

## Loving Our Kids on Purpose (Introduction)

*“Most parents’ goal of raising children is to get them to obey, but not only is this goal inferior, it can be detrimental to their perception of God the Father.”*

### A. Getting to Know You Better

- What would a peaceful home look like to you?
- On a scale of 1-10 how would you rank the heart-to-heart connection you have with your children?

### B. Book Review

Most of us have had no real training on how to parent when we received that little baby in our home. What we did receive was warnings about how hard it would be. Boys are wild and girls will break your heart. Just you wait. Even if we decide not to accept that reality, once we try parenting we become quickly surprised how much of it involves spanking or punishment.

This book will open you to a whole new perspective. Silk pulls from his personal experience, professional training, and principles from Scripture. Do your goals in parenting match up with what drives the Father’s heart for His children? This book will identify the Father’s heart for His children and tactics that can open your child to live out of them.



### C. Bible Study

LUKE 15: 11 – 24; 25 – 31

1. Which son would you rather have?
2. Why do you think the older son was so obedient?
3. How was the older son acting foolishly?
4. How can obedience be a hindrance to your child’s perception of God?

*“A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.” – Proverbs 10:1*

### D. Questions

5. Did your parents give you ownership in the family or just chores?

- Suggested HW: Pages 31 – 54



## Loving Our Kids on Purpose (Chapter 1a)

*“Until our children learn to deal with what is going on inside of them, they cannot learn to manage freedom.”*

### A. Getting to Know You Better

- How did your children make you smile this week?

### B. Chapter Review – Parenting Free Children

Our goal in parenting is to parent our children the way God parents us. Family is designed and intended by God to express the kind of relationship that God designs us to have with Him. Unfortunately, we think God parents us through punishment and so we act accordingly.

That is Old Testament thinking. Sin has now been dealt with, therefore we need to learn to manage our freedom responsibility. When love and freedom replace punishment and fear as the motivating forces, parent and child feel safe with each other and the anxiety that created distance in the relationship is chased away by the sense of love, honor, and value for one another.



1. What do you feel when you think of motivating out of love rather than punishment?

### C. Bible Study

GALATIANS 5:1 – 15

2. What does it mean to you that it is for freedom you have been set free (v.1)?
3. What is the difference between faith and rules (v.6)?
4. What is the offense of the cross (v.11)?
5. How does the command to not indulge the sinful nature fit with freedom (v.13)?

*“Everything is permissible’—but not everything is beneficial.  
‘Everything is permissible’—but not everything is constructive.” – 1 Corinthians 10:23*

### D. Questions

6. What are some ways you can teach your children freedom?

- Suggested HW: Pages 54 – 68



## Loving Our Kids on Purpose (Chapter 1b)

*“The idea that there is somebody who has control and somebody who has none is the root of all evil in relationships.”*

### A. Getting to Know You Better

- What is something that you tried with your kids last week that you felt worked?

### B. Chapter Review – Relinquishing Your Right to Control

If your parenting relationship is based on controlling your kids, then they will dream of the day that they will win over control. They will also approach their relationships with their siblings and friends based on who has control. Our desire to control our kids is not based on love but on our fear of what they may become without the control.

We’ve got to teach our children to learn how to choose things that build relationships of love when they have unlimited options. We want our children to reach inside themselves and listen to the Holy Spirit for direction. We want to model to our kids that we will not allow anything to be more important to us than our relationship with them in order for them to make decisions to protect our heart.



1. How would you describe Silk’s analogy of yellow trucking your kids?

### C. Bible Study

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1 – 12

2. How did Paul restrain himself toward the Thessalonians?
3. How did Paul motivate them to holy living?
4. How does a mother represent gentleness?
5. Why did Paul relinquish some his rights for the Thessalonians?

*“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.” – 1 Peter 3:9*

### D. Questions

6. What are some ways you can teach your children to protect your heart?
- Suggested HW: Chapter 2



## Loving Our Kids on Purpose (Chapter 2)

*“We certainly aren’t going to be able to address the attitudes and heart behind our children’s behavior if we aren’t doing that ourselves.”*

### E. Getting to Know You Better

- Did you catch yourself trying to yell at your kids this week? What questions did that rise up in you?

### A. Chapter Review – Building Relationship Through Consistent Love

In our earliest years, our whole orientation is to trust our environment and allow it to define our reality, to develop our truth. No matter what your intentions or goals as a parent, the fact is that you are cultivating either a loving or fearful spiritual environment in your home, and that is what is really influencing your children. Love will draw their hearts to you; fear will close them off.

The ruling spirit of our environment is made manifest through the words we choose. Our words have the ability to create things in the hearts of our children. Our correction must reduce fear and anxiety because intimidation is in direct opposition of who we are called to be.



1. How does the quote at the top relate to the principles of this chapter?

### B. Bible Study

1 JOHN 4:7 – 21

2. What are five results of a lack of love?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
3. What is the connection between punishment and love?
4. What is the difference between punishment and discipline?

*“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” – Hebrews 12:11*

### C. Questions

5. Look at the picture. How should you correct destructive behavior?
  - Suggested HW: Chapter 3



## Loving Our Kids on Purpose (Chapter 3)

*“The only way we can respond, rather than react, to our kids’ mistakes is to stay disconnected from those mistakes.”*

### A. Getting to Know You Better

- How did you choose discipline over punishment this week?

### B. Chapter Review – Managing Yourself

As parents, we are the gatekeepers, not only of our own lives, but also of our families. We create the atmosphere; we determine what is appropriate. Boundaries communicate value for what is inside.

Passive parents have no fence around their garden and struggle to get respect from their kids because they communicate a lack of respect for themselves. Learning to set respectful boundaries is an art that requires wisdom and practice. Practice being powerful by controlling something you do control, namely, yourself. You are solely responsible for the quality of your life. We should try to get out of the habit of telling our kids what to do.



1. Silk states that controlling your kids sows seeds of disrespect. How would you explain this point?

### C. Bible Study

EPHESIANS 4:29 – 5:21

2. What grieves the Holy Spirit (v.29-31)?
3. What attracts the Holy Spirit (v.32-5:2)?
4. Why should we find out what pleases the Lord (v.10)?
5. What does being filled with the Spirit look like (v.18-21)?

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” – Hebrews 11:6*

### D. Questions

6. How does this Bible study relate to this chapter?
  - Suggested HW: Chapter 4



## Loving Our Kids on Purpose (Chapter 4)

*“Most of us are more interested in solving the immediate problem than we are in our children learning to take responsibility for their lives.”*

### A. Getting to Know You Better

- How was setting boundaries with your children hard?

### B. Chapter Review – Promoting Healthy Choices

Choices expose our children to the real world of responsibility while giving them some power in the relationship. To make choices work, you should cover three points: 1. Offer them choices where you are great with either option; 2. Make sure they understand the choices; 3. Have a plan to enforce the choices with consequences. Practice offering these kind of choices to your kids as often as you can, so you will be ready for when you really need them.



We cannot falsely protect our children from consequences in the name of love. Otherwise, our kids learn that their problems are not their own but really someone else's. Consequences breed ownership, and ownership breeds responsibility. While consequences are good, we only provide them to our children when we are happy. Anger distracts kids from learning and damages our connection with them.

1. What do you like/dislike about this method of choices?

### C. Bible Study

JOSHUA 9:1 – 10:15

2. What was the bad choice Israel made?
3. What was the consequence of that decision?
4. How could have God protected Israel from that circumstance?
5. How does Israel take responsibility for their choice?

*“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” – Galatians 6:7*

### D. Questions

6. Does God make us experience every consequence for our choices?

- Suggested HW: Chapter 5



## Loving Our Kids on Purpose (Chapter 5)

*“Asking a good question is a far more powerful tool in leading children to a solution than telling them what you think.”*

### A. Getting to Know You Better

- What choices did you give your children last week?

### B. Chapter Review – Enforcing Consequences to Choices

Because love is the whole purpose for freedom, freedom is destroyed when we use it for anything else. The limits we set with our kids will show them what the real world is like, but it is our heart connection with them, our love, that will motivate them to embrace the journey of responsibility and growth before them. Our desire as parents should be that their value for that connection becomes the thing that directs them in the choices they make.



Our children are responsible for their half of the relationship. Their choices are not made in a vacuum; they have the power to hurt the people they love the most or draw them into closer relationship and trust. They must learn that from these consequences, not saved from them. Your love connection with your child will enable you to speak wisdom and help as they find solutions to their problems.

1. What is a consequence that your parents let you live out that you learned from?

### C. Bible Study

JOHN 14: 15 – 27

2. Will God love you even if you don't obey?
3. What are the outcomes for obedience?
4. How does God bring about obedience in us?
5. How will we know what is commanded of us?

*“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.” – Psalm 32:8-9 NKJV*

### D. Questions

6. How do we motivate our children's obedience?
- Suggested HW: Love your kids on purpose this week.

