

Here I Am

Pastor Craig Sweeney | March 2, 2025

- 6) I understand that many people doing this study are not parents, so in this following question think about what friends or people you influence. As a parent, how do you influence your children or how do you share godly influence with those around you who need Jesus?
- 7) Let's shift gears because there's something significant that happens in the rest of this passage when Israel asked Samuel to give them a king. What was God's response and why do you think they did it?
- 8) What does this request from Israel teach us about the heart condition of Israel? And are there worldly things in our own personal lives that we chase which reveal a similar condition? If there is or has been, what can you do about it or what did you do about it?
- 9) What are modern ways in which people reject God's authority in their lives?
- 10) What are things we can do in our daily lives to prevent us from running astray and chasing the things of the world? What do you intentionally and consistently have in your life to protect you from these things?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS



Reflection questions for Chair Time. Think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Are there things in your parenting that you need to shift to live a godlier life in front of your children? (Or if you aren't a parent, think of the people you are around daily.)
- 2) Are there things that you need to start or stop in regards to seeking the love of the world instead of the love of God?
- 3) Who can you reach out to today and use your influence to point them toward God? How can you encourage them or invite them to church?

Key Text: 1 Samuel 7:15 – 8:3 ESV

Thread: Parenting is about stewarding and shepherding our sons and daughters.

Parenting Truth #1: How I parent can set my son or daughter up for success.

- Success is as God defines it, not anyone else. "Love God, love others."

Parenting Truth #2: I am not ultimately responsible for the decisions my son or daughter makes.

- Revelation 20:12-13, 15 NLT

Parenting Truth #3: It's in my hands to prepare my son and daughter for the promises of God.

"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, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." Deuteronomy 6:1-12 NIV

Let's not overcomplicate this. It really is as simple as this:

- Walk with Jesus and tell your son and daughter about what you're experiencing, what you're learning, how you're choosing to respond, what you would do different if you could, how you're

praying, what you're exercising your faith for, and how you're experiencing the waiting.

Life Group Homework

Here I Am

Winter 2025 | Week 8

Message Date 3/2/2025

Are you starting this with the children in your home?

- Start where you are.
- Don't become The Prophet and call down fire and brimstone; it won't go well and there won't be a second conversation they want to have.
- Love them.
- Let them see your love for God and the things of God.
- Inspire them!

Have adult children?

- Start where you are and share what you can.
- A way to open the door could be, "*Would it be alright if I shared with you some things I'm asking God for?*" Keep it simple and build from there.
- Don't become The Prophet and call down fire and brimstone.
- Love them.
- Let them see your love for God and the things of God.
- Inspire them!

Challenge:

- Do I need to redefine success for my family? "Love God, love others."
- How can I set my children up for success?
- Release the guilt of my shortcomings as a parent.
- How could I better communicate how I'm walking with Jesus in my life?

MY STORY

- 1) If you could only communicate using movie quotes for a day, which ones would you use the most?
- 2) If you had to survive a zombie **apocalypse** with only the food in your house, how long are you going to make it?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

1 Samuel 8:1-9 NLT

"As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel. Joel and Abijah, his oldest sons, held court in Beersheba. But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice. Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. 'Look,' they told him, 'you are now old and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.' Samuel was displeased with their request and went to the Lord for guidance. 'Do everything they say to you,' the Lord replied, 'for they are rejecting me, not you. They don't want me to be their king any longer. Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment. Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about the way a king will reign over them.'"

- 4) What does this passage teach us about raising godly children?
- 5) According to the passage, what are some of the things that Samuel's sons did?