



How to Fight for What Matters // Jeff Brodie // October 6th, 2024

Our anxious culture is quick to argue, and it can spill over into our relationships. Every family has its share of fights—some are icy and distant, while others are fiery and intense. Conflict is inevitable in any relationship, and disagreements happen at all ages. Things can get heated in the moment. But the real question is, how do we fight with the end in mind? How do we fight for each other instead of *with* each other? In this message, we're going to look at a biblical principle around how rules and relationships work, and how to build spiritual influence in the lives of our kids for the long haul.

Scripture: [Deuteronomy 6:4-6; 20-25 NLT](#); [Ephesians 4:29 NLT](#); [Proverbs 20:7 NLT](#); [Philippians 3:8 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: Fight for the kids you love in how you speak, in what you do, and in who you are becoming.

Discuss:

Reminder: The goal is always a good discussion, not completing every question. Use these as a tool to help.

1. Would you say you fight hot or cold? Does your family fight hot or cold?
2. Why do you think it's so easy for us to get caught up in the moment when we fight, instead of fighting with the end in mind? Why do you think the people closest to us often get the worst of us?
3. What is your hope for your relationship with your family long-term? What would you hope they would say at your funeral?
4. Read [Deuteronomy 6:4-6; 20-25](#) together. Keep in mind that this is one of the very first times the Israelites were instructed to love God versus worship, fear, or obey him. How would that intimate (even personal) invitation change things? How might this change the way they saw God and understood what it meant to obey him?
5. If rules work best when they are tied to relationship, how do you think you should change the way you communicate/interact with the people you love?
6. Over the long term, we want to have a spiritual influence on the lives of the kids we love. Jeff shared the Building Blocks of Influence:

- The block of **Relationship** is built on the trust that you are fighting for the person, not with them. Read [Ephesians 4:29](#). How could you cultivate trust in the life of someone with whom you want to build a relationship? (Tip #1: Communicate in a way that gives the relationship value. Tip #2: Harness the power of doing the awkward thing.)
 - The block of **Integrity** is based on living a life that matches the faith values you speak with your lips. Read [Proverbs 20:7](#). When it comes to truly following Jesus with your whole life, where do you find it hardest to live with integrity? What is the barrier to close the gap between what you say about faith in Jesus and how you actually live day by day?
 - The block of **Inspire** is developed by modelling consistent faith steps that grow (not shrink) as you age. Read [Philippians 3:8](#). What do you find encouraging about this and what do you find challenging? What faith step(s) could you take today that would inspire your kids and be a story they would tell?
7. Which of the Building Blocks of Influence do you think you are at, and what would it take to build to the next one?

Moving Forward:

Decide which influence block you are building in the life of a child or in your family, and decide one step you can take this week to move it forward. Pray for each other—that you would fight for your family/the kids you love in how you speak, in how you live, and in who you are becoming.