Shaping Arrows:

Helping Your Children Understand Biblical Sexuality

Class #3: Discussing Biblical Sexuality with Children & Teens

1.) Grace-filled Authority – People (including your kids) are sinners. Don't be surprised at their imperfections but don't indicate acceptance of their depravity

Biblical Reference:

- John 8:1-11

Notes:

- Most important when a son/daughter comes with an admission (even if not a confession)
- Important to model in other areas so that children feel comfortable admitting things to you
- Parents - You are a kind-hearted and loving parent. You are not merely a friend or counselor. You must maintain your authority and the ethics of your household.
- Leaders – You are a leader, not merely a friend. You too have authority and must uphold the ethics and values of our church in your group settings.
- When upholding authority, you must be extra-intentional about showing extravagant love to your child
- This is also VERY IMPORTANT when kids talk to you about the sexual misbehavior of other people – strangers or friends. We must show them what grace looks like and exhibit a posture of humility because we are all sinners. We do not want to raise a generation of Pharisees.

2.) Holistic Reasoning – Our bodies and minds are broken and mislead us. But proper sexual ethic without knowing Jesus is useless

Biblical Reference:

- John 4:14-26

Notes:

- Desire
  - Remind kids that our minds and bodies are good, but broken. This means we sometimes desire things that are not the best for us.
  - Point kids to the "desire behind the desire." Only Jesus can give them what they truly desire
  - Preach the satisfying nature of Jesus to your kids more than good moral behavior!
- Authority
  - Remind kids that everyone gets their idea of right and wrong from somewhere. We get ours from the Bible because God created us, wants what's best for us, and is the only being that doesn't change his mind!

3.) Positive Vision-Casting – It's not about what someone *can't* do, it's about how beautiful God's purpose is

Biblical Reference:

- *Ephesians 5* – Addressing sexual immorality is followed by a beautiful depiction of biblical marriage. Jesus does the same thing when he discusses divorce.

Notes:

- *"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." - C.S. Lewis*
- No one – your kids included – will be willing to sacrifice temporary happiness if they're not convinced that the lasting joy God promises is far better.
- Describe the beauty of sexual expression in marriage the way God designed. It is the only expression that makes sense of our mind, body, and soul.

- Point kids to the greater, ultimate fulfillment of marriage when we will be united with Christ in the New Heaven and New Earth. All temporary pleasures will pale in comparison to that. That is what we ultimately want.

Scenarios for Discussion:

1.) Your 7-year-old son said he noticed two men holding hands and kissing on a bench at the park. How do you respond?

2.) Your 9-year-old daughter tells you that one of her male classmates says he's a girl. How do you respond?

3.) You catch your 13-year-old son watching pornography on his phone. How do you respond?

4.) Your 15-year-old daughter tells you she is confused about her sexual identity and thinks she's attracted to females. How do you respond?

5.) You begin to hear rumors that your 17-year-old son is engaging in sexual behavior with his girlfriend. How do you respond?

Questions??