



What Happens Here: Parent Cue

WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT:

Here is an overview of what we're talking about. Listed below the summary is a "parent cue" to help you dialog with your child about the session. The question is intended not just to be asked by you, but to be responded to by **BOTH** of you. Use this opportunity to find out what God is teaching your child, and allow your child to see what God is teaching you as well.

What Happens Here (Sept. 25/ Jan. 29)

We want this youth group to be one of those places in your life that you love to be. We want this to be a place that you can't wait to come to, and a place when you leave, you can't wait to come back. And as great as that makes us feel to create an environment like that, there's something beyond this idea we need you to understand. What happens here was never meant to stay here. The things you hear here, the things you learn, the things you experience were meant to be lived outside these walls.

Session Parent Cue: What has God been teaching me lately? What is the biggest obstacle to living out the things God is teaching me?

CREATE A RHYTHM

Increase the quantity of quality time you spend together.

Connecting with your child takes intentionality. There's a rhythm there, a pace, a consistency that your child can rely on. Maybe it's at the dinner table. Maybe it's every Saturday morning. It looks differently for different families. But there is one common theme—it's not just a one-time thing.

LIGHTNING

By Reggie Joiner

It takes a quantity of quality time spent together to create a rhythm of connecting in your family. And the simple reason that it takes quantity of quality time is because significant moments are unpredictable. Most of us want to be there when our baby takes the first step, or our daughter makes her first basketball goal, or our son wins an award, or our child asks an important question. But you just never know when significant moments are going to happen.

If you hope to be present for the significant moments, then you will have to be present for the seemingly insignificant moments.

It's like when I try to catch a picture of lightning. It's a tricky thing for a photographer to shoot lightning. You can't take the shot when you see the light. At that point it's really too late. By the time you press the shutter release you have already missed it.

The best strategy is to set the camera to continuously shoot, so that it actually stands a better

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chance of opening the shutter before the lightning strikes. Sure you will get a lot of insignificant photos that way, but it's probably the only chance you have of catching some incredible moments.

Kids and lightning have a lot in common. If you want to experience some extraordinary moments with your children, then you have to be there for a lot of ordinary moments. Looking back I am grateful that...

I limited my travel schedule away from home when my kids were young.
I rarely missed attending a school, athletic or church event with them.
I worked to keep my schedule flexible when they were teenagers.
I learned to do those things just in case something came up (and it almost always did).

I've never met an older mom or dad, who said, "Yeah if had it to do all over again, I'd spend less time with my kids, and more time doing other things." They seem to always say just the opposite.

"I wish I had spent more time with my kids ..."

Just remember it's easy to miss a lightning bolt. It happens fast—then it's gone.

The best way to catch unpredictable moments with your children is to be predictable with how you spend time together.

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