



## Parent to Kid Inspiration

We saved the best for last! Remember our Four Parent-to-Kid Relationship Goals?

- Acceptance
- Connection
- Discipleship
- Inspiration

In this session, we get to talk about Inspiration! Our very favorite thing to do with our kids!

Inspiration means to make someone WANT to do something and believe they CAN do it.

When we build that relationship superhighway through Acceptance and Connection and establish a base of Discipleship, we get to move to the final frontier...the best part of our relationship with our kids.

We get to inspire them toward God's vision for their lives.

Did you know that God gives you vision for your children?

**He puts things into your heart as a parent that He wants you to impart to your children. He puts dreams in their hearts, too. And when both of you are connected to God and each other, you get to dream together of God's vision for their lives.**

How cool is that? All of the other ways – Acceptance, Connection, Discipleship – help you build toward the most valuable relational tool – Inspiration. You have a child who loves and trusts Jesus, loves and trusts you, and have developed an amazing relationship with. And they want you in their lives to help them dream about their future

That is the goal, and it's what God wants for you in the Parent-to-Kid relationship.

He doesn't want you to just survive the teenage years and hope they'll come around. He wants you to build this relationship and watch it grow into more and more over time. Yes, it has bumps and bruises sometimes, but it keeps getting better, getting stronger, getting closer.

Inspiration starts when they are little and grows until they are teenagers and beyond.

We are always inspiring our kids toward the greatness of God in their lives.

Examples of inspirational statements:

- “Wow! Look at how good your room looks when it is clean!” “
- When you study hard for a test, you are preparing for working hard for your boss someday.”
- “I know that teacher is difficult, but your classmates are going to see Jesus in you when you honor her.” “
- You want to be an NBA star? You can do it!”

As our kids get older, our inspiring statements lead them to hearing the voice of God for direction in their lives. They are open to inviting God into every situation.

Examples of places our older kids need God's input.

- What activities are we going to be involved with?
- What are we going to do about dating?
- How are we going to honor that friend who has wronged us?

Being an inspirational parent with our kids is one of the best things we get to do in life.

## **Here is the question: How do I inspire my children?**

Here are three ways:

### **See the Bigger Picture**

Sometimes children get laser-focused and don't know how to see beyond what's in front of them. As parents, we've had more life experience. Our world is bigger, so we get to be the ones who open up the world for our kids to understand and explore.

Here are some ways to help them see life's bigger picture:

- Help them see how a circumstance is going to shape their life.
- Give them real-life examples from yours and other's lives.

### **Let Them Dream**

I have seen so many kids' dreams for their life dashed because the parent was just being practical and realistic. Yes, as adults we pretty much know our child will not be a famous singer, actor, or athlete. Statistically the odds are not in their favor. But they don't need to be told that!

**Let the realization come to them in due time (when they must practice that sport or instrument hundreds of hours each week, and when they choose not to, they see reality for themselves).**

Our role is to have fun with them in their dreams. What if it does happen? Someone will be famous...why not your kid?

Here are some ways to let your kids dream:

- Don't squash their dreams because they are not practical (rarely are dreams initially practical).
- Join them in the dream with agreement.
- Ask questions to draw out more of their thoughts about their dream

### **Ask God for Revelation**

The most powerful thing we can do for our children is be an intercessor for their lives with God. He gave us a direct line with Him for them. He has given them gifts, talents, and skills, and He has a plan and a future for them. He has hand-picked us to help our kids uncover everything He has given them.

Here are some ways to ask God for revelation for your kids:

- Pray on behalf of your children for God to reveal His unique inspiration for them. P
- pray with your children so they can see God's hand in their lives.

Inspiring our kids to greatness is one of the best ways to partner with the Creator of the universe.

So how do you make the Parent-to-Kid line super strong and bold with all your kids? It starts with Acceptance and Connection.

Acceptance - receive, approve, and believe in them.

Then Connection - unite, link, bond with them to establish communication.

As you establish Acceptance and Connection, we build pathways for Discipleship. Just walking with our children and showing them Jesus - just like Jesus did with his disciples.

Then we get to Inspiration. To make them feel like they want to do something and believe can do it.

Here's the good news. Every parent can do this. You can do this. You can have an awesome relationship with every one of your kids.

Moms, you can do this! Dads, you can do this! And having that awesome relationship with your kids for life is one of God's greatest gifts to us. It will be such a blessing to your life, and it's worth pursuing.

Take these concepts and go make your Parent-to-Kid relationships amazing!