



## That kids wish their parents knew



### Getting Started

Share the best parenting advice you ever received.

Now share the worst piece of advice someone gave you.

### Going Deeper

**W**as there anything in this message that you connected with? Take a minute to share.

Parenting can be a real struggle, often times surrounded in guilt.

Do you ever take the time to reflect and evaluate how your doing?

Do you think there is a right way to parent?

Read [Judges 2: 6-11](#)

What do these verses imply about the importance of passing on Spiritual Legacy?

On Sunday Jack and Paul addressed four specific things that kids wanted their parents to know.

**1. It hurts me when you play favorites.**

Scripture calls us to not play favorites: [James 2:1](#), [1 Timothy 5:21](#)

There are many stories in the Bible of how favoritism has caused major family struggles.

-Jacob and Esau,

-Cain and Able, etc.

[A Psychology Today](#) article reinforces why Scripture calls us to not have favorites.

*Disfavored children experience worse outcomes across the board: more depression, greater aggressiveness, lower self-esteem, and poorer academic performance. And it's not all rosy for the favored children either - their siblings often come to resent them, poisoning those relationships.*

What things contribute to parents playing favorites?

Most parents would agree that playing favorites isn't planned. What steps/boundaries can parents put in place to help subside the drift toward favoring a child?

## **2. I want you to be aware of the pressure I'm under**

**K**ids today are under pressures that most of us never had to deal with. Everything from education to technological pressures of having to "have it all put together." The immediacy of technology and posts of the perfect home, relationships, body image, school, sports. The list goes on and on.

They feel pressure to do more, be better, achieve higher, and make more \$ than their parents.

With this in mind, read [Philippians 2:3-4](#).

What do these verses speak to?

What can parents do to be paying better attention to their children?

List different ways of reading your children's verbal and non verbal cues when they are becoming stressed.

When you notice their pressure, how can you engage to help them alleviate the stress?

## **3. I need you to forgive and let go of my mistakes**

**F**orgiveness is a big concept in scripture. It's the hallmark of what Jesus was about, extending Mercy and Grace to all people.

You may have heard the phrase, *Forgive and Forget*.

What we have encouraged is to Forgive and Let go of their mistakes.

Whats the difference between "Letting go of their mistakes, and forgetting their mistakes?" Do you see a distinction and how does that play out?

How did Jesus deal with those who made mistakes?

Someone once said, Rules without Relationship leads to Rebellion.

What steps can we take to help guide and navigate our kids lives without causing them to want rebel?

Sometimes its not easy to be compassionate etc. when kids continue to act out.

Read [Colossians 3:12-14](#).

The one things that binds us together must be emphasized.

How do we do that?

What does it look like in your family?

#### **4) I need you to be a spiritual leader for me**

Take a few minutes to discuss the roles of parents as spiritual leaders?

What types of things can parents be doing to help lead their children?

How does that roles transition as kids get older and even become parents themselves?

*I once heard of a man who went into his daughter's room and prayed over her every night after she fell asleep. Eventually the little girl grew up and left for college.*

*The following Christmas she came home for a visit.*

*Talking to her mother one afternoon, she said, "Daddy still prays for me every night even though I'm away at college, doesn't he?"*

*"How in the world did you know that?" her mother replied.*

*The daughter replied with confidence,*

*"I can still see his knee marks in the carpet next to my old bed."*

Read [Deuteronomy 6:6-9](#)

These verses speak to the idea of making God part of your every day conversation.

How can we apply these verses tangibly to our parenting?

**Take a few minutes to pray for your children and for the parents as we learn to apply what we have learned.**

