

10.16.11

Walking Dusty...

teacher: Dan Crist

One of my sons was seven weeks old when he was placed in foster care, and he was fifteen months old when we adopted him. People often think it's easier to adopt a young child because they have fewer problems, but my experience has been that even at such a young age, kids can carry a lot of hurt. My son doesn't remember his birth mother or his foster mom and doesn't understand why someone would give him up. This hurts his heart and he is often a very angry child.

Once when he was mad, he started screaming and having a meltdown. I was so fed up that I yelled back, "You can't act like that when you're angry!" The irony made me stop and think about what had happened. He was upset – maybe even justified in his anger – and was acting out. My response didn't help him see the right way to respond. In fact, it made the situation worse, and I realized I had an anger problem, too.

What do we do when our relationships are heading in a destructive direction? I've found that the best place to turn to first is to God. He knows each person intimately and already has the answers. When I feel like giving up, His mercy reminds me that He hasn't given up on me. When I feel unforgiving, His Word tells me I've already been forgiven. And when I'm frustrated that my son isn't responding to training quickly enough, He allows me to fail so that I can humbly appreciate He's still working on me.

God also provides hope and help through other believers. 1Mosaic's m^groups can give us a place to share our difficulties or to encourage others. And our leadership team has brought together the [Building Loving and Lasting Relationships](#) program on October 29th.

Question to consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39) God is the only One that shows how to love perfectly. Can we accept His love so that we can love others?

We live in the tension of how to love and discipline our children, and I often fail to get it right. What do I do when this happens?

God says he will punish the children for the sins of the parents. Do I struggle with a sin from a previous generation? Have I asked God to free me from this sin? How will it affect my (future) children?

Do I believe that my sin matters? Have I felt the weight of my sin in regard to my parent/child relationships? Have I confessed my sin? Have I thanked God for the grace He's given over my sin?

What kind of legacy am I leaving?

Do I honor my parents? In what ways do I dishonor them? In what ways could I improve honoring my parents?

Have I been able to let go of past hurts which affect my behavior today? Do I take responsibility for my own actions?

When we fail at parenting, are we failing to let God parent us?

If Christ hasn't changed us, it will have an effect on our relationships. Can I allow Christ to change me?

This month's memory verse: *This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. (Deuteronomy 30:19 TNIV)*

Additional verses: *Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:4-6, 12; Ezekiel 18:20-21; Leviticus 19:1-3; 1 John 4:4-8 (or read all of 1 John)*

REMINDERS:

10.23 –The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!!!Mosaic Family IV.
How big and important is all of God's family? This Sunday we have a powerful reminder from our African missionaries (RAH) & newlyweds! Don't miss it

10.30 –FAMILY FALL FEST & RAKE N' RUN!!!We'll start our 5th Sunday Family Night by serving a few families in our area who need their lawns raked. Meet in Senorita's parking lot (across from Spotted Cow) by 3pm with your rakes & gloves. Then after raking, we'll head out to Heritage Park for our Family Fall Fest