

It's Just a Phase

Week 1 | Two Influences

■ BOTTOM LINE

Two combined influences will make a greater impact than just two separate influences.

■ GOAL OF THE GROUP

Help parents see that the partnership between the local church and the family is invaluable to a child's life, and understand how they can develop a partnership between the home and the local church.

■ SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6:4-12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share:** Just for fun, what is your funniest/wildest parenting moment?
How influential were your parents in your spiritual development?
When you were growing up, was there another adult in your life (besides your parents) who gave you good advice and invested in you in a positive way? What impact did this relationship have on you? If not, how would having that other person have changed your growing up years?
2. **Read the following two statements.** Do you agree? Share why or why not. No one has more potential to influence your child than you. You are not the only influence your child needs.
3. **Read Deuteronomy 6:4-12.** In the Israelite culture, raising a child was considered to be the job of the entire community. In this passage, Moses is speaking to a massive crowd of people, one that would have involved people all ages and generations. The entire community was responsible for passing on faith. How does our culture today keep us from carrying on this way of living? Alternatively, do we have any resources that may make it easier?
4. What do you think it means to "impress them on your children"? How can we do that? (The word "impress" means repeating until it is truly heard. Until these ideas, this way of living, is deeply engrained in who your children will be.) This happens most effectively when it is being impressed consistently and from multiple influences in a child's life.
5. What are some qualities that you would look for in a person that you desire to share influence in your child's life?
6. When you ask your child, "Who are you going to talk to about this?" – will your child have at least one person they can name?
7. It's also important for us as parents to have people who can share truth and experience with us in our parenting. Who is one person that encourages you in your parenting and is a source of wisdom?

Encouragement: The most important influence in both our lives and the lives of our children is God. He is the truth North in everything we do, and if we want to model the true north to our children, it starts by setting our focus in the right direction. This is a choice we have to make from the start and every day after.

Prayer: Have each parent share their biggest parenting challenge right now. Pray for each other.



TRY THIS

1. *Every kid needs an adult other than a parent speaking into their lives. Pray about who one of those adults may be for your child. Make an intentional request of that person to be an influential voice in your child's spiritual journey.*
2. *Whether or not you believe it, there are people speaking into your child's life. The more you know about who is influencing your child, the more opportunity you have to partner with them. Get to know your child's small group leader at church; connect with their coaches and teachers.*