



Parent Trap // Jeff Brodie // September 15, 2024

We get it—kids today are carrying around a lot of anxiety, and let's be honest, parenting isn't exactly a breeze either. In fact, sometimes the adults aren't okay. What if the reason many of us aren't okay is an ancient and timeless one? What would it mean to look at the experience of the kids around us through a biblical lens? In this message, we'll dive into one of the biggest traps people fall into when they care deeply about a kid. More importantly, we'll unpack how breaking free from this trap can completely shift the atmosphere in your home and transform the way you love and support the kids in your life.

Scripture: [Deuteronomy 6:3-12 NLT](#); [2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: The goal isn't to raise an independent child, it's to raise a God dependent adult.

Discuss:

1. Anyone who's had a parent or been a parent knows there are moments when parents really aren't sure what they're doing. Do you remember a moment like that with your parent(s) or with your own parenting? What happened?
2. Many studies show that, for better or worse, parents are often the most significant influence in our lives. How would you say a parent figure in your life has shaped you?
3. In this series, we're talking about kids in our lives who we want to help flourish. Who is a child in your life you really care about?
4. Jeff shared a little about what kids around us are experiencing in today's culture when it comes to anxiety and depression. What concerns you about this?
5. Both an atheist (Jonathan Haidt) and Jeff expressed that how we help children handle the God-shaped hole in their life impacts their level of anxiety and desire for meaning. How have you seen this in the lives of the people around?
6. Read [Deuteronomy 6:3-12](#) together. In this passage, you see how ancient Jews were instructed and inspired by Moses to spiritually walk with the next generation. What principles found in this passage and unpacked in the message really stick out to you?
7. When you look at these verses, how do they help you as you think about spiritually walking with: i. an adult son or daughter; ii. a niece/nephew/grandchild; iii. a child of a friend you care about; iv. a young son or daughter?

8. Jeff made this point: The goal of a community isn't to raise independent children but God-dependent adults. What resonates with you about that phrase? What do you agree and/or disagree with?
9. Why do you think we sometimes get caught up in making ourselves dependent on our kids (or kids we care about) for meaning? What are the traps you've experienced there?
10. If our goal isn't to be perfect but to point the kids we care about to Jesus, what does this look like through different stages of a relationship? As we point kids of all ages to the Father who loves them perfectly, how is that challenging? How does it give us peace?

Moving Forward:

This week, choose a child(ren) who you're going to pray for through this series. Looking back at Sunday's message, how could you be intentional in a small way to spiritually walk with this child(ren) you care about? If you're looking for some helpful resources, you can find those [here](#) including Jeff's podcast interview with Chris Tompkins.