

GROUNDED

DAVE & BETH POCTA

Protecting Our Relationship with Our Kids

A Bible Study

INTRODUCTION

Our relationships with our children is one of the most important things we have to protect.

- » They are under constant attack.
- » Satan's greatest desire is to divide us.

Read: [Mark 3:25](#) and [Luke 11:17](#)

- Q: Who benefits from a divided home?
Q: Who is the real enemy?
Q: How does it help to recognize who the enemy is?

1 Peter 5:8

Be alert - Satan does not enter the front door. He is looking for any angle to enter our homes.

Satan prowls around like a lion looking for someone to devour - Lions are master-hunters. They crawl through the grass undetected by their prey.

Ephesians 4:26-27

In your anger do not sin - We have to be extremely careful when we feel frustrated and upset.

Do not let the sun go down - The Bible teaches us to be urgent to protect our relationships. We are called to work things out before we lie down to sleep.

- Q: What is wrong with "sleeping on it"?
Q: What happens when we are not urgent about resolving conflict?

Do not give the devil a foothold - When we get angry at each other, we give Satan a foothold in our relationship.

- » We need to love the sinner and hate the sin!
- » When someone lashes out, we need to guard our hearts and not take it personal.
- » Hurting people hurt people - if we remember this, we can show compassion.

Proverbs 4:23

Guard your heart - We can control how we react and respond. We have to pray and think through what will HELP with resolution.

Everything you do flows from it - When we do not guard our hearts...we say and act in ways that we later regret. When our heart is right, we make good choices.

John 10:10

Thief comes to steal and kill and destroy - Satan wants to destroy the good that we have. He has no love for us!

I have come that they may have life to the full - Jesus' vision for us is fulfillment, hope, and closeness.

- Q: What would a "life to the full" home look like?
Q: How can you keep this vision in front of you ?

1 Corinthians 13:6-7

Love rejoices with the truth - Guarding our relationships does not mean that we are not honest. To the contrary, honesty protects our relationships. We have to speak the truth in love.

Love always protects - We are honest so that we can protect the relationship. We need to tell each other when we get our feelings hurt.

Love always trusts - We make choices, especially in conflict. Love chooses to trust. Love chooses to not take things personally.

Love always hopes - Love dreams of connection and closeness. When we are in the middle of conflict, we continue to fight because we believe we can work it out!

Love always perseveres - When we love each other, we choose to never stop trying, communicating, and getting help. We persevere no matter how tough things get.

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

- Q: How does this study give us hope?
Q: What practical decisions do we need to make as a result of this study?