



Getting Started

Can you think of a time when you literally had to chase your child?

What is the area in your life that you are most likely to spend time chasing after?
Kids? Work? Money? Security?

How do you think your chase can effect your family?

Going Deeper

Of all the aspects of life that we chase, chasing our children seems like the most noble, unless you talk to Jesus. Read Jesus words in the following verses and talk about what you think Jesus is trying to say.

[*Matthew 19:27-30*](#)

[*Luke 14:25-27*](#)

Most people would agree, at least in theory, that putting work and money ahead of family is a bad idea. Based on what you've observed in your life and the lives of other people around you, do you think there is also a danger in putting children above everything else in life? If you can, give some examples.

What promise does God make to people and families if they put Him first in their lives?

[*Psalm 37:23-26*](#)

[*Psalm 112:1-3*](#)

[*Jeremiah 32:38-39*](#)

What are some real life ways that you think God blesses families if those families put Him first?

It seems as though the singular message we are projecting onto our kids is "hurry up!" How have you seen this lived out in the lives of people around you? How has this tendency snuck into your family relationships?

If you were to be totally honest, do any of the following questions pop into your mind when it comes to your children and what they are involved in?

- What is your kid doing?
- What are all the other children involved in?
- When are you putting him into preschool? What preschool?
- Where is your kid going?
- What does it take to get in the Harvard track?
- What test scores are they getting in Japan?

Has the idea ever entered your mind to push your child to work harder in sports, or school, or theater or whatever because you wished you had worked harder when you are younger? ("If I could only go back I would try harder") What is the danger in this line of thinking?

Take a moment to read this quote by David Elkind from the book "The Unhurried Child."

The irony is that no one believes in hurrying children. No parent, educator, or legislator I ever spoke to believes in pressuring children to do things well beyond what they are capable of doing. "I don't believe in hurrying children but," And there is always a but. A parent says, "I don't believe in hurrying but if I don't put my child in soccer, he will have no one to play with and won't make the team. And the educator says I don't believe in hurrying but the curriculum says I have to teach reading in kindergarten. The legislator says she does not believe in hurrying but that is what her constituents want. If we want healthy, happy children who can compete in an increasingly global economy we have to get beyond the But. We have to use what we know about healthy childrearing and education.

How have you seen people (and maybe even yourself) hurry children?

Read over the following 10 ways we can prevent our kids from chasing.

Circle the ones you want to adopt in your own family. Are there any you would add to this list?

- 1) Keep'em young... slowdown the exposure. Hold back on sleepovers, party buses, music, movies, books, clothes, video games, phones.
- 2) Don't let them date until they are 16.
- 3) Don't allow yourself to get caught up in everyone else's fear about college.
- 4) Allow your kids to play sports not compete in sports.
- 5) Eat family dinners together.
Family dinners give you the opportunity to slow the chase.
- 6) Mandatory Family Nights. These become a night where all technology is turned off, plan, make and clean up dinner together, play games and finish with family devotional. They will look forward to them!
- 7) Take them out once a year to buy a devotional book.
- 8) Slow down. Model REST and relaxation. Take a family walk after dinner. Grab a picnic after church.
- 9) Get involved in Gods work in the world and take them with you .
If you want some ideas, go to our outreach page on our website.
- 10) It's never too late to model new behavior. To chase after God.

