

Establishing Your Goals 建立你的目标

THE BIG IDEA核心理念

Life at the turn of the century confronts us with a dizzying array of things to do with and for our children. Children's teams and leagues are formed for baseball, football, soccer, hockey, swimming, dance classes and gymnastics, to only name a few. There are educational opportunities; we know we want them ready to live in the information age (even if we aren't quite sure what the information age is). In addition to all this, we are tempted to fill our children's lives with material things. And we take delight in their delight in possessions. We take them to the thriller movies providing them with large doses of adrenaline as they vicariously experience the superhero's life and death adventures. Somehow we believe that our task as parents is to be activity directors who keep our children from ever feeling bored. We forget that the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Successful parenting isn't filling our children's lives with activities and possessions, it is teaching them that it is only in His light that we see light. The living God is the only true delight of the soul. Only in Him will our thirst be sated.

世纪之交的生活让我们面对着一系列令人眼花缭乱的事情，是与孩子们一起做也是为孩子们做。青年组和青年联盟成立了棒球队、橄榄球队、足球队、曲棍球队、游泳队、舞蹈班和体操班，仅举这几例。还有教育机会；我们知道我们希望他们为生活在信息时代做好准备（即使我们不太确定信息时代是什么）。除此之外，我们还想用物质东西填满孩子们的生活。我们在他们对物质的喜爱中获得快乐。我们带他们去看惊悚电影，让他们在体验超级英雄的生死冒险时感受大量的肾上腺素。不知不觉中，我们认为父母的任务就是作为活动指导员，让孩子们永远不会感到无聊。我们忘记了人的主要目的就是荣耀神并永远享受祂。成功的养育不是让孩子的生活充满活动和物质，而是教导他们只有在祂的光中我们才能看见光。永活的神是灵魂唯一真正的喜乐。只有在祂里面，我们的渴望才能得到满足。

This chapter discusses the information in Chapters 5 and 6 of *Shepherding a Child's Heart*.

本章讨论了《牧养儿女的心》第5章和第6章中的信息。

DIGGING INTO THE WORD查考圣经

Children, indeed all human beings, are made for God. We are made for relationship with Him. We are made to know God and live in a relationship of communion and fellowship with Him. Make note of the ways these passages describe the pleasures of knowing God.

孩子们，实际上所有人类，都是为神而造的。我们被造是为了与祂建立关系。我们被造是为了认识神，并在与祂的交往和团契中生活。注意这些经文是如何描述认识神的喜乐的。

Psalm《诗篇》4:6–7

Psalm《诗篇》16:2 & 11

Psalm《诗篇》36:5–9

Psalm《诗篇》42:1–2

Psalm《诗篇》63:1–8

Isaiah《以赛亚书》55:1–2

These passages and many others show that life is found in the joys and delightful pleasures of knowing and loving God. As Augustine said long ago, "We are restless until our souls find their rest in Him."

这些经文以及许多其他经文表明, 生命在于认识神和爱神的喜乐和愉悦中。正如奥古斯丁很久以前所说, 「我们的灵魂在找到祂里面的安息之前是不会安息的。」

1. How many ways can you list that parents unwittingly offer alternate pleasures and joys that distract their children from knowing God?

你能列举多少父母在不知不觉中提供其他快乐和欢愉却分散孩子认识神的注意力的方式?

2. Throughout the Scriptures we read of God's concern that His people not be influenced by the standards and values of the nations around them. Goals for child rearing are one of the places where the standards and values of the culture around us have their greatest impact on the people of God. Identify the ways these passages warn against the influences of the culture around us.

在整个圣经中, 我们读到神重视祂的子民不受周围国家的标准和价值观的影响。育儿目标这方面是周围文化对神的子民产生最大影响的地方之一。识别这些经文中警告我们不要受周围文化影响的方式。

Colossians《歌罗西书》2:8

Ephesians《以弗所书》5:8–10

Leviticus《利未记》20:26

Deuteronomy《申命记》18:9–10

The passage above from Deuteronomy is shocking because we cannot imagine sacrificing our sons and daughters in a fire. May I suggest that we do exactly that when we turn them over to the coaches and teachers so they "learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations". When our sons learn to play football from ungodly coaches, when our daughters learn in modeling class how to be sultry and alluring, when our children learn in debating class how to demolish their opponents; they are "learning to imitate the detestable ways of the nations". You can't get from these things to living for the glory of God.

《申命记》中的这段经文令人震惊, 因为我们无法想象把我们的儿女在火中献祭。我是否可以建议, 当我们把孩子交给教练和老师时, 我们就要这样做, 好让他们「学习效仿那些国家的可憎之举」。当我们的儿子们从不敬虔的教练那里学习踢足球, 当我们的女儿们在模特班上学习如何变得妖娆迷人, 当我们的孩子们在辩论班上学习如何击败对手; 他们正在「学习效仿那些国家可憎的行为」。你不能通过这些事情来活出荣耀神的生活。

I am not saying that you cannot get from football or modeling or debate class to the glory of God. However, you cannot teach children to perform as non-Christians out of the values of non-Christians and expect them to see that life is about knowing and loving God. Ungodly mentors are already telling them that life is about something other than knowing God and living for His glory.

我不是说你不能从足球、模特或辩论班中荣耀神。然而, 你不能教导孩子们以非基督徒的价值观行非基督徒一样的事, 同时期望他们明白生活就是认识神和爱神。不敬虔的导师已经在告诉他们, 生活是除了认识神和为祂的荣耀而活以外的事情。

APPLICATION应用

It may be helpful for you to look at the issue of goals for your children through the lens of “what does it do for me?” Often parents are willing to run their kids from place to place and make incredible sacrifices because there is some payoff for them. They will gain the recognition. People will congratulate them when their children do well. Which items from this list of ungodly attitudes of heart might be motivating you to encourage the development of your children’s skills?

通过「这对我有什么好处？」的视角来审视你对孩子们的目标可能对你有所帮助。父母往往愿意为孩子们奔波并做出难以置信的牺牲，因为他们会得到一些回报。他们会获得认可。人们会在孩子们表现出色时祝贺他们。以下这份不敬虔的心态清单中哪些态度可能在驱使你鼓励孩子们发展技能？

- Anxiety 焦虑 • Covetousness 贪婪 • Desire for approval 渴望认可
- Envy 嫉妒 • Fear of man 惧怕人 • Greed 贪婪
- Love of self 自爱 • Pride 骄傲 • Selfish ambition 自私的野心

Romans 12:1–2 tells us not to allow the world to squeeze us into its mold.

《罗马书》12:1-2告诉我们不要让世界把我们挤压进它的模子里。

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

所以，弟兄们，我以神的慈悲劝你们，将身体献上，当作活祭，是圣洁的，是神所喜悦的；你们如此事奉乃是理所当然的。不要效法这个世界，只要心意更新而变化，叫你们察验何为神的善良、纯全、可喜悦的旨意。

We all would like to do a better job of showing our children the excellence and greatness of God. 2 Thessalonians 1:10 says that in the day that Jesus Christ is revealed, we who have believed will marvel at Him. We will be caught up with the pleasurable experience of being dazzled and awed by the Lord of glory.

我们都希望能够更好地向孩子们展示神的卓越和伟大。《帖撒罗尼迦后书》1:10说，在耶稣基督显现的那一天，我们这些信徒将惊叹于祂。我们将被荣耀的主所吸引，感受到无比的愉悦和敬畏。

Psalm 145 speaks of the greatness of God that no one can fathom. Verse 4 of this Psalm describes parenting in terms of one generation telling the next generation of the splendor of the majesty of God and wonderful greatness of His works.

《诗篇》145讲述了神的伟大，无人能测透。这篇诗篇的第4节描述了父母如何在一代又一代中通过述说神的尊荣和祂作为的奇妙与伟大来养育子女。

1. Make notes below on the excellence of God from Psalm 145.

在下面记录《诗篇》145中关于神的卓越之处。

It is against the backdrop of the greatness and soul satisfying goodness of God that we can seek to lure our children away from the fleeting pleasures of this earth to the soul fulfilling joys of knowing and serving God.

正是在神伟大和满足灵魂的善良的背景下，我们可以努力将孩子们从短暂的世俗快乐中引导出来，转向认识和事奉神所带来的满足灵魂的喜悦。

Some may be asking, "But what about my child's talents and abilities?" The challenge before you is to think through this issue of developing your children's God given abilities. Your task is to help them see their abilities as God given and themselves as stewards of the gifts of God. Matthew 25:14–30 provides us with good direction in thinking biblically about talents and abilities.

有些人可能会问:「那我孩子的才能和能力呢?」摆在你面前的挑战是思考如何发展神赐给孩子们的才能。你的任务是帮助他们看到这些才能是神所赐,并且他们自己是神恩赐的管家。《马太福音》25:14-30为我们提供了很好的从圣经的角度思考才能和能力的指导。

2. What principles regarding talents and abilities emerge from this parable?

从这个比喻中可以得出哪些关于才能和能力的原则?

Your task is to apply these principles to your instruction and leadership of your children.

你的任务是将这些原则应用到你对孩子们的指教和领导中。

STRATEGIC QUESTIONS策略性问题

If you are going to help your children learn to live for the glory of God, you must hold before them at all times the fact that life is found in knowing God and living for His glory.

如果你要帮助孩子们学习为神的荣耀而活,你必须始终向他们强调,生命在于认识神并为祂的荣耀而活。

1. What are some of the ways you can do this?

你可以通过哪些方式来做到这一点?

2. Are there any activities that may not be wicked in themselves, but are turning your child's attention away from God and the supremacy of God?

是否有一些活动本身并不邪恶,但正在让你孩子的注意力远离神和神的至高无上?

3. What should you do to address these?

你应该怎么做才能解决这些问题?

4. What are some of the biblical nonnegotiables through which you must screen the activities of your children to insure that that are not in conflict with the goal of training them to live for the glory of God? You should be able to come up with five or six. I'll get you started:

你必须通过哪些圣经中不可协商的原则来筛选孩子的活动,以确保这些活动不会与训练他们为神的荣耀而活的目标相冲突?你应该能列出五六条。我来帮你开始:

The activity must not conflict with worship on the Lord's Day.

活动不得与主日的敬拜相冲突。

As we have seen in some of the passages we have studied in this chapter, life that it truly life is found in knowing God. All true joys and delights are found in him. By faith we believe that joy, happiness, contentment, pleasure and satisfaction, both in this world and the world to come, are found in knowing and serving the living God. The most powerful way to teach that to your kids is to believe it and live it yourself.

正如我们在本章所研究的一些经文中看见的,真正的生命在于认识神。一切真正的喜悦和快乐都在于祂。我们相信,无论在今世还是来世,喜悦、幸福、满足、快乐和满意都在于认识和事奉永生的神。教导孩子们这一点的最有力的方式就是你自己相信并实践它。

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS结语

We have been confronted with searching and convicting truths. The promise of God is that He draws near to those who draw near to Him.

我们面对的是深刻而令人警醒的真理。神的应许是祂会亲近那些亲近祂的人。

1. Find phrases in the passages below with which you can fortify yourself and encourage your heart as you show your kids the glories of God.

在以下经文中找到可以坚固你自己和鼓励你内心的短语，帮助你向孩子们展示神的荣耀。

James《雅各书》1:22–25

James《雅各书》4:7–10

2 Peter《彼得后书》3:10–14

2 Corinthians《哥林多后书》6:14–7:1

2. How can you pray for yourself and your friends in light of these passages of Scripture?

根据这些圣经经文，你可以如何为自己和朋友们祷告？