule

Speaker: William Smith



- 9:00am-9:15am: Welcome and Prayer
- 9:15am-10:00am: Section 1
- 10:00am-10:15am: Break
- 10:15am-11:00am: Section 2 + Section 3 (begin)
- 11:00am-11:15am: Break
- 11:15am-12:00pm: Section 3 (continued)
- 12:00pm-1:00pm: Lunch (Parents please pick up your kiddos and have lunch together)
- 1:00pm-1:45pm: Session 3 (continued)
- 1:45pm-2:00pm: Break
- 2:00pm-2:30pm: Section 4
- 2:30pm-3:00pm: Q&A
- 3:00pm: Seminar ends

Section 1 – Big Picture: Building Relationships Through Conversation

- God is the Original Conversationalist
 - He communicates within himself
 - He communicates to those made in his image so that they grow to be like him
 - He gives us the gift and responsibility of communicating like he does

- You Always Communicate:
 - Who you are as an Individual
 - What you are like in a relationship
 - An Invitation for future relationship

- Truth and Love are Intertwined
 - Harsh Truth – “truth” that tears down
 - Withdrawn Silence – “love” that keeps others weak
 - Truth in Love – Ephesians 4:15
 - Encourage
 - Honesty

- You Always Speak Out of Your Own Experience
- God gives You a New Experience as He Speaks to Restore Your Relationship with Him

- Discussion Questions:
 - Which side does your family tend toward—Harsh Truth or Unhelpful Silence?
 - Can you think of times in your life where you have experienced Encouragement or Honesty from the Lord that has moved you out of Harshness or Silence?

Section 2 – You Can Only Offer What You Have Experienced

- It's Easy to Undervalue Talking Like God Does
 - We choose our own comfort level over what our kids need
 - We're faced with things where we don't know what to say

- What Do We Need When We Fail to Speak Well?
 - Someone who can sympathize with us—who gets how hard conversations are
 - Someone who can restore us—who can empower us to enter conversations like he does

- Restored Persons Look for Opportunities to Help Restore Others with Their Words
 - They know what it is to experience God's love
 - They look for ways to communicate that love to others

Section 3 – Building Relational Bridges with Our Words

- Personal Skills
 - Think carefully before speaking
 - Strategically run to God for help
 - Ask, “What does it look like to show some of the mercy I’ve received?”

- Encouragement—Truth that Builds Up
 - When should you encourage?
 - Metaphor: Encouraging is like coaching
 - Practical Skills:
 - Initiate—communicate your interest
 - Catch your children doing something right

- Honesty—Love that Makes Others Strong
 - Confrontation that brings people together
 - Metaphor: Honesty is going on a rescue mission
 - Practical Skills:

- Share how you're tempted (in order to show your heart)
- Put your worst foot forward (in order to show Christ's heart)

Section 4 – Reorienting Our Parenting Expectations

- You Can't Make Your Kids Love God, but You Can Invite Them to Know Him
 - God speaks and acts with grace under even the worst conditions
 - Expect your kids to make mistakes—see those failures as opportunities
 - Invite your children to a relationship that they could want