



STICKY PARENTING

Raising Children Whose Faith Holds

Formation. Faith. Family.



Picture your child at 25.

Who do you hope they have become?

What Matters Most?

When you look past the grades, the achievements, and the milestones — what do you truly hope for?

Faith

A living trust in God that endures

Wisdom

Knowing how to live well

Character

Integrity when no one is watching

Courage

To stand for what is true

Purpose

A life shaped by calling

Love for God

The first and greatest commandment



Our deepest hopes for our children are about **who they become** — not simply what they accomplish.

WHO ARE THEY BECOMING?

We spend enormous energy preparing our children for what they will do.

Parenting asks us to pay even deeper attention to who they are becoming.

Achievement, performance, and résumés are not the final measure. Character, faith, and wisdom are.

Every child is being formed.

The question is not *whether* they are being formed.
The question is *what* is forming them.

Family

Friends

School

Church

Culture

Algorithms

FULLER YOUTH INSTITUTE · STICKY FAITH

Parents still matter.

Parents remain the #1 influence on the spirituality of young people — even teenagers.

You may feel outmatched by culture, peers, and screens. The research says otherwise.
Your presence, your faith, your faithfulness — they land. They stick.



שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל

"Hear, O Israel..."

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

The oldest and most enduring pattern of family formation in Scripture.



Before God addresses the child...

God addresses the parent.

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

— Deuteronomy 6:5

The biblical pattern of formation does not begin with children's programming or youth group attendance. It begins with the formation of **you**.

What does your life teach your child about God?

How do you handle failure?

What makes you anxious?

How do you speak about others?

How do you apologize?

What receives your attention?

What do you celebrate?

Children learn Christianity partly by watching what Christianity does to their parents.

DEUTERONOMY 6:7

Faith in the Ordinary

God's design for family formation is remarkably, intentionally *ordinary*. Faith is not confined to Sunday mornings. It is woven into the texture of every day.

1

SIT

Conversations at the table

2

WALK

Life on the move together

3

LIE DOWN

Bedtime, prayers, rest

4

GET UP

A new morning, a fresh start

The Hidden Curriculum of Home

Every home teaches. The question is what it teaches when no one is paying attention.

What We Say Matters

- Jesus
- Faith
- Character
- Truth
- Serving Others

What Our Life May Say Matters

- Achievement
- Comfort
- Appearance
- Popularity
- Busyness

Both curricula are being absorbed — simultaneously.

**If your children could watch your life but
never hear your words...**

What would they conclude matters most?



"Train up a child in the way he should go—but be sure you go that way yourself."

Charles Spurgeon

"The home is the first and most enduring
classroom of faith."

Formation happens in ordinary moments — *repeated over
time.*

Not in grand spiritual events. In car rides, bedtime conversations, how you speak at
dinner, and what you do when things go wrong.





SECTION FOUR · DISCIPLINE

Love has a backbone.

"The Lord disciplines the one he loves..."

— Hebrews 12:6

Loving our children well sometimes means not rescuing them from discomfort. The same God who calls Himself our Father disciplines those He loves.

YOU ARE THEIR PARENT BEFORE YOU ARE THEIR FRIEND.

Your child already has friends. God gave them parents.



**THEY DON'T HAVE TO LIKE
EVERY DECISION YOU MAKE.**

**THEY NEED TO LEARN
TO RESPECT YOUR AUTHORITY.**

Love sometimes says yes. Love sometimes says no. Love remains either way.

DON'T TRADE AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL.



Child becomes upset



Parent feels uncomfortable



Boundary changes



Child learns: emotion changes authority

**Children need the security of knowing
the adults are willing to be adults.**

**THE ROLE OF THE PARENT IS TO BREAK
THE WILL WITHOUT BREAKING THE
SPIRIT.**

If we fail to do the first, the real world may eventually do both.

— Jeff Lawrence

**DON'T CRUSH THE SPIRIT.
FORM THE WILL.**

DISCIPLINE IS TRAINING

STOP

"You may not do that."

CONSEQUENCE

Allow the choice to cost something.

CONVERSATION

Move toward the heart.

RESTORATION

Forgiveness. Grace.

PRACTICE

"Let's try that again."

DON'T INTERRUPT EVERY CONSEQUENCE.

CHOICE

CONSEQUENCE

REFLECTION

WISDOM

Am I helping my child through this difficulty...

or preventing this difficulty from teaching them?

FREEDOM FOLLOWS FAITHFULNESS.

AS RESPONSIBILITY GROWS ↑

- Trust ↑
- Freedom ↑

AS RESPONSIBILITY SHRINKS ↓

- Trust ↓
- Freedom ↓

Phone · Curfew · Car · Friends · Dating · Money · Social Media

MATURITY EXPANDS FREEDOM.

THE BOUNDARY REMAINS. THE RELATIONSHIP REMAINS.

Your child can be disappointed with your decision and completely secure in your love.



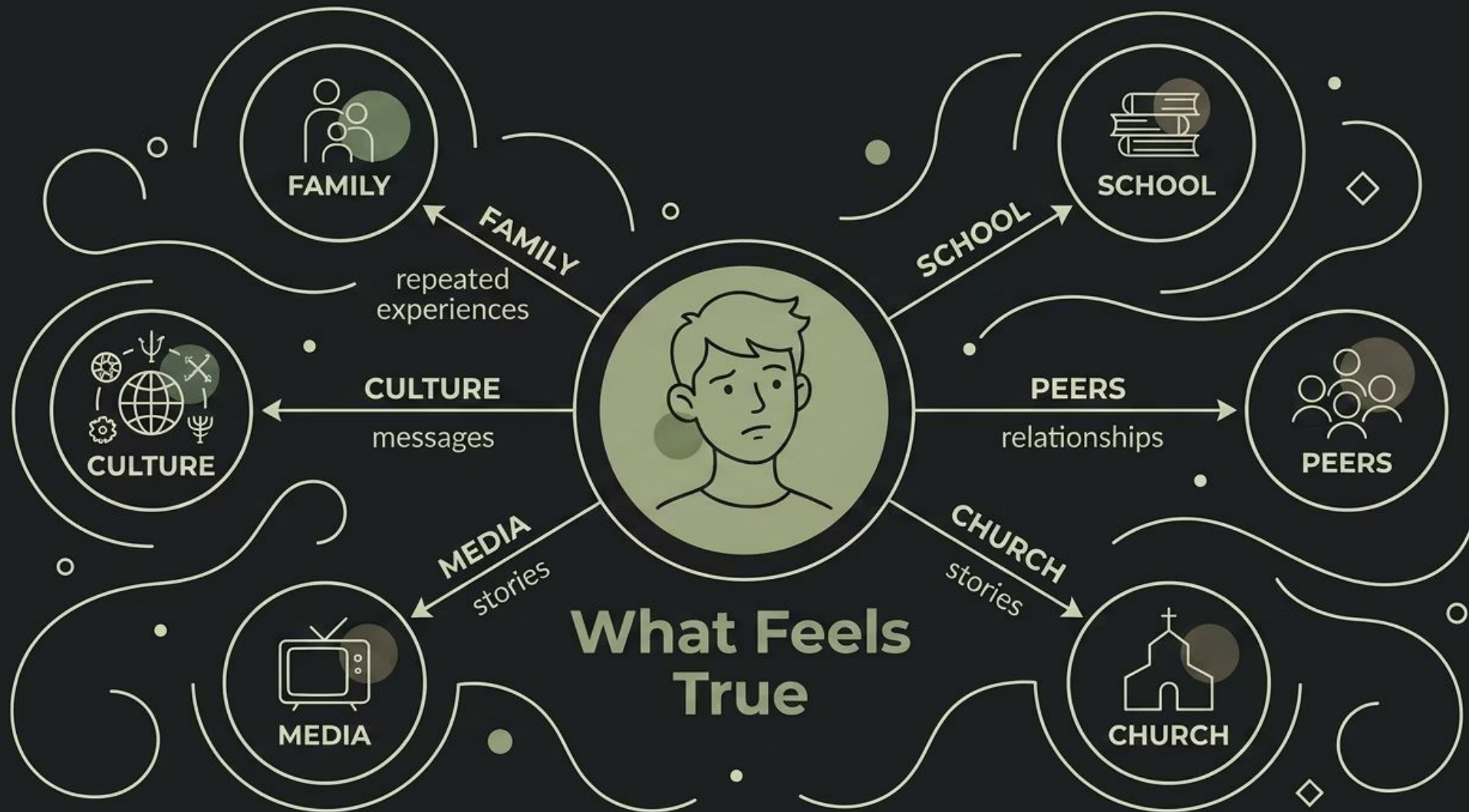


PARENT NOW. FRIEND LATER.

**"Don't sacrifice the possibility of friendship tomorrow
because you needed your child's approval today."**

— Jeff Lawrence

Who Else Is Forming Your Child?



Worldview is not decided in a single moment. It is formed through what is repeated, celebrated, shown, and felt — over years.

Who Is Discipling Their Attention?

Social media is a formation environment.

Every platform, every feed, every algorithm is shaping what your child sees, desires, fears, and believes about themselves and the world.

- ❏ This slide is a placeholder for the Logodox social media formation graphic. Insert existing Logodox image here.



How Formation Happens

Repetition forms perception.

1

See It

First exposure — feels foreign

2

See It Again

And again. And again.

3

Becomes Familiar

The edge of discomfort fades

4

Feels Normal

Baseline expectations shift

5

Feels True

Perception has been formed

What does the algorithm know about your child's heart?

| What captures their attention?

| What makes them insecure?

| Whose approval do they crave?

| What keeps them watching?

The digital question is not simply about screen time. It is about **desire, identity, attention, and formation.**



Our children are watching our phones too.

Do they experience themselves as more important than the device in your hand?

This is not a guilt question. It is an invitation — to the most countercultural act a parent can perform in the digital age: **full, unhurried presence.**

Build a Home with Rhythms of Grace

Return to the Shema. Sit. Walk. Lie down. Rise. Formation happens through practices repeated faithfully over time — not perfectly, but persistently.

Prayer

Turn toward God together — in the ordinary, in the difficult, in the grateful.

Gratitude

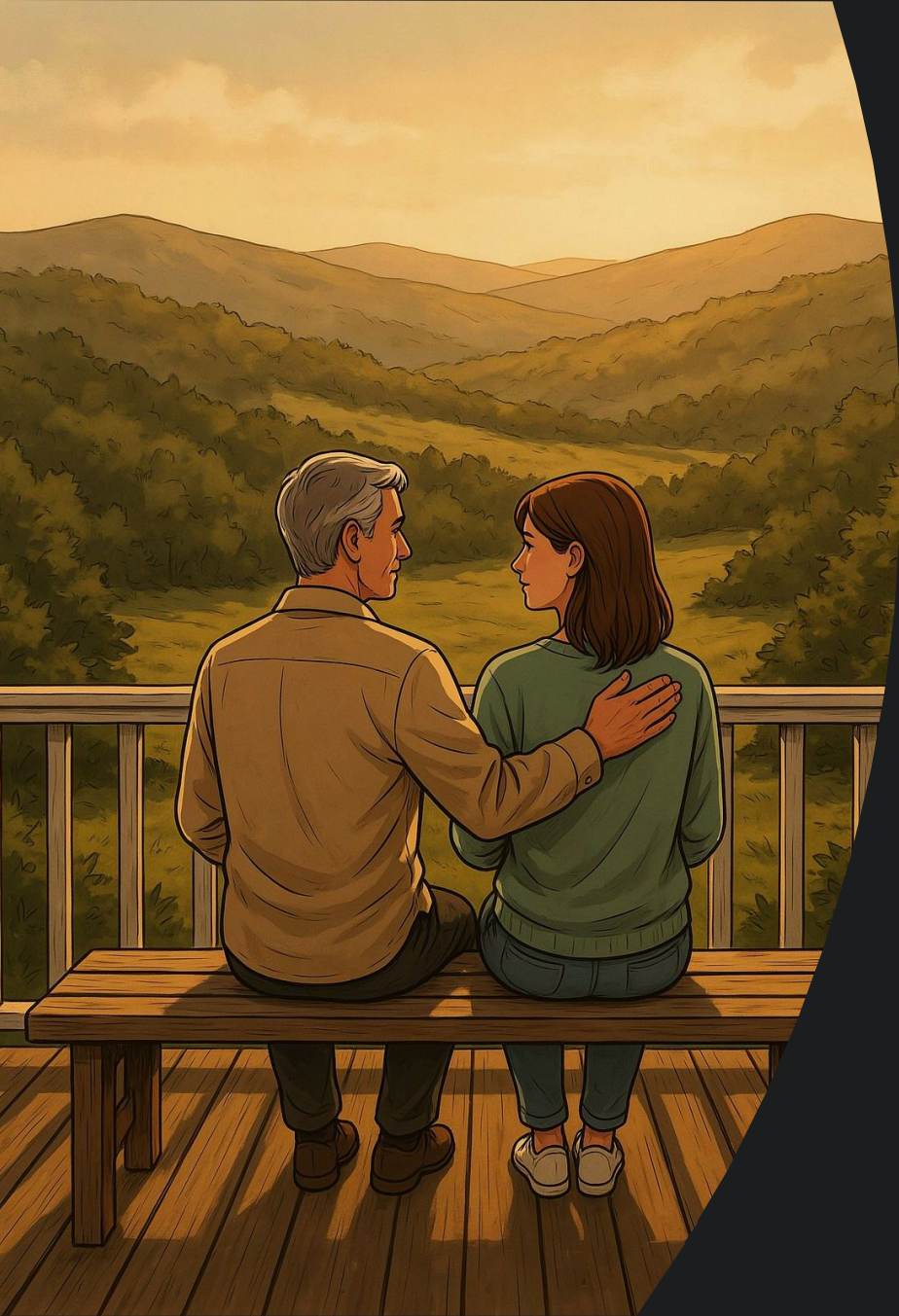
Train your children to recognize God's goodness woven into everyday life.

Community

Surround them with faithful people who love them and love God.

Worship

Order your home around the worth of God — not the schedule of achievement.



Picture them at 25 again.

What do they see in me?

What are we repeating?

What are we allowing to form them?

What needs to change?

Choose one rhythm. Start this week.

They will remember what you loved.

| They will remember what you celebrated.

| They will remember how you responded when they failed.

| They will remember whether questions were safe.

| They will remember whether grace was real.

Give them a faith worth carrying.

Know Truth. Pursue Wisdom. Live Faithfully.

