**Everyday Jesus – wk2 Ready to Launch! Arrow**

**Today is Sunday! Great to see you! But when service is over, and we go home – the week begins. Often, we leave Jesus at church. I see it all the time. We often ghetto God into a couple of hours on the weekend.**

**Does Jesus invade our homes, workspace, school classrooms & hallways, evenings, weekends, internet time & social media?**

**Most of what God did in the life of believers was on the other 6 days of the week. In acts of the 40 miracles mentioned, 39 were outside church.**

**God and the rest of the week! Everyday Jesus!**

**Some are by definition a practical atheist. What is that? Someone who believes in God / Jesus – but lives as if he does not exist in real life.**

**Over the next several weeks we are going to take a look at the Monday thru Saturday – Jesus. No compartmentalizing God.**

**Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (does that include work, school, home, and play? YES!)**

**Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom (will) and his righteousness, (way) and all these things (things of this life we worry about) will be given to you as well. (you will receive the kingdom and the other things as well)**

**Not a 1st on a list – but a lens – we look at all other things! Wee see all things thru God’s kingdom and will first! His will & way!**

**School starts this week – so today we start with family and kids**

* **If you’re a parent – turn in!**
* **If you’re a student – tune in and hold your parents accountable.**
* **If you’re a single or married adult with no kids – this is for you too! Raising up the next generation is a responsibility for al of us!**

**I am part of two families – (1) Biological and extended family (2) My eternal family – centered on Jesus.**

**Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.**

**Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. 2 In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat - for he grants sleep to[a] those he loves. 3 Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. 4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. 5 Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.**

**Before we jump into this - I want to clarify I am not an expert. The longer I parent the more I realize I know less and less. I thought I knew everything as youth pastor… but now…**

**We are about to launch our kids into the world this week – school and some to launch them out of the house. And some of you are just getting started… Here are some Everyday Jesus Principles from Ps 127**

**Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain…**

**1. Love is not Enough**

**In order for a house to endure, it must be built by the LORD!**

**Many have the Beatles philosophy of parenting, “All You Need is Love” Just love them and they will be fine! I have known some parents that love their kids off the charts but are unhealthy parents! And their kids reflect it - their kids are self-destructive.**

**Love is powerful, but you need the heart of God *and* the mind of God. Have you set about to learn God’s will and way for your family and to have the LORD build your house?**

**Just a thought: Almost all of the passages and instruction in the Bible for kids are directed toward men. (Eph 6, Det, all of Prov) Yet, most men have left this to women – they take little or no initiative.**

**I thank God for women who work hard to relay God’s building plans (my mother). MEN, it’s time to roll up your sleeves and get to building!**

**You read up, prepare for your job, but your family is on autopilot. If you showed the same initiative in your job as you do in your family, you would be fired!**

**Most guys feel like they are good dads if they provide food and shelter for their families. Possums give their offspring food and shelter, is that the bar you set for yourself?**

**Men, your family is your first responsibility before God; your most important job – what you are held accountable for - your most important mission field - your greatest act of worship.**

**Psalm 127:1b Unless the Lord watches over (overseas) the city, (the family community) the guards stand watch in vain. (other healthy adult influences – like a youth pastor / kids teacher – they cannot fix or guard your kids) 2 In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat (going to work, making money, being successful is pointless if your family is… many sacrifice family for income) - for he grants sleep to those he loves. (If the Lord builds your home – you will sleep well. This is not about having stuff – but having peace)**

**Are you investing in knowing what God wants to build?**

**Here is the next principle - Psalm 127:3 Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. (The word heritage = inheritance – to pass on.)**

**2. Our primary responsibility is to raise worshipers of the LORD God**

**Children are what we leave behind. And, what we have, we are to pass on – we are to lead future generations to the LORD.**

**Our embracing of this could determine the future of mankind!**

**The most important task and greatest privilege we have is to teach our kids – the next generation - the gospel of Jesus.**

**After Moses hands out the word of the LORD (the law) he says this – Deut 6:1** **These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God… 4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. (Talking to everybody – not just parents he says) 7 Impress them (teach them – model them - through words – and actions!) on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (this is not kept to Sunday’s – but you live and walk it out daily) 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands (how you live – your actions) and bind them on your foreheads. (how you think and view the world) 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (God’s building plans guide you)**

**(Marbles) Church = 52 hrs a yr if you come every week. Most only come 2X a month = 36 / 40 hrs a yr out of 8760****. Adults have more than 7000 avg waking hrs. Avg 3000 hrs available w/ kids.**

**What we do here, never overrides what happens at home. We can help. Air war- church (we drop bombs) / ground war- home. The battle is won w/ feet on the ground. We can never take the place of your hands / feet.**

**The home is the place where kids will see the gospel lived out and know that it is true! C.J. Mahaney "Effective teaching involves explaining to our children what they are already observing in our lives by example."**

**\*\*\* Will your children see and know the gospel this year?**

**My kids learn more about Jesus by how I treat Nikol than what I say.**

**By my ability to be humble – to say “I’m sorry” – to be transparent – by my ability to be consistent and faithful – a person of my word.**

**Learning what sin is, who God is, and what grace is.**

**Model honesty, integrity, humility, holiness – worship!**

**Genesis – who were the first people to hear of God, 1st to be reached = children.**

**The 1st to leave a heritage to and still are. If we don’t do this effectively – the inheritance of God can skip a generation. We are seeing it today.**

**We must prioritize this in our home – Proverbs 22:6 - Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.**

**Psalm 127 written to the community of God - not just parents – it was sung together and lived out together. In fact, most parenting passages are addressed to the community, not just to the parents!**

**3.** **God grows the family in the gardens of home and church**

**God has two gardens in which he grows healthy children**

**HOME: is the primary place your kids will learn the gospel. The most influential area of their life, shaping them as a human. (For good & bad)**

**CHURCH: godly support – speaking into their lives. Christian mentors, leaders, teachers, and friends. God knows we need the help!!!!**

**If their core community is school or an athletic club – just look at that place and you will see who they will be in 5 years. If their core community is here – will do the same. Who do your kids walk with?**

**Proverbs 13:20** **Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble. (want to see your / their future – look at the friends)**

**If your kids drop out of church in college it doesn’t happen senior year it happens in 6th grade.**

**I am so thankful for those who imparted into my kids in Kidventure.**

**I am thankful for those who discipled my kids - who spoke into their lives!** **That is intentional and important to my family. Now young adults.**

**What this looks like – “seek first the kingdom” – everyday Jesus.**

* **We must prioritize relationships at home**

**\*\* Limit the extra activities: Experience rich and relationship poor. Filled with activities, sports, groups, clubs – but so busy the family never sees each other.**

**Confession - my kids and extra events – we limited their activities. our decision made us feel guilty – kids were unhappy – result = we are close and tight knit. Traded trophies for intimate talks & laughs**

**\*\* Be present – very present**

**You can’t help them and shape them if you never hang out with them.**

**Most teachable moments are spontaneous – unscheduled.**

**Consider this: Avg parent has 3000 available hrs with kids – but…**

**A recent survey (by Visit Anaheim) showed American adults spend up to 3 hours on social media and just 37 min of “quality time” as a family on weekdays. 104 min on the weekends. (that 300 hrs out of 3000)**

**As they get older it naturally decreases – are you prioritizing**

**Dad be present – at home, watching movies, having dinner, at their games. Date your daughters – cause them to expect someone as good as you or better! They won’t settle… Be Jesus every day!**

**Statistics show a present dad = healthy relationships, higher grades, less psychological disorders, less depression & crime.**

**\*\* Focus on who they are becoming more than what they are doing:**

**Focus on character over abilities and skills. The happiness of their life will be based on the quality of their relationships – with God & others.**

**What is more important? The GPA or the GOD. We get to decide what is most important about your child: who they are and what they do.**

**Is it about college and scholarships or becoming men and women of God who love Jesus and serve others.**

* **We must prioritize relationships in church**

**This not a matter of intention – but a matter of calendar**

**Mon - Sat means not letting jobs or activities keep them out. (not prioritizing the family of God – they often fade away and prioritize other things) It means planning a Saturday night that will get them ready for Sunday morning.**

**Are you more concerned w/ them getting ahead in this world or getting deep w/ God? We are to set the model – the example of this.**

**Here is the last one - Psalm 127:4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. 5 Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. (reference to big families – no right number. For some your kids are natural, adopted, foster, you mentor, in your class, neighbor kids – you have 1 or many)**

**4. God give us kids to prepare them for His mission**

**Arrow - We shape – prepare – feather – sharpen – pull back and to let go – and to launch them into God’s mission for their life.**

**\*\* An arrow will never fly until you release it.**

**“Why does God give us kids?” The purpose is to steward them and lead them to be worshipers of the LORD GOD – and then… let them go.**

**That has to always be in mind. We launch them… release them… with the Lord’s inheritance to do the same with their family…**

**Freelance parents – let kids figure life out – follow their feelings – do whatever they want, experiment wherever they what, believe whatever = unhealthy narcissistic confused adults with little self-control.**

**Overprotective parents – Reggie Joiner “We’re fine if our children never climb a mountain as long as it guarantees they never get hurt. But what if your children were made for the mountains?”**

**We prepare them thru missions, outreach, student leaders, serving – and encouraging them to and modeling serving.**

**If there is nothing exciting, challenging, or adventurous about your style of faith – they will begin to drift towards other things that are more interesting and meaningful.**

**Last part of that passage - Psalm 127:5b They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court. (leaves us with 2 questions)**

**Q - How do you grade success with your kids? A career, money, married, grandkids, sports, smart… or is it that you prepared them to be true worshipers and launched them into all God has for them?**

**Q - What do your kids say about you in public? When you’re gone, what will they remember about you? What will they be talking about?**

**Losing our marbles – What we do matters! The weeks…**

* **This represents the wks we have from birth to graduation - 936 wks**
* **At nine yrs old – we have already lost half our marbles - 468 weeks**
* **That means - only 312 marbles until they get their driver’s license**
* **After that you only have 4 more summer vacations with them…**
* **Church leaders only get about 40 wks with them – for an hour (that’s 40 hours total to lead and disciple them…)**

**You are losing your marbles… but, this is empowering and inspiring. Why? Because it tells us that everyday matters. It is time to get serious about out time and mission with our kids.**

**You hear this today, and this is hard. It means a lot of change for some.**

**Final thought: God cares more about your kids than you do!**

**Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house… It is the Lord that does this.**

**The LORD God himself – is our strength and the builder.**

**As we humbly submit our life to the master builder – he lays the foundations and makes it strong.** **\*\* Through Jesus Christ – the chief cornerstone – it can start today!**

**What about parents who will never hear this or do any of this?**

**This is why this a community effort. We need each other - You can be there for that student – that child – that teen.**

**\*\*\* Prayer for returning students and teachers.**