

#parentfail - Illusion

February 18-19, 2017

Community:

1. What are some of the biggest blowouts or brawls you had as a kid with your siblings and/or other family members?
2. When you get into a fight with someone important to you (and stuff comes out) where do you usually go to vent or cool down? (i.e., Sports bar? Mom's house? Friends?)

Core:

1. This weekend Scott Nickell opened with a demonstration of *Mr. and Mrs. Mug*—representing the “stuff that comes out” of us when we bump into each other in conflict. What are some of the things that come out of you when you fight? (i.e., envy, pride, evil thoughts, etc.)
2. **Read Mark 7:21-23, Luke 6:43-45, Proverbs 4:23 and Jeremiah 17:9.** Do you agree that the heart has that much influence? Share some examples of your heart's influence in life.
3. The main topic this weekend was *Illusion Parenting*: The illusion that we have the power to change our children's hearts. Share a time where you had an illusion that, if you did something just right, you could change someone else's heart.
4. Scott mentioned different tactics he uses on his kids to try and change their hearts (i.e., speeches, threats, rewards and shame). Have you tried some of the same tactics? Do you find yourself using the same tactics your parents used on you?
5. The ultimate message is this: Only God can change our hearts AND the hearts of our children/loved ones. What is your personal response to not having the power or control to make those changes?
6. Ephesians 6:4 reads, “*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*” Do you think you are stronger at disciplining (seeing and correcting the faults) or instructing (encouraging strengths) that you see in others?
7. **Read Psalm 127:3-4.** When you reflect on the implications of this verse, do you feel like your biggest struggle is with being a warrior, knowing where to aim, or letting go and releasing control? Share an example of how this shows up in your life.

Challenge:

Scott wrapped up by saying that the ultimate win is not just to aim at “good things” but to aim everything at Jesus. Spend some time this week reflecting on where you are aiming for good things (good grades, winning a game, getting a promotion) apart from Jesus. What is one step you can take to aim all things toward Jesus?