



Raising Kids in A Scary World - Forming Boundaries

Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

Reflection Questions:

- 1) How do your values help you form boundaries for your children?
- 2) Are there things that keep you from forming boundaries for your children?
- 3) Do you see any boundaries that need “tightening”?



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Extended Devotion:

If you're a parent, you know that keeping set boundaries is not an easy thing. It's often difficult to keep the boundaries we set for our children because diligence itself is difficult. Our natural self wants to crumble when life gets tough. As often as we feel that way, our children feel it even more. It's our responsibility to set boundaries formed from Scripture that will help prepare them for the real world. **When we protect our kids and help them get wisdom, they are able to discern and resist the social pressure.** The good news is that we don't have to go through these challenges alone. God's Word is a powerful tool that guides our every step.

Keeping boundaries in our homes may seem daunting when we're not sure where to begin. In today's culture, it seems like our faith is attacked from every angle. We received a lot of advice as well as criticism. Confusion, inexperience, and weariness can cloud judgment and decisions. Paul offers the best advice from the book of Philippians when he writes on mindset. As Christians, we are to dwell on things that are good, beautiful, and truthful. When we do this, the boundary lines become clear and pleasant.

We don't have boundaries if we don't keep them. Faithfully forming and holding the boundaries we set keeps our children close to the heart of God. When we set Scriptural boundaries with the goal of pointing our children to Christ, we're arming them with the truth they need for life.

In Proverbs 2:20, Solomon counsels his son to walk in wisdom when he says, *"So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous."* We desire that our children walk in the paths of righteousness but they need help. Boundaries are not confining for our children. They offer them freedom to live in the joy of the Lord.

Application:

1. If setting boundaries and goals for your children is something new, start small. Pick 1-2 areas that need guidance. Perhaps it's content or work ethic. Write down these areas and brainstorm one way you can implement the boundary today.
2. If you're struggling to keep your boundary lines, don't give up. Give your struggle over to the Lord and start anew today. Remember, your goal is to point your children to Christ. Take time to reassess the boundary and make your goal clear within it.



Takeaway:

Faithfully keeping the boundaries helps us continually point our children to Christ.



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