

FAMILY FEUD: DIRTY DIAPERS

(Preschool Focus)

Open: (Video clip: Evian baby)

- * Men: here are a few things not to say during childbirth:
 - Wow! You sure are lucky. I wish I could experience the miracle of childbirth.
 - Do you think the baby will come before Monday night football starts?
 - If you think this hurts, I should tell you about the time I twisted my ankle playing basketball.
 - That was the kids on the phone. Do you have anything planned for dinner?

- * Becoming a parent changes everything, but being a parent also changes with each baby. Here are some of the ways having a second and third child is different from having your first.
 - 1st baby: You begin wearing maternity clothes as soon as your Ob/Gyn confirms your pregnancy.
 - 2nd baby: You wear your regular clothes for as long as possible.
 - 3rd baby: Your maternity clothes are your regular clothes.

 - Preparing for the birth:
 - 1st baby: You practice your breathing religiously.
 - 2nd baby: You don't bother practicing breathing because you remember that last time, breathing didn't do a thing.
 - 3rd baby: You ask for an epidural in your 8th month.

- When your baby is upset:
 - 1st baby: At the first sign of distress – a whimper, a frown ... you pick up the baby.
 - 2nd baby: You pick the baby up when her crying threatens to wake your firstborn.
 - 3rd baby: You teach your 3 year old how to rewind the mechanical swing.

- Pacifier:
 - 1st baby: If the pacifier falls on the floor, you put it away until you can go home and wash and boil it.
 - 2nd baby: When the pacifier falls on the floor, you squirt it off with some juice from the baby's bottle.
 - 3rd baby: You wipe it off on your shirt and pop it back in.

- Diapering:
 - 1st baby: You change your baby's diaper every hour, whether they need it or not.
 - 2nd baby: You change the diaper every 2 to 3 hours, if needed.
 - 3rd baby: You try to change the diaper before others start to complain about the smell or you see it sagging to their knees.

- Activities:
 - 1st baby: You take your infant to baby gymnastics, baby swing and baby story hour.
 - 2nd baby: You take your infant to baby gymnastics.
 - 3rd baby: You take your infant to the supermarket and the dry cleaners.

– Going out:

- 1st baby: The first time you leave your baby with a sitter, you call 5 times to check on them.
- 2nd baby: Just before you walk out the door, you remember to leave a number where you can be reached.
- 3rd baby: You leave instructions for the sitter to call only if she sees blood.

– While at home:

- 1st baby: You spend a good bit of the day just gazing at the baby.
- 2nd baby: You spend a bit of every day watching to be sure your older child isn't squeezing, poking or hitting the baby.
- 3rd baby: You spend a little bit of every day hiding from the children.

– Swallowing coins:

- 1st baby: When the first child swallows a coin, you rush the child to the hospital and demand x-rays.
- 2nd baby: When the 2nd child swallows a coin, you carefully watch for the coin to pass.
- 3rd baby: When the 3rd baby swallows a coin, you deduct it from their allowance.

* Being a good parent is not easy ... we must figure out how to handle the demands at work, school, extracurricular activities, household work, finances and the other things life throws at us.

– It takes hard work and dedication.

– There are surprises that catch us off guard ... sometimes we over-react and other times we under-react.

– There are no “perfect parents” ... keep learning and working at it.

* In our lesson we will note some dirty diaper moments:

➤ To get started: **Luke 1** We will take a look at 2 birth announcements and one birth.

(1) We need a heart sensitive to God.

- Throughout the Bible, we see heaven’s involvement in the birth of a baby ...
 - Abraham and Sarah, Samson’s parents, Hannah prays for Samuel, Jeremiah tells us **God saw him in the womb (Jeremiah 1:5)**
 - In **Luke 1** we see the kind of people/parents God is looking for when He wants to do a special work.
- Zechariah and Elizabeth had grown old together, but they had no children ... it’s not God’s plan that every married couple have children.

√ As Zechariah was going about his priestly duty, God dispatched an angel and told him his prayer was heard...

- Hard to say if this was a prayer he was still praying or an old prayer.

Luke 1:13 NKJV But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer is heard and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”

- This was a praying couple ... they were persistent in prayer ...

Penalty Flag #1 – No prayer in the home ... couples need to pray together for their children.

? How, where, when ?

– **Prayer is the overflow of a life centered upon God.**

Luke 1:6 NLT Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God’s eyes, careful to obey all the Lord’s commandments and regulations.

- √ This couple believed in God, read and understood the Old Testament commands and lived accordingly.
- √ Being familiar with God’s ways, they lived it, followed it ... it’s one thing to look right before man ... but this couple had the smile of God upon them.

Penalty Flag #2 – Not reading or following God’s Word. The Bible is a Sunday morning ritual and neglected the rest of the week.

√ **Read it, live it, and look for teachable moments.**

√ To start the journey, one is made right in God’s sight by acknowledging their sin and receiving Christ as Savior.

* When it comes to a heart sensitive to God, young Mary stands out:

Luke 1:26-28 NLT ²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

√ Mary is confused... though engaged with the wedding approaching ... the thought of giving birth to a son seemed to be a mistake.

√ In our day, sexual purity is mocked at but God values it.

Penalty Flag #3: Satisfying my sexual pleasures whether not married or after marriage outside the marriage relationship is okay.

√ **God wants to protect you from being hurt.**

√ **Sex is a gift for a married couple ...**

√ **Beware of immorality in all its forms ... pornography, flirting, emotional ties with the opposite sex ...**

➤ We get a sense of Mary’s heart in **Luke 1:38 NLT** Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you said about me come true.”

– Thought she didn’t have all the details, she would by faith follow God.

* Cultivate a heart that is sensitive to God ... when children are planted in a garden like that, they have the right soil in which to grow.

(2) Children need hope that propels them to a bright future.

- At the unusual birth of John ... born to this older couple, Daddy couldn't speak until after he was born and the naming of the child ... those who were around wondered.

Luke 1:66 NLT Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, "What will this child turn out to be? For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way."

- What will come of your daughter or son? God has a plan for each child, but will they fulfill it?

Penalty Flag #4: Hurtful comments, discouraging put-downs, harsh words spoken in anger.

- √ **If need be, ask for forgiveness, hold your tongue, speak wholesome words that build up.**

Ephesians 4:29 NLT Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

- Zechariah had high hopes for his son:

Luke 1:76-80 NLT ⁷⁶"And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. ⁷⁷You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."

⁸⁰John grew up and became strong in spirit. And he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

- Believing in who our children can become, recognizing their unique talents and personality strengths ... give them something to live up to ... to push toward.

Review: A heart that is sensitive to God.

A hope that propels them to a bright future.

(3) Hang in there!

- Parenting is a process ... we may not always get it right; our children will not always get it right ... don't give up on each other!

1 Corinthians 13:11 NLT when I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.

- √ Maturity is something that comes as we learn responsibility.
- √ The older your child becomes, the more responsible they must become.
- √ To prepare them for life outside your home:
 - a) Let go a little at a time ...
 - They must learn to make their own decisions ... when they make a bad choice; there are consequences; don't bail them out.
 - Better to guide them while under your roof than try to control them ... shelter them now may set them up for a fall later.

Penalty Flag #5: Enabling your child to live a rebellious life.

- √ **Do not remove the hurt/pain from sinful choices.**
- b) Hold them accountable.
 - With freedom comes responsibilities ...
 - When they show distrust or irresponsibility, they lose freedoms.
- c) Balance love and discipline - too much of either will ruin them or drive them away.

Close:

What to take home:

- Cultivate a heart sensitive to God.
- Give them hope – help them see what they can be.
- Hang in there – don't be too hard on yourself or your child ... parenting is a process ... just make sure you are heading in the right direction ... if you are not ... turn around!

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