

Valuing A Child

This is the last session of Course One. Thank you, treasured one, for sticking in there for these twelve sessions. In course one we have sought to have parents and grandparents see the value of what they are doing, the challenges they face with the wolves their offspring face, and the callings and responsibilities they have to fulfill those callings or ministries.

For some class members, this might seem like what we have covered is enough. This is why this last session is emphasizing the value of children as Jesus tells us and as we already know if we think about it. If we truly value our children, then there is more to learn. In fact, in Course Two we are going to introduce helpful tools and wise skills with which to equip our precious young. If young people are to be able to defend themselves against the wolves, the evil doers out there, they need to be equipped with the appropriate weapons they will need.

So Course Two is very different than Course One. Not only will it assist class members to pass on the faith, it will show members what it will take to keep them safe. Much thought and gathering of resources has gone into Course Two. It would be good for you as leader to acquaint yourself with some of the power point lessons in Course Two so you, yourself have come to believe the value and opportunity Course 2 is for those who have come this far. What you come to terms with will help class members also come to terms with what they need so grasp for the sake of their precious young.

My daughter was trafficked and after years passed; I began to ask myself a question. “Why is it that we hear so little about the value a parent is to a child, a grandparent to a child?” One statement that haunts me still is from a teenage boy in a poor and unsafe neighborhood. He asked my wife, “Why is it that the only people who seem to care about me are those who are being paid to do so?” I have come to realize we are not addressing this boy’s question directly and with real commitment.

He put his finger on something. We live in a society where the value of someone is often evaluated in terms of money, what people are worth can easily be assessed according to their income and bank account. People who get noticed and heard are usually people who are making large sums or are famous, often in the public eye or have super skills. We might not be able to recognize this clearly until we confront one missing piece in our culture and churches.

Where do we put our emphasis in our churches? Is it not on pastors, Sunday school teachers, etc. In our culture is it not teachers, coaches, doctors, lawyers, actors, musicians and politicians? These people are supposedly the experts who know better than parents or grandparents on what it takes to raise a successful child. Most of these so-called experts mentioned above do value one’s child but with limited contact. However, without wise and committed parenting and yes, grandparenting, how far is that child going to get in life?

How much is the media and social media, the main influences on most American children lifting up and seeking to support family leaders? How often do you hear in your own church that those who have



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the major influence on the children and put the most value on their lives are the parents and the grandparents? In this class we have to turn this whole conversation about valuing a child around 180 degrees.

It would be good for the young, the families and the congregation if a class like this would be required much like confirmation. But it is not. Therefore, each parent and grandparent in a congregation needs to come to terms with their own callings, the value of their own offspring, the vital importance of what they can provide. When they do that, they will realize how valuable this class is. Just to be with other parents and grandparents in discussing these crucial matters is such a golden opportunity not to be missed.

Here we are not just taking a college course soon forgotten but we are dealing with the very substance of the short lives we have to live on this earth. So pray for your class and what can be said to have them move on into Course Two. Make sure you are ready to have them sign up for it at the end of this class. What they talk about in this Session Twelve will get them thinking why they want to go forward. If they procrastinate and put off making a decision, all the priorities of the world will beckon. Excuses like "I'm too busy" will again assert themselves. Have them boldly sign up and decide on a date to start Course Two.

We understand, don't we, that what is being discussed and shared in these classes is different than what most people and our society are looking at. Therefore we need to keep focused, keep encouraging, keep honoring the callings people have before God. God is in the middle of this ready to build each of us up and in doing so build up the lives of our youth and the workings of the whole body of Christ.

To go along with this session, you could refer people to watch Pastor Al Erickson's Sermon at Luther Seminary which is available on the [Adultssavingkids.org](https://adultssavingkids.org) website ([Pastor Erickson's Sermon at Luther Seminary on 10/24/2023](#)).

Introduce Course Two

Any effort worth its salt will be sustained and equipped to not just pretend to be effective. When a student enters a medical school, they will be challenged to the max to become the doctors people need them to be. The training they receive will need to prove itself when the doctor produced starts to work with patients. Only then will the fruits of their education and hands on residential program reveal themselves. Sick people will look for healing, not just a hope this works for you approach.

In like manner now that a parent or grandparent has finished course one, have they learned and shared all there is to know and do? Not be a long shot. What they have experienced is how important they are. They have gotten a taste of the challenges they face in being the parent or grandparent they need to be in today's world. They have started to recognize they have major competition when it comes to having a meaningful influence on their offspring.



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Course Two will equip them to discover more what it will take to pass on the faith, to be in prayer for their precious young ones, to discover the wise skills available to pass on to their young ones. There is much more to learn and discuss. Even though a freshman might have done well in his or her classes that does not mean they can skip over being a sophomore. We know how it took Jesus' disciples three years to really catch on to what he was about and how they could then share what they had received. As family leaders we need and deserve to receive and grasp what will enable us to fulfill our callings. We know that will take real effort on our part. This is why Course Two becomes a gift to enable that needed training to happen. God is giving family leaders what will help them mature in their great callings.