

The Big Idea: Parents that pastor grow Christians faster.

The Big Oh!: God doesn't expect the Church to care for you children's souls. He expects YOU to. You are your children's senior pastor!

We saw in these photos that some families cherish a very special moment in their past. Maybe a little too much... We don't want to have to recreate sparse special moments in our family's past. We want to live out daily a dynamic, Spirit-filled God honoring family unit.

If we can learn to start pastoring our children we won't have to cling for dear life to a memory or two from the past wishing to revisit it.

Right out of the box we must address a few things:

1. Many of you are not parents yet or maybe do not desire to and feel like checking out.
2. Some of you are battling infertility and this will hurt a little (or a lot) today.
3. Some of you have grown children out of the house and feel this either no longer applies or you've missed your chance.
4. Some of you are single (or spiritually single) moms and will hear and read the Bible put the bulk of spiritual leadership responsibilities on the husband/father and wonder where you fit in the picture.

## 1.) What does the Bible say about it?

- a. Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:18-21
- b. Psalm 78:1-7
- c. Ephesians 6:1-4

*\*This is a call for YOU to pastor you kids by integrating Jesus into their daily lives, NOT taking them to church once or twice a week and hoping for the best. Don't cross your fingers over your child's soul. Listen to God and do your role!*

*"Parents love their children the deepest, know them the best, and are with them the most. They are best suited to be a child's primary pastor who evangelizes them, teaches them, loves them, prays for and with them, and reads scripture to them." -Mark Driscoll*

## 2.) Why should I?

Cultures are built every day:

- culture of losing  
(Panthers...)
- culture of success
- culture of hard work
- culture of apathy
- \*Kayda and Siri

**cul·ture**  *noun* \ˈkʌl-cher\  
[The word 'cul·ture' is shown in a blue box with a speaker icon and the phonetic transcription \ˈkʌl-cher\]

: the beliefs, customs, arts, etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time

: a particular society that has its own beliefs, ways of life, art, etc.

: a way of thinking, behaving, or working that exists in a place or organization (such as a business)

a. You build a culture of Jesus (**Romans 6:6, Galatians 2:20**)

\*make common everyday life turn back to Jesus

\*turn ordinary conversations into spiritual conversations

ex: Son-Billy is a Duke fan

Dad-There will always be evil in this world son until Jesus, the perfect returns

ex: Daughter-Some of these girls are really mean to another girl and I feel bad for her

Mother-That's conviction of the Holy Spirit to intervene for someone's good and be Jesus to that girl

ex: Children-Can we go watch Paranormal Activity 8 with our friends?

Dad-Spiritual warfare is a real thing and it's not healthy to treat it lightly

ex: Parent lovingly rebuking a child who has sinned because Jesus calls us to holiness

\*You build a culture of Jesus by not just making Him savior, but Lord. By not just believing what He says but following what He says. By reflecting your life in Him in all you do.

b. You build a culture of longevity (**Proverbs 3:1-6**)

\*We've all heard the statistics about kids leaving the church after high school. Our first instinct is to point at the church and say "Do more." Now that I'm a parent and the more I read scripture I'm looking in the mirror and saying "Try harder dad. Fight for her soul."

\*I would fight for her life! If someone's is attacking my daughter I would destroy them!

\*\*\*HOW MUCH MORE IMPORTANT IS HER SOUL?!?!?!?

There is an attacker. There is any enemy. There is something I can do about it.

\*The Bible says if you pastor and cultivate their souls your children will not walk away from Him.

\*\*\*I know that makes some of you cringe and start saying but, but, but,

\*\*\*Or you want to point your finger at me and say wait until Kayda is a teenager

\*\*\*I'm not condemning or critiquing your parenting if your son or daughter walked away

\*\*\*I'm just reading you Scripture and God's expectations and saying go above and beyond.

c. You build a culture of multiplication (**Psalms 78:6-7**)

\*My grandfather has resulted in 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and 2 more on the way. Hopefully that expands to 10 great grands which could result in 20-30 great great grands, which could result in 60-90 great great great grands and so on.

\*\*\*From one man. Multiply. And if you're pastoring your kids so as to build a culture of Jesus that lasts their whole life, they will multiply that into their homes and pastor their kids who will pastor their kids and after a few generations you will have bred an army of devout followers of Jesus, not religious pew sitters that only think about God an hour on Sundays or atheists that deny His very existence.

**Do you see the weight??? Do you see what is at stake???**

\*Parents are responsible for their children’s souls, and accountable when they fall down on that responsibility. Who does the shop owner expect to pay for the \$1,000 vase your 8 year old broke?

It’s evident from scripture and obviously a fruitful practice for you to be senior pastor, so...

**\*If you are not shaping your child’s worldview, morality, heart and mind, someone or something unholy will.**

\*If we will submit our families to Jesus, He will transform them just like He is transforming us as individuals. How awesome to think Jesus would shape your family relationships?

\*And if this all sounds like a stretch, you could do a lot worse than doing church @ home.

\*\*\*Actively waiting v/s Passively waiting (because your kids **WILL** grow up into adulthood)

Process	Passively Waiting	Actively Waiting
Cut on finger	leave it alone and try not to touch it or get it dirty	clean, medicate and bandage
Newly planted tree	put in the ground you hope is nutrient rich and wait for rain	plant in conditioned soil, water, fertilize and prune regularly
Final Exam	wait until test day	study, prepare, memorize
Bus	hope a bus comes by	go to the train stop according to the time it should come, buy a ticket and be ready to board

### 3.) What does it look like and how do I start?

\*It’s incorporating what we’re calling “Family Worship”:

a. Praying FOR and WITH your family

- Prayers of adoration (Matthew 6:9-13, Psalm 19)
- Prayers of confession (1 John 1:9, James 4:8)
- Prayers of intercession (James 5:16, 1 Timothy 2:1)
- Prayers of thanksgiving (Psalm 7:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

b. Read and discuss Scripture together

*“God has chosen to work through His Word. It is the seed that is scattered and produces fruit (Mark 4:1-20). It is “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). It is true and without error. It is living and active (Hebrews 4:12). In these pages is life, light, truth, and the promise of peace and eternal joy. Why would we ever seek to give our children something less?”*

*{A Neglected Grace pg. 53}*

c. Sing to and adore Jesus together

-**Psalm 96; 150**

*“Our primary reason for engaging in family worship is the glory of God. God is honored and glorified as a Christian family gathers to commune with Him, receive from Him, and give praise, adoration and thanksgiving to Him. Family worship is a living banner that speaks louder than any sign over our mantlepiece or engraving on the wall which loudly proclaims, “As for me and my house we will serve the Lord!” (Joshua 24:15) {A Neglected Grace pg. 40}*

Will you covenant with God and your church to pastor your family well, worship God with them in your home, and invest wholeheartedly in their souls?

Men, will you bring your family to the altar to pray over them and commit to leading them well, whatever the cost, whatever it take?