

DIGGING DEEPER: Center Your Parenting Around the World of Your Child | Pastor Josh Laxton 10/25-10/26

THE MAIN THEME

When families center their parenting around their children instead of Christ, the home slowly becomes child-worship rather than Christ-centered discipleship. God calls parents to raise their children not around *their* world, but around *His*—teaching them to know, love, and follow Jesus above all else.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Colossians 1:16–17 – “For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Practical Use: Remind your children—and yourself—that everything, including family life, exists for Jesus and holds together in Him.

WHAT NOT TO MISS

- Parenting becomes distorted when children become the center instead of Christ.
- Child-centered homes create exhaustion, entitlement, and misplaced identity.
- Christ-centered parenting nurtures love, discipline, humility, and purpose.
- The goal of parenting is not control or perfection, but spiritual formation.
- Parents are called to model dependence on God, not idolize their children.
- Healthy families orbit around Jesus, not their schedules, sports, or successes.
- Raising kids in Christ is about *devotion*, not *distraction*.

LIFE APPLICATION

Culture often tells parents to give their children the world. But Scripture calls parents to give their children *Christ*. When we center our homes on kids' desires, we create idols; when we center them on Jesus, we create disciples.

This week, evaluate where your family's center truly is. Is your calendar, budget, and attention orbiting your kids—or Christ? Reorient your rhythms to place Jesus at the center of your home through prayer, worship, and conversation.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

MONDAY – Who’s at the Center?

READ: Matthew 6:33

REFLECT: Seek first the kingdom of God, and everything else finds its right place.

RESPOND: Discuss as a family what it would look like to make Jesus—not busyness—the center of your home.

TUESDAY – The Idol of Control

READ: Proverbs 22:6

REFLECT: Parents are called to *train* their children, not control their outcomes.

RESPOND: Ask God to help you trust Him more deeply with your children’s futures.

WEDNESDAY – Modeling Dependence

READ: Deuteronomy 6:4–9

REFLECT: God commands parents to teach His ways diligently—by living them.

RESPOND: Pray with your children today, modeling dependence on God’s wisdom and strength.

THURSDAY – Shifting from Performance to Purpose

READ: Ephesians 2:10

REFLECT: Your child’s worth comes from being God’s masterpiece, not their achievements.

RESPOND: Affirm one truth about your child’s identity in Christ today.

FRIDAY – Centered in Christ’s Love

READ: John 15:5

REFLECT: Apart from Christ, we can do nothing. Parenting requires abiding in Him.

RESPOND: End the week by committing your family to abide in Christ through prayer and grace.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

FACILITATOR TIPS

- Create space for honesty—many parents carry guilt and exhaustion.
- Help participants identify cultural pressures that pull their families off-center.
- Reinforce grace: Christ invites families to re-center daily, not live perfectly.

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

As a group, choose one practical way to re-center your homes on Christ this week—family prayer, Sabbath rest, dinner conversation, or Scripture reflection. Encourage one another to share how these small shifts bring peace and perspective.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it look like to “center your parenting” around your child’s world?
2. How does culture subtly teach us to idolize our kids?
3. What are some ways child-centered parenting can harm families over time?
4. What does Christ-centered parenting practically look like in your home?
5. How can we model dependence on God rather than control over outcomes?
6. How can parents disciple their children through daily rhythms, not just church?
7. What family habits or activities may need to change to put Jesus back at the center?
8. How can your small group encourage and support parents toward Christ-centered homes?
9. How does surrendering your child’s future to God bring freedom?
10. What’s one new practice you’ll start this week to keep Jesus at the center?

PRAYER POINTS

CONNECT

- Pray for parents to connect deeply with God and their children.
- Pray for homes where Christ is known, loved, and discussed daily.

CARE

- Pray for families burdened by busyness, pressure, or exhaustion.
- Pray for peace and perspective for parents feeling overwhelmed.

CULTIVATE

- Pray for parents to model humility, prayer, and dependence on Christ.
- Pray for children to grow in wisdom and faith as they watch their parents.

COMMISSION

- Pray for families to be lights of grace in their schools and communities.
- Pray for homes centered on Christ to multiply disciples across generations.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for entrusting us with the gift of parenting. Forgive us for the times we’ve made our children the center of our world instead of You. Help us to raise them with grace, truth, and purpose that reflects Your heart. May our homes orbit around Christ’s love, not our children’s wants. Give us wisdom, patience, and joy as we teach them to follow You. Amen.
