

equip presents



CHRISTIAN PARENTING

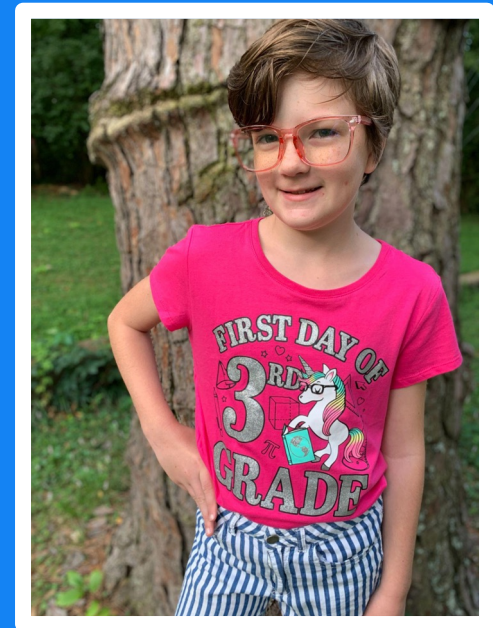


in sEX-obsessed Culture

Introductions

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Resources

equipyourcommunity.org/parentresource





TERMS & DEFINITIONS



Terms & Definitions

- **Intimacy** – close familiarity, friendship
- **Family** – a small group of Christians who live in close proximity, are intimately close in relationship, and embody the gospel for one another (Mt 12:50, Mk 3:35, Lk 8:21)
- **Relational vocation** – a calling to either Christian marriage or vocational singleness



Terms & Definitions

- **Discernment** – the process of coming before God with a question, seeking His guidance, coming to a conclusion, and moving forward into the calling
- **Sexual stewardship** – wisely managing our need and capacity for intimacy and family in God-honoring ways





WHY?

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?



Why?

- Because God expects this of us
 - o Ephesians 6:4
 - o Proverbs 22:6
- Research says parents have the most influence on their kids' sexual decisions



Why?

- Because our kids are surrounded by stories
 - o Our lives
 - o Bible
 - o Culture
 - o Enemy
- Someone is telling the story of sexual stewardship to your kids





CULTURE



Culture

- American culture tells a story about sexual stewardship
 - Intimacy = romance/sex
 - Sex is a need
 - Romantic/sexual relationships are a right
 - Denial of romance/sex is self-hating
 - Singleness is for self
 - Family has little meaning



Culture

- Cultural Christianity tells a story about sexual stewardship
 - Intimacy = romance, marriage, sex
 - Sex is a need
 - Marriage is a right
 - Denial of sex is good until marriage; denial of marriage is outside the norm
 - Singleness is pitied, not meaningful
 - Family beyond the “nuclear family” has little meaning



Culture

- Parents, one of our best defenses against the lies of culture and the Enemy is to teach our kids God's wisdom
- Tell your kids a Better Story





A BETTER STORY

SEXUAL STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL



A Better Story

Part One: What God created us for

Part Two: How things went wrong

Part Three: Hope



A Better Story

Part One – What God created us for
God created all of us to enjoy human intimacy in the context of life-long, lived-in family, and we find that family through one of the vocations God created: Christian marriage or vocational singleness. As our kids enter their young adult years, they will begin to discern with (ask) God which vocation He has given to them.



A Better Story

Part Two – How things went wrong

Humanity's sin has bent and broken the goodness of everything God created. We see the results of that bending and breaking everywhere. We are all broken in the area of sexuality, and none of us can do intimacy or family perfectly.

Encourage your child to share with you when they discover where broken sexuality is part of their story.



A Better Story

Part Three – Hope

We are still able to find beauty and goodness and flourish in this broken world because God offers us His wisdom through the Bible and the Church. When we follow God's wisdom, we'll find the greatest joy, the deepest meaning, and the richest belonging in this life.



A Better Story

Part One: What God created us for

- God created us with the capacity and need for intimacy in family, both with Him and with other humans



A Better Story

God designed two best ways for us to enjoy intimacy in the context of family: Christian marriage and vocational singleness.



A Better Story

- Vocational singleness is a lifetime call to give up romance, dating, marriage, sex, and children to do kingdom work
- parents struggle to find the time, energy, or financial freedom to do
- Christian marriage is a lifelong commitment between one Christian man and one Christian woman to embody the gospel and be open to raising children



A Better Story

One day your kids will get to ask God which relational vocation He wants them to seek out.

- God has a preference
- Our kids won't discern until much later, but we can put forth the expectation that one day they will discern



A Better Story

Part Two – How things went wrong



Sin is a willful disobeying of God's law

Brokenness is what happened when sin entered the world through Adam and Eve; their sin caused a chain reaction that bent or broke every perfect design and order (Rom 8:18-22)

A Better Story

- No one knows what it's like to experience sexuality like God intended.
- The way we experience intimacy, family, singleness, marriage, and sexuality are marred and dim versions of how God intended them to be (1 Cor 13:12)



A Better Story

- Parents focus on sexual sin, so they wait to talk about sexual stewardship until their kids are teens
- Kids will encounter the brokenness of the world and the sins of others before they begin to sin sexually themselves



A Better Story

- We see sexual brokenness in
 - infertility
 - widowing
 - intersex biology or physiology
 - gender dysphoria
 - same-sex attraction
 - culture's idolatry of romance
 - and more



A Better Story

- Your child could be sinned against
 - abuse
 - molestation
 - exposure to pornography
 - sexual jokes and slurs
 - and more



A Better Story

- The sin of others could affect your child
 - divorce in the family
 - parent or sibling addicted to pornography
 - parent who has an affair
 - abuse in the family
 - and more



A Better Story

- None of us can “do” intimacy, family, singleness, marriage, or sex perfectly
- Sin messes up the way God intended relationships and family to work



A Better Story



Part Three: Hope

- Encourage your kids to share
- Broken sexuality is not your child's fault
- God's design for sexual stewardship still applies
- God is not surprised or disappointed

A Better Story

- God is always at work
- We're still able to find beauty and goodness in the world
- Sin can't completely overcome what God created
- God shows our kids how to flourish through Scripture and the Church



A Better Story

- Continue to study: marriage, committed singleness, family in the body of Christ, discernment, God's family, etc





WHEN?



When?

- Puberty begins between age 8 and 14
- Kids become aware of sexual attractions around age 9 or 10
- The average age of exposure to pornography is 11 (some studies now say 8)
- 14% of kids will have sexual intercourse by age 15; over 50% by age 18



Side note

- Your child will know people who are LGBTQ+
- Your child could experience same-sex attraction or gender incongruence
- 1 of every 23 people experiences same-sex attraction or gender incongruence
- Teach your kids now that God's wisdom, expectations, and love is for everyone, regardless of who they're attracted or how they feel in their body



When?

- It's more helpful to ask Who? rather than When?
- Guide your child's understanding before culture answers the questions for them
- You want to be the approachable expert





BEST PRACTICES



Best Practices

- **Don't make it a big deal**
 - Normalize sex, body parts, singleness, babies, same-sex attraction, puberty, pornography, etc. as regular topics of conversation
 - Shame-free



Best Practices

- **Dozens of small conversations**
 - o Bite-sized
 - o Add more information, more nuance as your kids get older



Best Practices

- **Age-appropriate, honest answers**
 - o Give the information that is needed
 - o Don't lie
 - o Keep it age-appropriate



Best Practices

- **Avoid making assumptions**
 - Parents often make two assumptions about their kids:
 - 1) they'll be attracted exclusively to people of the opposite sex and
 - 2) they'll one day marry



Best Practices

- Small changes to vocabulary can have a big impact
 - o “If God calls you into a Christian marriage...”
 - o “As you discern your relational vocation...”
 - o “One day you’ll find someone attractive...”



Best Practices

- Marriage is good
- There are many reasons your child many never marry
 - a call into vocational singleness
 - a job best suited for singles
 - past or present experience
 - no suitable spouse available



Best Practices

- Daily pray (out loud!) that your child would submit every part of their lives to King Jesus, whatever He calls them into
- Our kids will know we won't be disappointed if they never marry or if they experience same-sex attraction





CONVERSATION MODELING



Conversation Modeling

Relational vocations

Age 2-6



Conversation Modeling

Relational vocations

Age 7-11



Conversation Modeling

Relational vocations

Age 12+

- Work these questions into conversation:
 - What is a vocation?
 - Is marriage or singleness better?
 - What is Christian marriage?
 - What is vocational singleness?



Conversation Modeling

Relational vocations

-Start early so your later
conversations have a foundation to
build on





GO AND DO





THANK
YOU



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