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Intentional Parent Formation Framework

Small habits – regular rhythms you build into your days

Big moments – memorable experiences you plan into your year

Strategic relationships – relationships you nurture for a season

Intentional Parenting series by the data...

Week One - data on the major influences in kids' lives

Week Two - data on the effectiveness of parenting styles

Week Three - data on smartphones, social media, and mental health

Week Four - data on what kind of faith parents are actually passing down

Religious Parenting

- What parents are passing down to kids, isn't biblical faith
- It is a Christianized version of "the American Dream"
- The American Dream: "If you work hard, try your best, and make good choices, you'll live a good and happy life."
- Most parents see religion as a means to the higher goal of attaining this for their kids.

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What is the purpose of life?

1. Find happiness

(enjoy success and positive psychological feelings)

2. Be good

(do what is morally right)

What is the purpose of religion?

Religion is primarily there to help us attain this happiness and goodness.

Why parents should pass down their faith?

Parents are responsible for preparing kids for life, and religion can help with that.

What role should religious congregations play in your parenting?

“Religious congregations should reinforce what parents teach at home, not determine it. Reasonable parents hold only modest expectations for what congregations offer them and their children. Most helpful is when congregations provide a general sense of an inviting, comfortable community and some positive experiences for children. Kid-appealing programs and some teaching of the moral basics are also great. Congregations that do things to make time spent there fun for children make getting kids to participate less of a headache, and so are particularly attractive and appreciated. But specifically “religious” aspects of congregations—like theology, liturgy, and doctrine—are not especially important when it comes to parenting.”

“We were continually struck during our interviews by what seemed to be a gap between what religious identity, practices, and beliefs meant to parents and what it means to the “professional” religious leaders of parents’ religious institutions. The particular doctrines, standards, and priorities of their own religious traditions seem to be not terribly important to most American religious parents. Instead, for most, religion is primarily a good resource for getting along well in this life, for coping, succeeding, and maintaining good relationships.”

-Smith and Adamczyk

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Matthew 26:38-39

Jesus told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.” He went on a little farther and bowed with His face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from Me. Yet I want Your will to be done, not Mine.”

John 4:34

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to complete His work."

Ethic of Perceived Harm

Is it harmful?
Then it's bad.

Ethic of the Cross

Is it cross-shaped?
Then it's good.

What kind of faith are religious parents actually passing down?

- It's not theological, it's therapeutic.
- It's not salvific, it's moralistic.
- It's not foundational, it's supplementary.
- It's not theocentric, it's anthropocentric.
- It's not eternal it's a temporal.
- It's not the God life, it's the good life.
- The researchers called it a "this-worldly resource" and a "personal identity accessory"
- The religiosity we're passing to our kids can help them be happy, successful, and nice, but it can't save their souls.

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Travel Ball Formation Framework

Small habits – hit in cage most days, practice 3x a week, watch MLB before bed

Big moments – play in out-of-town tourneys

Strategic relationships – get them on best travel team possible (costs \$1600, equipment not included)

Luke 2:52

Jesus grew (1) in wisdom and (2) in stature and (3) in favor with God (4) and all the people.

Wisdom – What are the truths they must understand about God, life, and themselves?

Stature – What must they gain for physical development, mental wellness, and emotional health?

Favor with God – What must be true of their relationship with God and service to the Kingdom?

Favor with Others – What must be true of how they relate with others (you, opposite sex, friends, church, elders/authorities, enemies, etc.) and contribute to broader society?

Small Habit

Every school day, we have a devo time where we prayerfully engage God's Word.

"The Power of Four"

- Center for Bible Engagement (2009)
- Surveyed 40,000 people ages 8 to 80
- When people engage Scripture 1-2x/week, negligible effect
- When people engage Scripture 3x/week, small effect
- When people engage Scripture 4x/week, explosive results
- This could include Bible study, Scripture listening, devotional reading, church sermons, etc. The study showed little discrimination when it came to what qualified as engaging with Scripture.

UNHEALTHY PATTERNS OF LIFE

- Alcoholism dropped 57%
- Sex outside of marriage dropped 68%
- Viewing pornography dropped 61%

UNHEALTHY PATTERNS OF THOUGHT

- Feeling lonely dropped 30%
- Anger issues dropped 32%
- Bitterness in relationships dropped 40%

VIRAL & VITAL PATTERNS OF FAITH

- Feeling spiritually stagnant dropped 60%
- Sharing your faith jumped 200%
- Discipling others jumped 230%

Big Moments

Every summer, we go on a rite of passage trip.

- a. Relationship Building
- b. Maturity
- c. Teaching

Strategic Relationships

Teachers and Coaches

	Wisdom	Stature	Favor With God	Favor With Others
Small Habits				
Big Moments				
Key Relationships				

Intentional Parenting Resources



**Formation
Framework
Worksheet**