



Adam and Eve were the first parents ever. Which means they had absolutely no one to ask for parenting advice.

No books. No podcasts. No parenting accounts on Instagram. No grandparents saying, “Well, when you were this age...” They couldn’t even call their own parents and ask what to do—because they didn’t have any. Phones or parents.

And parenting didn’t exactly start out smoothly.

Adam and Eve fell into sin and brought brokenness into God’s perfect world. Then they had children. Their son Cain became jealous of his brother Abel and killed him.

Adam and Eve were **broken people parenting broken people in a broken world.**

Sound familiar?

Our broken world looks different today. We worry about phones and screen time, school pressures, sports, friendships, anxiety, attitudes, and whether our kids will grow into responsible adults who don’t call us about things they could easily Google themselves.

We love our kids fiercely. We want to protect them. We want them to make good choices, find good friends, and most importantly, know and love Jesus.

And when something goes wrong, we often wonder: Where did this come from?

Sometimes, if we’re honest, the answer is me.

Our children see our impatience, worry, selfishness, and poor reactions. Sometimes we hear our own words coming out of their mouths—and wish we didn’t! That gives us a good reason to ask: What am I modeling for my children? What are they learning from the way I respond?

But there’s another side to this.

Not everything that goes wrong with your child is your fault.

Cain’s sin was Cain’s. Adam and Eve were sinners raising children in a sinful world, but they could not control every choice their children made.

Neither can we.

And yet parents carry so much guilt.



Was I too strict? Not strict enough? Did I miss something? What if I had done this differently?

There will always be things we wish we had done differently. We will fail our children. Our children will make sinful choices. Life will happen to them that we desperately wish we could prevent.

But God never asked us to save our children. He already sent the One who does.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God did not abandon their broken family. He promised them a Savior. That Savior is Jesus.

Jesus came for sinners—including sinful parents.

He came for the parent who yelled when they should have listened. He came for the mom or dad who still feels guilty about something from five years ago. He came for the parent who wonders if they are doing enough. And he came for our children, who are sinners just like us. Our children's salvation does not depend on us getting parenting exactly right.

It depends on Jesus.

So we keep parenting. We apologize when we're wrong. We forgive. We teach. We correct. We laugh. We listen. We pray. And, over and over again, we point our children to the same place we need to be pointed—to Jesus.

You will never be a perfect parent.

Your child doesn't need you to be.

They need a parent who needs Jesus too.



Where is one place God might be helping me grow as a parent?

What parenting guilt am I carrying that Jesus has already forgiven?

This month:

Let your child hear you say, 'I was wrong. Will you forgive me?'
Then remind them and yourself, that Jesus forgives us both.



Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for the gift of our children and for trusting us with the privilege of raising them. Forgive us for the ways our sin affects our families. Give us humility to admit when we are wrong, wisdom for the moments when we don't know what to do, and patience for the days when parenting feels hard.

When we worry that we aren't enough, remind us that you are. Help us rest in the forgiveness Jesus has already won for us and share that same grace freely with our children. Keep our families close to you, and help us point our children to Jesus again and again. Amen.