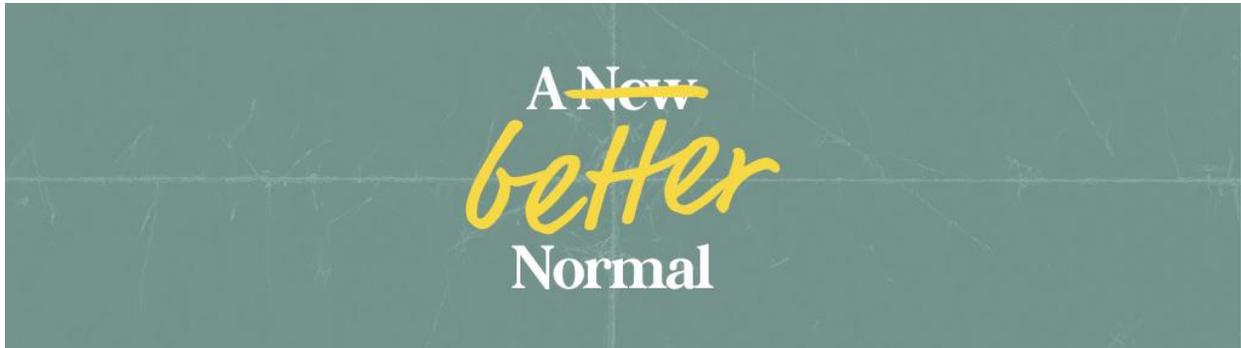




#5 – A New Better Normal
Pastor Shawn Peterson
FoothillsBibleChurch.org/sermons



May 9, 2021 Parenting

**Why have children?
What do we do with our children?**

Why have children? 5 Biblical reasons

1 – Fulfill our God-given mandate

In Genesis 1:28 "... be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth ... "

2 – Children are a gift

Psalm 127:3

3 – Children are your legacy

Psalm 127:4-5

4 – Children can bring rejoicing

Proverbs 23:22-25

5 – Children are a tool for spiritual growth



What do we do with our children?

Joshua 4:21-24

²¹ And he said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ²² then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’ ²³ For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, ²⁴ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”

4 Parenting Principles from Joshua 4:

1 – Somehow memorialize former demonstrations of God’s power and provision

Vs 21 ... when your children ask their fathers in times to come, “what do these stones mean?”

Your parents’ behavior, not their advice, determines whether you want to be like them or with them. Andy Stanley

Ways to memorialize God’s power and provision

- A physical object
- A Family holiday
- Tell the stories

2 – Teach children that God’s presence brings the Supernatural Ark of the Covenant

Ark of the Covenant = God’s presence

Heart of a Christian = God’s presence

Colossians 2:9-10

⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

3 – Our nuclear family and church family is a witness to non-believers

Joshua 4:24 ... so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is **mighty**

Ways to memorialize God’s power and provision

- A physical object
- A Family holiday
- Tell the stories



4 – Teach children to honor God by Trusting Him with seemingly impossible obstacles

Joshua 4:24 ... that you may fear the LORD your God forever

Fear = honor, respect and awe

Growth Group Questions New Better Parenting

FoothillsBibleChurch.org/growth-groups

Big Idea: Grow in exemplifying living authentically & humbly to children.

Goal: Learn to show & tell children how to live as an authentic follower of Jesus.

Prepare

This week we're diving into parenting asking God to transform us into more godly parents or spiritual parents. The personal preparation time & discussion are meant to help us flesh out what we've learned through the sermon and apply it more thoroughly in our lives together.

Watch Pastor Shawn's sermon, ~~New~~ Better Parenting, noting anything memorable and impactful as you go. You can take notes in the FBC app if you'd like.

Read Joshua 3 & 4.

Memorize & Recite Together: 1 Corinthians 10:31 "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Pray "Father, help us become people who, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God."

Connect

1. Share some phrases your parents used that you find yourself repeating or just find really funny.

Discussion Take some time to personally reflect on these questions after viewing the sermon and before your G2. It could make for a great morning devotional time! You can type and save your responses in the FBC app privately if you would like.

Each question could be answered based on the family you grew up in, the family you're in now, or the church family for those who aren't parents or came from very unhealthy families.



1. What did you learn about God and yourself from this sermon and passage and what would you like to see change in your life because of it?

2. If you have children, how did you prepare to be a parent and who was helpful to you?
 - a. How do you continue to prepare for upcoming events and life stages of your children?

 - b. What is your biggest need as a parent right now?

3. An ebezer is a stone of remembrance like the stack of rocks in Joshua 4. Share some of your family ebezers.

4. How does/did your family remember that God's presence brings the supernatural?

5. How have you seen your family, nuclear and spiritual, lead people to Jesus or set up opportunities to do so?
 - a. How can you better take advantage of gospel opportunities your children bring your way?

 - b. How can you use your ebezer from question 3 to share Jesus with your community?



6. How did your family teach trusting God with seemingly impossible obstacles & how have you incorporated or changed those methods for your family today?

Closing Prayer This prayer section is a guide to help you process with God what you've learned about Him and yourself through the sermon, personal preparation time, and discussion, then seek the Holy Spirit's power in applying it in your life. Sharing these responses in your G2 will help others gain insight into God & themselves while also helping and encouraging one another toward growth.

1. **Admire:** Praise God for being the perfect Father.
2. **Admit:** Confess ways you are unfit as a parent or to be a parent.
3. **Aspire:** Pray as a group, "Father, help us become people who, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God."
4. **Ask:** Keep track of requests & celebrations from others in your G2 & pray for them.

